



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** July 16, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #43: July 7, 2003 – July 13, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The Essex Environmental Inspector conducted several environmental trainings throughout the week for new substation construction personnel. The Tri-Valley Phase 2 Trenching Operations Supervisor Training was conducted Tuesday, July 8. Notice to Proceed (NTP) #5 for all remaining Phase Two work was approved by the CPUC on Thursday, July 10.

#### Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are now complete. All conduit, vaults and transmission line cable are completely installed. The Transition Station is operational. On Wednesday, July 2 the new 230 kV underground lines looped through the Vineyard (Phase One) segment were energized meeting the July 3 deadline. The line was officially released to operations.

The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) has reduced monitoring from full-time to twice-weekly spot checks, but remains on-call. Mueller has reduced crews and continues with restoration activities.

During the subject week, crews continued to water permanent erosion controls including the installed jute netting and seeded areas throughout the Phase One alignment. Crews also continued to remove the temporary erosion control devices that were installed during project operations. Traffic Control Plans were implemented.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mueller Contractor Yard. All vehicles and equipment were being kept within the yard and the extra workspace area adjacent to the yard approved for use per Variance #5. The yard areas are being cleared of equipment and spoils. The contractor plans to remove the remaining equipment and materials shortly.

The Essex EI has returned to the diesel spill area near the Vault 4 location. After reviewing soil test results taken from the spill site, it was determined that further clean-up efforts are required. The Essex EI contacted the bio-remediation company Micro Blaze and found out that the original application of the bio-remediation product at the site was improperly executed. Crews disked the spill area and re-applied the product on July 10; per product instructions the soil needs to be kept moist. Crews will periodically water the site to maintain soil moisture. Crews will resample to confirm clean up.

#### Phase Two:

At the Cayetano Substation site, crews continue grading operations. Soil is being hauled to the site to add elevation to the substation landing. A water truck has been on-site continually watering the area for dust suppression. A water sweeper is being used to clean the roadway outside of the substation.

Complaints were received from local residents that the PG&E project signboard posted at the North Livermore Avenue and May School Road intersection was obstructing the view of the road. In response PG&E moved the signboard approximately 100 feet east of the intersection along May School Road.

At the PSD Yard approved for use under Variance Request #6, the contractor has laid down steel plates and has brought in reels of transmission line and placed them on the steel plates (see Figure 1).

**Environmental Compliance:**

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

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

On July 8, Essex made the revised bio-survey submittal for the Phase Two construction (trenching and Transition Station work). NTP #5 was approved by the CPUC on Thursday, July 10.

**Variance Requests:**

On July 1, Essex submitted Variance Request #7 which requests a variance of Mitigation Measure 7.3 trench cover requirements to protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox deferring to the protocol outlined in the USFWS Biological Opinion. A recommendation regarding Variance Request #7 was forwarded to CPUC on July 11.

On July 8, the CPUC reconsidered the Variance 6 modification request and sent an approval letter to allow grading at the PSD contractor lay down yard.

**Agency Personnel Contacts: None**

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 07/16/03)

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.	Completed	2/25/03
6	05/19/03	Approximate 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road for equipment and materials storage and contractor staging for the Phase Two portion of the project.	Completed	5/23/03
6-Modification	06/06/03	Allow clearing and grading at the 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road.	Completed	7/8/03
7	07/01/03	Variance of Mitigation Measure 7.3 trench cover requirements to protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox deferring to the protocol outlined in the USFWS Biological Opinion.	7/11 – Recommendation to CPUC	



Figure 1 – PSD lay down yard, Phase Two.  
Note the transmission line reels in the center of the photo.