Aspen
Environmental Group

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: August 29, 2007

Subject: Weekly Report #129: August 17, 2006 – August 25, 2006

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet Coronado

Mainline construction of the project is already complete and the Phase Three segment energization occurred September 29, 2006.

Current construction of the PG&E Tri-Valley Project is on the .96-acre mitigation pond site and associated access road. This construction was originally planned to occur concurrent with main-line construction. The U. S. Army Corp, USFWS and RWQCB permits stated that construction of the 0.96-acre mitigation wetland would be created by August 31, 2006. Variance Request #21 was submitted in December of 2007 requesting to delay construction of the site to the spring of 2007. As documented in the variance request submittal, USFWS, CDFG, US Army Corp, and RWQCB granted approvals for construction to occur in 2007. Opus additionally submitted further concurrence follow up e-mail correspondence from the U.S. Corp of Engineers.

Opus Environmental is providing the Environmental Inspectors for PG&E (PG&E EIs). Opus is providing environmental, as well as biological monitoring and oversight, including conducting environmental training of all new crew personnel. Both the mitigation site and roadway improvement work are being conducted by North Valley Construction (NVC) with oversight by D/C construction.

Summary of Activity:

The pre-construction biological survey report was submitted Monday, August 20. As stated in the report, "the project area contains many animal burrows principally occupied by California ground squirrel. The burrows offer habitat for CTS, CRLF and San Joaquin kit fox…No individuals or evidence of burrowing owls or kit fox were encountered. One juvenile CRLF was observed on the morning of July 31 in a groundwater seep within the existing footprint of the planned pond." However, when project biologist returned to the area to relocate the frog prior to construction it was gone. No individuals or evidence of CTS were observed. In addition, no active bird nests were identified in the area. Sensitive plant surveys were also conducted and per the report, 10 sensitive Congdon's tarplant individuals were observed within the area planned for the proposed northern wetland mitigation pond. Then plants will be taken as part of construction. Per Opus, CDFG has been notified and the take has been previously covered by the 1602 permit addendum.

The cultural resources survey report was submitted Friday, August 24. Per the report "although the project area is considered sensitive for cultural resources, no prehistoric or historical resources were encountered in the project area. Directly adjacent to the project area to the northeast, a historic site foundation and associated trash scatter was encountered." Per the report "it is recommended that the historical archaeological site north east of the project be avoided during construction." During a site tour the CPUC EM noted that the site boundary had been flagged for exclusion.

The CPUC EM conducted a tour of the construction site on August 24, 2007. Weather was hot and dry throughout the subject week.

The previously constructed engineered pond at the .33-acre mitigation site was reviewed during the site tour and is currently dry. During previous tours of the site in February 2007, it appeared that cows had gotten into the pond area despite the installed barbed wire fence. Cows had eaten a significant amount of the pond and outlying area vegetative cover. Viable cover is an important aspect of the success of the breeding pond. During the tour on August 24, the PG&E EI gave information that cows have been found in the pond area recently and that PG&E will be repairing parts of the fence and gate. The CPUC EM asked if PG&E plans to reinforce the current fence in order to keep the cows out of the pond thus allowing establishment of a successful vegetative cover.

A tour was conducted at the new 0.96-acre site slated for upcoming construction (see Figures 1 and 2). Grading plans were submitted to the CPUC EM. PG&E plans to remove 1,700 cubic yards of spoils from the site. Within the site boundary an aged and rusted metal culvert will be replaced in a jurisdictional waterway (see Figure 3). An additional temporary culvert will be installed just up stream of the replaced culvert to allow passage of vehicles and equipment. Per the PG&E EI, filter cloths will be laid down prior to the placement of culvert and gravel, thus allowing a clean removal after construction.

In addition to the mitigation area construction, minor improvements will be made to the existing dirt access road. The entire length will be bladed to even the surface and allow transport of heavy equipment. While onsite, the CPUC EM checked erosion controls which were being installed along the access road to protect entry points to tributaries to Tassajara Creek. Erosion control installation is planned to be completed early next week.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Seven NCRs and eight Project Memoranda were issued for the Phase Three mainline construction. No compliance documents have been issued to date for construction of the .96-acre mitigation site.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Tri-Valley Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 8/29/07)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	September 12, 2002	Phase One: Construction on of six different sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the City of Pleasanton, City of Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County.
#2	October 10, 2002	Phase One: Construction of six additional sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the Cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County
#3	December 12, 2002	Phase One: Construct the final sections of the Phase One portion Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project, within the City of Pleasanton.
#4	May 5, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of the new 5-acre Cayetano Substation located at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and May School Road.

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#5	July 14, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of 2.3 miles of underground transmission line installation extending from the Cayetano Substation to the North Livermore Transition Station to be constructed at the Contra Costa–Newark Transmission Line Corridor
UAD NTP		Phase Two: Allow construction within the exclusion boundary of the May School road cultural resource discovery area.
#6	June 29, 2005	Phase Three: Construction of the overhead transmission line, the transition station, all roadway and vault pad grading, and preparation of 0.33-acre mitigation area.
#7	August 4, 2005	Phase Three: Underground construction and preparation of the 0.94-acre mitigation area.
#8	August 18, 2005	Phase Three: North Dublin Substation.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the .96-acre Mitigation Area Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 8/29/07)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
21	12/7/06	Allow the construction of the 0.96-acre mitigation site to occur after mainline construction and extend to the spring of 2007.	Completed	12/14/06

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:
Per Opus, all agency representatives were sent the construction plans and notice of the impending construction.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1 – View within the 0.96-acre mitigation site, August 24, 2006. Note the jurisdictional waterway (green area) which runs through the site.

Figure 2 – View within the 0.96-acre mitigation site, August 24, 2006. Note the white boundary markers.

Figure 3 – Culvert within the jurisdictional waterway which is slated for replacement, August 24, 2006.