



Aspen Environmental Group

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

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 2, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #54: September 22, 2003 – September 28, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

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 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. 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 reviewed.

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. Numerous trenches and holes have been excavated within the substation pad for tie-ins to the station components. An additional trailer has been placed at the back of the substation site. On September 24, shortly after 5:00 pm the CPUC EM arrived at the Cayetano Substation. Crews had left the site and the security guard checked with the CPUC EM before she entered the location. The CPUC EM observed that a trench was not ramped (see Figure 1). The project USFWS Biological Opinion Conservation Measure 27 states: *To prevent accidental entrapment of San Joaquin kit fox during construction all excavated holes and trenches will be ramped, or escape boards will be placed in the trench to allow the animals to escape...* The CPUC EM notified the Essex EI. When he arrived at the site with the PSD construction manager, they effectively ramped the trench. A CPUC Project Memorandum was issued since this issue marks the second instance that a CPUC EM observed compliance failure in regard to San Joaquin Kit Fox protection requirements (see Weekly Report #53, end of work day conduit capping issue).

Crews finished pulling cable between Vaults C-2 and C-3, DC-21 and DC-22, and CC-7 and DC-26, as well as the cable termination point structures at the Substation. Crews began pulling operations between Vault CC-6 and the cable termination point structures at the Substation.

Recently, 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 was put in place. On Saturday, September 20, a biologist reviewed the area and concluded that the subject burrow was no longer in use and that an owl had been spotted in the field across May School Road. On September 25, CDFG representative Janis Gan sent an E-mail authorizing work within the previously mentioned 160-foot buffer. The fence delineating the buffer zone was removed.

Crews have finished trenching, 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. Along the access road crews continued grading operations over the installation during the subject week. Crews applied additional water to suppress fugitive dust along the disturbed project right-of-way.

At the new Transition Station, the contractor continued tie-ins to Transition Station termination structures from Vaults CC-1 and DC-20. At the end of the week the conduit was set in concrete and backfilled. A fiber optic vault at the west side of the Transition Station was installed and trench excavated. 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:

A CPUC Project Memorandum was written when on September 24, at the Cayetano Substation, crews had left the site with a trench unramped. The project USFWS Biological Opinion Conservation Measure 27 states: *To prevent accidental entrapment of San Joaquin kit fox during construction all excavated holes and trenches will be ramped, or escape boards will be placed in the trench to allow the animals to escape...* This issue marks the second instance that a CPUC EM observed compliance failure in regard to San Joaquin Kit Fox protection requirements (see Weekly Report #53, end of work day conduit capping issue).

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):

No new NTPs were issued during the subject week.

Variance Requests:

None.

Agency Personnel Contacts:

None.

VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 10/02/03)

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
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 lay down 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 - Un-ramped trench at the Cayetano Substation, Phase Two.