



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 18, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #52: September 8, 2003 – September 14, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) conducted several environmental trainings throughout the week for new substation and trench construction personnel.

#### Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are now complete and the line was officially released to operations in early-July. Restoration work concerning a land sinkage problem resulting from project construction activities near the Ruby Hills entrance location along Vineyard Avenue has been done, but the area is still being checked to confirm that the restoration was successful. Soil compaction tests have been conducted and final sign-offs will be obtained from landowners as well as the City of Pleasanton once all of the compaction reports are received.

#### Phase Two:

At the Cayetano Substation site, the contractor continued component structure installation. Work also continues on the fence around the perimeter of the station. During the subject week, numerous trenches and holes were excavated within the substation pad. At the end of each workday the Essex EI reported that all open holes are being covered by plywood to avoid entrapment of wildlife. Within any open depressions, ramps are installed and maintained to prevent wildlife entrapment.

During the subject week, the burrowing owls, which had occupied the nest located approximately 295-feet from the PSD yard site, began to disperse. One young bird took residence in a burrow located approximately 130 feet west of the PSD yard and 140 feet north of the right of way along May School Road. A 160-foot buffer is required and has been put in place. PG&E plans to contact the CDFG to request a buffer reduction in accordance with Variance 8. The Essex EI has conducted additional tailgate trainings to remind the crew members and Foremen to inspect the yard and work areas on a daily basis and to inspect the inside of all conduit prior to movement of or passing materials through conduit. The additional PSD yard space approved under Variance 9 will not need to be utilized now or in the near future due to a delay in steel delivery to the yard.

Vault work occurred at locations CC-1, CC-2, CC-7, DC-21 and DC-26. The contractor continued tie-ins to Vaults CC-7 and DC-24 (see Figure 1). At the end of each workday the Essex EI reported that ramps were installed in the pits and crews backfilled all voids between the vault boxes and pit excavations to avoid the possible entrapment of wildlife.

Crews continued pulling cable week between Vaults C-4 and C-5, and DC-23 and DC-24 and began pulling cable between Vaults CC-3 and CC-4, and DC-23 and D-24. During pulling operations, the contractor took extra precautions and laid down plastic sheeting under all of the equipment containing potential hazardous materials.

Crews continued installation operations west of North Livermore Avenue approaching the substation (see Figure 2). Concrete was poured over completed installations. The trench was then backfilled with subsoils up to base grade and then topped with the separated topsoils. Traffic control plans and encroachment permit regulations were followed during the subject week. At the end of each workday, the Essex EI reported that the contractor ramped the ends of the trench line and installed caps at the ends of each conduit.

Crews continue conduit installation and backfilling east from Dagnino Road along the access road, which follows the alignment to the Transition Station, part of which lies within a wetland exclusion buffer and future wetland mitigation site for the Dublin Ranch Development. During the subject week, crews continued installations through the USACE jurisdictional drainage located along the access road. Crews also continued work within the two non-jurisdictions drainages. Through each drainage the contractor kept trenching operations to a 7-foot corridor width and all spoils were placed at least 100-feet away from the drainages as outlined in the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Crews completed grading and soil compaction operations at the new Transition Station. The contractor finished drilling foundation holes and began to set steel cages in concrete. The Essex EI reported that at the end of each workday, all open holes are being covered by plywood to avoid entrapment of wildlife. Previously installed silt fence was inspected along the west and north sides of the station landing.

**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):**

No new NTPs were issued during the subject week.

**Variance Requests:**

None.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:**

None.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 09/18/03)

| 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 laydown 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 laydown 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            |
| 8                  | 7/25/03        | Variance of Mitigation 7.4 for adjustments to burrowing owl protection mitigation measures per site-specific recommendations made by CDFG.  | Completed | 8/4/03             |
| 9                  | 8/11/03        | Variance to extend the PSD laydown yard, requesting an additional 82' by 270' area to the north of the yard, for parking and materials storage for the Phase Two portion of the project.  | Completed | 9/5/03             |



Figure 1 – Vault installation along the access road between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station, Phase Two.



Figure 2 – Conduit installation leading to the Cayetano Substation, Phase Two.