



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E – TRI-VALLEY 2002 CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 21, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #22: February 10, 2003 – February 16, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was overcast with showers during the subject week. Erosion control was inspected project wide and repairs were made where needed.

On February 13, the CPUC EM met with Essex to review the Phase Two mitigation requirements necessary for Notice to Proceed (NTP) preparation.

At the Arroyo del Valle bore, the first (western) of the two bores at the site was completed on January 19th. During the subject week, crews completed the drilling and back-pull of HDPE conduit for the second (eastern) bore on Saturday, February 15. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Arroyo bore has been extended to March 1, 2003. Crews continued to de-water the Arroyo del Valle northern and southern pits. On Saturday, February 8, a large spill occurred at the Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit. Diesel and motor oil spilled in the pit and was then pumped into the Baker tank and then to the overland discharge hay bale structure. Boring operations were stopped, as well as the pumping of water from the pit. The hay bale structure was inspected and a sheen was observed atop the water just discharged. At the bore pit, crews had removed drilling equipment from the pit and cleaned off the contaminant. The water in the pit had an oily sheen on top. The crew Foreman took samples for testing from the northern bore pit and the Baker tank. On February 10, test results showed that the hydrocarbon content exceeded limits for discharge. An absorbent flocculent was placed in the contaminated bore pit to soak up the contaminant (see Figure 1). Crews dismantled the contaminated hay bale discharge structure and took the materials to the hazardous material storage at the Mueller Yard. On February 11, the flocculent had been removed from water in the pit; however, contaminant sheen still remained (see Figure 2). A new hay bale structure had been built and discharge of water recommenced (see Figure 3). A second set of test results were collected and came in below discharge limits. Proper collection protocol could not be verified. The CPUC EM was given a copy of a memo written by the Zahn Group documenting correspondence with Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) representative Dale Bowyer. The memo outlined modified discharge agreements. As stated, discharge may occur if the sheen can be removed by absorbent pads; however, crews were not using pads. They were spraying the sheen to one end of the tank and sucking it up for hazardous waste disposal. On February 12, Dale Bowyer of RWQCB was contacted by the CPUC EM to verify the verbal correspondence noted in the Zahn Group memo. Mr. Bowyer was informed of the spray down method being used to collect the contaminants and was sent photographs taken at the site. Mr. Bowyer responds was that he did not feel that dewatering operations at the bore were compliant with RWQCB direction. The RWQCB contacted the Zahn Group to rectify the issue. All overland discharge activities were halted. The RWQCB requested submittal of all daily monitoring reports and water quality test results. In order to continue necessary de-watering of the northern bore pit, PG&E brought three 20,000 gallon Baker tanks to the site to contain the groundwater. On February 13, an environmental company was on-site doing water testing of the baker tanks.

Crews continued trenching within “Old” Vineyard Avenue west of Vista Diablo Court. The City of Pleasanton Inspector has been encouraging PG&E to quickly backfill and re-pave completed trench in order to avoid large stretches of open steel plated trench line during non-work hours. The City has also requested that the street be kept clean of construction debris at this location.

During the subject week, the CPUC EM toured New Vineyard Road. Pits were excavated for Vaults 12A and 12B. Work continued at Vaults 13A and 13B. Crews backfilled Vaults 14A and 14B. Crews also backfilled the trench line west from this location along New Vineyard Road to intersect with ‘Old’ Vineyard Avenue. PG&E is currently planning the road intersection construction.

A directional drill was set up at the bridged unnamed tributary along New Vineyard Road (see Figure 4). Frac-out Contingency Plans and equipment were checked. Numerous sand bags, as well as two vacuum trucks were on site. The CPUC EM noted to the bore crew Foreman that the hose to the vacuum truck should be assembled and ready for usage. The Foreman was also asked about what monitoring for frac-outs will be done. There was some question as to how the work across the drainage relates to the project CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement. The CPUC EM left a message with Janis Gan of the CDFG regarding the new work. On February 13, Buck Jones the PG&E planner called the CPUC EM with information that directional drilling operations at the unnamed tributary have been suspended until a Streambed Alteration Agreement has been granted by the CDFG for work associated with the crossing.

