



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 22, 2002
Subject: Weekly Report #5: October 14, 2002 – October 20, 2002
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Monday, October 14:

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Arroyo Del Valle crossing. Crews have completed digging the bore pit on the north side of the crossing to 32 feet in depth. In addition, crews have completed the shoring installation and are backfilling the space around the shoring.

At the Muller Yard, a large spoils pile continues to increase at the east edge of the yard. Contributing spoils are from the trenching activities extending from the Transition Station site. The spoils pile is surrounded on the downward slope by sediment fencing. The site is well ordered and clean.

At the Transition Station on the Tesla-Newark corridor, crews have graded the site and the area has been sprayed with water and compacted. Topsoil from the trenching activities is being stored at the Transition Station site; other spoils are being stored at Muller Yard. Conduit installation, back filling, and compaction have been completed at Station 26+50 working down a steep slope. Along the slope area, per landowner specifications, three water bars have been installed. In addition, an erosion control blanket cover and seeding to prevent erosion of the slope are planned. Extending from Station 30+00 to 37+25, crews from Buckland Vineyard Management are clearing grapevine rows.

The CPUC EM met with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) to discuss a proposed Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) request and to view the subject area. The TEWS request is for a 15-foot grassland strip along the western edge of the right-of-way from Station 40+00 to 41+75 for trench spoil storage. Both biological and cultural resource surveys have been completed with negative sensitive resource findings. The TEWS was approved, subject to landowner approval.

The CPUC EM toured the New Vineyard Road area. A crew has started staging along the right-of-way at approximate Station 28+23. Work on the New Vineyard Road is scheduled to start on October 15.

Thursday, October 17:

At 11:00 a.m., the CPUC EM was contacted by the Essex Project Manager (PM) and informed that groundwater had been encountered during excavation of the Arroyo Del Valle south bore pit. The Essex PM stated that they wanted to pump the water out of the pit and use it for dust control. The CPUC EM reminded the Essex PM that per verbal communication with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), all discharge waters need to be tested prior to discharge, including overland discharge. At 3:00 p.m., the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Arroyo Del Valle crossing. Crews have completed digging the bore pit as well as shoring installation on the north side of the crossing. The north bore pit area had just been watered down extensively and the water truck was leaving the site. CPUC EM was given conflicting information from crew members concerning the origin of the water used to water down the site: one person stated that the water came from the south bore pit; however, others stated that it came from a hydrant near the south bore site. The CPUC EM was informed by the Essex EI that at 1:00 p.m.

that the Essex EI had told crew members that it was permissible to pump groundwater from the bore pit and use it for dust control. At 4:00 p.m., the CPUC EM contacted Martin Musonge, RWQCB, and informed him of the issues at the Arroyo Del Valle site. Mr. Musonge stated again that testing should be done on all groundwater prior to any discharge, including overland discharges. This information was passed onto the Essex PM.

At the Muller Yard, the large spoils pile continues to increase at the east edge of the yard. The site is well ordered and clean.

The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that a potential cultural site consisting of old bottle and a trash scatter had been found along the New Vineyard Road alignment and that the project archeologist was on site investigating. The CPUC EM went to look at the potential cultural site along the south side of the graded road area and met with the project archeologist Gabriel Roark. Relevant cultural resources had been identified and flagged with tape, and caution tape was placed around the area. The site was not close to any current project construction. Cultural discovery protocols were being followed at the site. In very close proximity to the cultural site, an animal burrow was found. Essex EI stated that the project biologist Jon Wagoneer would be called out to investigate.

Trenching had occurred along New Vineyard Road west of Splice Vault 13 A between Station 44+00 and 45+00.

The clearing of grapevines along the right-of-way along "Old" Vineyard Road progressed between Stations 45+75 and 47+50.

Friday, October 18:

The CPUC Lead EM had toured the site with the project archeologist and agreed with the assessment that due to its location and preexisting disturbance, the site would not be impacted by adjacent conduit installation activities along the right-of-way.

CPUC EM toured the Arroyo Del Valle bore sites. Both the north bore pit and the south bore pit were fenced and locked. No construction was occurring at the site. The Essex EI stated that the NPDES and 401 permits were being sent to RWQCB for review. Essex is waiting for feedback from RWQCB for groundwater discharge requirements.

At the Tesla-Newark corridor site and extending trench line, trench work has commenced down a slope from Station 40+00 to 41+75. This is the area subject to the TEWS approval signed Monday, October 14, 2002. As conditioned, the TEWS approval required that landowner approval be submitted to the CPUC EM prior to occupation of the site. However, use of the TEWS area had commenced without provision of the landowner approval to the CPUC EM. The Essex EI was notified of this oversight.

At Station 40+00, the Essex EI found a very small dead snake along the backfilled trench. The specimen was photographed and taken for identification by the project biologist.

Environmental Compliance:

CPUC EM is awaiting clarification from RWQCB concerning groundwater discharge requirements. In addition, the Essex EI was notified that landowner approval was not provided to the CPUC EM prior to site occupation as conditioned in the TEWS approval. For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and permitting requirements.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

On October 10, NTP #2 was issued by CPUC.

Variance Requests:

On October 7, Variance Request 1 was approved by CPUC 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 bore pit excavation.

One TEWS request was submitted and approved on October 14.

Agency Contacts:

October 17: Martin Musonge, RWQCB.