



# **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 10, 2002  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #3: September 30, 2002 – October 6, 2002

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

#### **Monday, September 30:**

CPUC monitor conducted a site visit of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing. The bore pits were staked. Essex Project Manager, Megan Bracker, had requested an extra workspace area in close proximity to the bore pit; however, toward the end of the day a different extra workspace area was being considered and the original request was rescinded. A de-watering plan has not yet been worked out for the bore pits.

Crews continued potholing for utilities along areas of 'Old' Vineyard Ave.

CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Muller Yard where dried spoils were being moved from the soil containment structures (which have provided filtration and evaporation of potholing spoils and slurries) to a spoils pile around which sediment fencing had been erected.

At the Transition Station on the Tesla-Newark corridor, work had not yet begun at the site. Continuing along the line from the Transition Site, crews continued trenching and conduit installation, including setting concrete around the conduit. Approximately 400 feet of trench was opened. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) asked if construction "snow" fencing could be used rather than plywood cover of all open trench left overnight. In coordination with the CPUC Lead EM, the Essex EI was informed that staked construction fencing could be used if Cal OSHA inspectors concurred with the decision.

#### **Tuesday, October 1:**

CPUC monitor conducted a site visit of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing. Crews began digging the bore pit on the north side of the crossing located outside a chain link fence, which lies between the pit and the waterway. Silt fence was placed along the fence line. Spoils were taken by truck to the Muller Yard. The pit was approximately 12 feet deep; the planned depth is 32 feet.

Crews continued potholing for utilities along areas of 'Old' Vineyard Ave.

At the Muller Yard, a large spoils pile has been formed at the east edge of the yard. Contributing spoils are from the Arroyo del Valle bore pit excavation, as well as the trenching activities extending from the Transition Station site.

CPUC EM conducted a site visit at the Transition Station on the Tesla-Newark corridor, where crews had started grading the site. Continuing along the line from the Transition Site, crews had to stop trenching at Station 10+60 when the trench started to fill up with water. One of the Zone 7 water district pools

adjacent to the trench has been leaking. Water district representative Keith Jackson told PG&E that they were aware of the problem; currently the water, which is surfacing in the trench, is being pumped back into the water district pool. Due to the problems at this location, crews started trenching at Station 26+50 working back toward the Transition Station.

**Wednesday, October 2:**

CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing. Crews continue digging the bore pit on the north side of the crossing. Winds were excessively high and digging produced large amounts of dust, which was being dispersed by construction activities. Crews tried to suppress the dust by watering the pit and bucket loads; however, the problem persisted. The wind was blowing large dust clouds toward the Arroyo del Valle crossing, where the dust clouds extended over and beyond the crossing by approximately 100 feet. The Essex EI was notified of the problem. Crews watered the pit, buckets, and truckloads of dirt more thoroughly. In addition, gravel was laid on the ground to minimize the dust being kicked up while the dump trucks entered and left the site. These measures helped, but did not completely remedy the problem. CPUC EM and Essex EI walked down the water crossing and observed a film of dust on an area of standing water.

At the intersection of Vineyard and Bernal Avenues, at the location where the two buildings had been demolished, Davy Tree Service was contracted and removed three heritage trees from the site.

Crews continued potholing for utilities along areas of 'Old' Vineyard Ave.

At the Muller Yard, the large spoils pile at the east edge of the yard has increased in size. Contributing spoils are from the Arroyo del Valle bore pit excavation, as well as, the trenching activities extending from the Transition Station site.

At the Transition Station on the Tesla-Newark corridor, crews continued grading the site. At the location where crews had to stop trenching at Station 10+60 due to surfacing water in the trench, water continued to be pumped back into the water district pool. Trenching and conduit installation continued at Station 26+50 working back toward the Transition Station.

**Thursday, October 3:**

CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Arroyo del Valle crossing. Crews continued digging the bore pit on the north side of the crossing. Winds had died down considerably from conditions on October 2. Crews continued to water the pit and buckets, and dust was properly controlled. A dewatering plan has not been completed. CPUC monitor contacted Martin Musonge of the RWQCB to inquire about dewatering requirements. Mr. Musonge stated that a de-watering plan was required and has to be approved by the RWQCB. Essex EI had stated previously that an overland discharge was being considered. CPUC EM informed Mr. Musonge of this and he replied that overland discharge activities require water testing and RWQCB approval as well.

At the intersection of Vineyard and Bernal Avenues, at the location where the two buildings had been demolished, Davy Tree Service finished removing three heritage trees from the site.

Crews continued potholing for utilities along areas of 'Old' Vineyard Ave.

At the Muller Yard, a large spoils pile continued to increase at the east edge of the yard. Contributing spoils are from the Arroyo del Valle bore pit excavation, as well as, the trenching activities extending from the Transition Station site.

At the Transition Station on the Tesla-Newark corridor, crews continued grading the site. At the location where crews had to stop trenching at Station 10+60 due to surfacing water in the trench, water continued to be pumped back into the water district pool. Trenching and conduit installation continued at Station 26+50 working back toward the transition station; however, due to underground utilities, work progressed slowly (only approximately 150 feet of conduit has been installed).

**Environmental Compliance:**

On Wednesday October 1, due to very strong winds, construction operations at the Arroyo del Valle bore produced excessive amounts of dust, which impacted air quality in the surrounding area including the CDFG jurisdictional crossing. Crews made a concerted effort to utilize dust suppression measures; however, the dust problem persisted throughout the day.

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

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

On September 12, NTP #1 was issued by CPUC. A recommendation for NTP #2 was provided to CPUC on October 1.

**Variance Requests:**

On October 3, Variance Request 1 was submitted for a 200 foot by 200 foot extra workspace on the north side of the Arroyo del Valle crossing at approximate Stationing 304+00 to 306+00. This space will be used to store soil from the bore pit excavation. Additional information was submitted by Essex on October 9. A recommendation regarding this request was provided to CPUC on October 9.

**Agency Contacts:**

October 3: Martin Musonge, Regional Water Quality Control Board.