The CPUC EM observed that boring operations continue on the second bore at the Ruby Hills entrance location at Station 151+00 to 154+00.

At the Isabel Avenue bore location drilling operations continue. Excavation and drilling spoils are being stored along the PG&E right-of-way east of the bore pit. On the west side of Isabel Avenue, crews have cut the pavement and finished excavating the exit pit for the bore.

Along “Old” Vineyard Avenue, crews backfilled Vaults 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B. During the subject week the contractor continued work and tie-ins to Vaults 15A, 15B, 17A and 17B. Crews started excavating for Vaults 16A and 16B.

Throughout the subject week, the CPUC EM toured the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station. Crews continue to do conduit proofing and continue stringing the line through the conduit. Crews continued excavation and installation of and tie-ins to Vaults 1A and 1B near the Transition Station. On February 12, the drivers for three concrete trucks washed out their trucks and equipment onto the road shoulder of the Zone 7 Access Road. The Essex EI contacted the Foreman about the problem. The concrete washings were removed from the site and disposed of in the trench. The concrete company was notified, and proper washout procedures along the project were reiterated. The issue was documented as a minor problem by the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI).

The CPUC EM toured the Transition Station area. Crews continue auguring holes for the station foundation poles.

Environmental Compliance:

On Saturday, February 8, a diesel/motor oil spill occurred at the Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit site. Contaminated water was then pumped to the Baker tank on-site and to the discharge hay bale structure. Boring operations were stopped. Water samples were taken for analyses. Overland discharge activities recommenced, but were not compliant with RWQCB protocol. All overland discharge activities were halted. The RWQCB requested submittal of all daily monitoring reports and water quality test results. In

order to continue necessary de-watering of the northern bore pit, PG&E brought three 20,000 gallon Baker tanks to the site to contain the groundwater.

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For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

NTP #3 was approved by the CPUC and distributed on December 12. This NTP completes the Phase One portion of the Tri-Valley Project. On February 13, the CPUC EM met with Essex to review the Phase Two mitigation requirements necessary for NTP #4 preparation.

Variance Requests:

Variance Requests #3 and #4 submitted for extra workspace areas at the Isabel Avenue and Highway 84 jack-and-bore sites were approved by the CPUC on February 18.

On February 12, Variance Requests #5 was submitted for an approximate 2.6-acre expansion of the approved Mueller Contractor Yard. Landowner approval is still pending. A recommendation to CPUC was forwarded on February 18.

Agency Personnel Contacts:

Dale Bowyer, RWQCB, 510-622-2323.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 02-21-03)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	10/3/02	Temporary storage of bore pit spoils on the north side of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing Stations 304+00 to 306+00.	Completed	10/17/02
2	12/19/02	40 feet of extra work space was requested on the south, east and west sides of the north bore pit associated with the Arroyo Del Valle jack and bore to install a sound barrier around boring operations, so that 24-hour construction could occur.	Completed	1/6/03
3	01/29/03	Approximate 200' by 300' extra workspace area east of the Isabel Ave jack & bore.	Completed	2/18/03
4	01/29/03	Approximate 120' by 320' extra workspace area north of the Hwy 84 jack & bore, and an 80' by 200' area south of the Hwy 84 bore.	Completed	2/18/03
5	02/12/03	Approximate 2.6 acre expansion of the approved Mueller Contractor Yard, City of Pleasanton.	2/18-Recoendation to CPUC. Land owner approval pending.	



Figure 1

Hydrocarbon spill in the Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit. Oil absorbent flocculent was added to the tank to remove the contaminant sheen.



Figure 2

Hydrocarbon spill in the Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit. The photo was taken after the oil absorbent flocculent was removed, yet a contaminant sheen is still visible atop the water.



Figure 3

Dewatering to the new hay bale structure.



Figure 4
Unnamed tributary along New Vineyard Road. PG&E has set up equipment to directional drill under the crossing.