



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 23, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #44: July 14, 2003 – July 20, 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 and trench construction personnel. Notice to Proceed (NTP) #5 for all remaining Phase Two work was approved by the CPUC on Thursday, July 10; however, trenching operations did not begin during the subject week.

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 minor 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 have continuously watered the site to maintain soil moisture (see Figure 1). During the subject week Universal Environmental Inc. collected composite soil samples, which will undergo Petroleum hydrocarbon testing. Results should be in early next week.

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.

On Monday, July 14, the Essex EI called to inform the CPUC EM that a borrowing owl was spotted in the PSD lay down yard. The bird had appeared to be foraging, and eventually left the site. Later that afternoon the CPUC EM toured the PSD lay down yard. Upon arriving on-site, the CPUC EM observed that a contractor affiliate had a dog on-site. The Essex EI had had informed them to keep the dog inside the truck; however, the CPUC EM observed that the truck window was open and the dog was trying to get out. The CPUC EM told the Essex EI that per environmental regulations, dogs are not allowed on-site, especially considering that a borrowing owl had been observed at that location. At the environmental training conducted the previous week it was stated explicitly to all contractor supervisors that dogs are not permitted on the construction site.

On July 15, Jones and Stokes conducted a survey to determine the location of the owl borrow. The borrow was located approximately 325-feet from the yard site and contained two adult owls and seven young (official survey data has not yet been provided). On July 17, the Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that the burrowing owls have been spotted numerous mornings in the PSD yard foraging and perching on the transmission line reels. The young birds will be leaving the parent nest soon and will be looking for nearby borrows to take up residence. Within the PSD yard numerous borrows already exist (see Figure 2). Current mitigation states that unoccupied borrows near construction activities may be collapsed. If the owls take up habitation in the yard, a 250-foot buffer will need to be enforced which could impact project activities.

On Friday July 18, a Jones and Stokes cultural resource specialists installed exclusion fencing and “Sensitive Resource Area-Keep out” signs around the historic May School site along May School Road.

During the subject week crews began grading at the new Transition Station.

Environmental Compliance:

On July 14, a contractor affiliate had a dog on-site in the PSD yard. The CPUC EM informed the Essex EI that dogs are not allowed on the project site, especially on a site where a borrowing owl at been observed that day.

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 #5 was approved by the CPUC on Thursday July 10.

Variance Requests:

On July 22, 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 was approved by the CPUC.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 07/23/03)

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.	Completed	7/22/03



Figure 1 – Diesel spill remediation area near Vault 4, Phase One.
Note the water truck being used to maintain soil moisture.



Figure 2 – PSD lay down yard, Phase Two.
Note the existing borrow lower left of center in the photo.