



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 11, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #70: August 1, 2005 – August 5, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs): Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

Notice to Proceed (NTP) #6 was issued by CPUC for portions of Phase Three construction on June 29, 2005. Under NTP #6, construction of the following Phase Three components can occur: all roadway and vault pad grading, construction of the overhead transmission line and transition station, and preparation of the 0.33 acre mitigation area. NTP #7 was issued by CPUC on August 4, allowing construction of the underground component to commence and preparation of the 0.94 acre mitigation area. Opus Environmental will be providing the Environmental Inspectors for PG&E (PG&E EIs). Opus will provide environmental, as well as biological monitoring and oversight, including conducting environmental training of all new crew personnel. Road grading is being conducted by Granite Construction. The tower work is being conducted by PG&E. The underground construction will be conducted by Wilson Construction.

Summary of Phase Three Activity:

Weather was clear and hot throughout the subject week. The CPUC EMs toured the Phase Three sites on August 1st through 4th. During the subject week, the PG&E EIs conducted environmental trainings as new crew members joined the project.

The project mitigation measures require that the CPUC EM field validate the flagging of the right-of-way and resource exclusion boundaries prior to the start of construction. Per PG&E, gaps will need to be left in the fence to allow pasturing cows to move through the area. Areas cleared for construction include Moller Road, which leads to the new substation location, and roads to Towers 3-8 and 9-11. Crews have been busy surveying and flagging resources along roads 5, 6, and 7 during the subject week. Once the resource exclusion areas are flagged or fenced, they can be verified by the CPUC EM and cleared for construction.

Two additional lay down areas were approved in the CPUC NTP #7, one along Moller Road and another along North Livermore Avenue (see Figure 1). Both areas were inspected by the CPUC EM. One additional lay down area was reviewed by the CPUC EM and it was determined that a Variance would not be necessary because the area was within the limit of disturbance. However, in order for the area to be used, a biologist will have to identify any potential habitat for sensitive species and fence it off for avoidance. Also, the limits of the lay down area will have to be clearly marked.

On August 3rd, PG&E conducted a weekly construction meeting with Granite Construction. A three week schedule was prepared and the protocol for working in new areas was discussed. Crews were reminded that before new construction was allowed to occur, the areas need to be surveyed for biological resources, alignment/boundaries must be marked, and must be verified by the CPUC EM. Crews also discussed the need for additional access and lay down areas for the construction of Roads 6 and 7. These areas will be surveyed and submitted to the CPUC for approval in a Variance Request.

Granite Construction continued to work on the Moller Road access. Three earth movers and a grader are being used to shape and construct the access road. The area is being adequately watered by two water trucks. The CPUC EM was notified that the construction equipment was traveling over the 15 mph project-

wide speed limit. The construction supervisor led the equipment showing them the limit of speed for all project equipment. A culvert was removed as part of the road construction. CDFG has forbidden any culvert work until the administrative conditions of their permit have been met; however, the culvert removed was not CDFG jurisdictional. One biological monitor was present during the Moller Road construction. The barn owl nest is being monitored for signs of activity and disturbance. According to project biologists, the owls are still using the burrow.

PG&E crews continued to work on Towers 6,7,10, and 11 during the subject week (see Figure 2). A biological monitor was monitoring the tower crews during the week.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

On July 26, a drainage off Manning Road was bridged by steel plates and the area extending upslope from the bridge has been graded up to and possibly within the drainage without an approved CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). Crews have been planning a bridge design for the drainage and plan to submit the plan to CDFG prior to construction. Because the lay down areas needed for the construction of Road 6 have not been approved, crews are not working in this area.

Previously, the PG&E EI and biologist identified a barn owl nest containing a nesting pair and fledglings along the right-of-way. Subsequent correspondence with the CDFG has occurred. A 250-foot exclusion zone has been set up. Limited vehicle traffic will be allowed to progress through the area; and as agreed, a hay bale wall has been built to shield the nest. The PG&E EIs must monitor the nest closely to see if the birds appear harmed or harassed.

An active burrowing owl colony was identified along the access road to Towers 3-6. Notifications were made to CDFG and a fence was installed to keep project vehicles on the access road. Project biologists have identified seven owls in the burrows and continue to monitor the owls for signs of disturbance.

The CPUC EM observed that all other Phase Three construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements.

Three Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) and one Project Memorandum (PMs) have been issued for the Phase Three portion of the project through August 6 (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 08-06-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
PHASE THREE			
Project Memorandum	7/20/05	Crews have installed exclusion fencing as well as sediment fencing in areas with potential for spoils to slide in to sensitive areas. Numerous gaps were left in the fencing to allow moving cows. However, no exclusion signs have been installed in the gaps after repeated requests. In addition, the CTS exclusion zone was toured and no sensitive resource or exclusion signs to notify crews of the resource have been installed. Notifications were made to the PG&E EI. On July 14, an operator was not aware of the 500 foot CTS exclusion zone and a 400-foot by 20-foot area was scraped within the zone coming within 100 feet of the CTS borrow. The site Foreman when he realized what was occurring immediately stopped the operator. Opus notified Mary Hammer of the USFWS in an e-mail.	
NCR	7/26/05	A drainage off Manning Road was bridged by steel plates and the area extending upslope from the bridge had been graded up to and possibly within the drainage without an approved CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	CDFG notification required
NCR	7/26/05	Construction at Pole location 9, 10, 11 and 12 and use of associated access roads were started prior to the CPUCM verifying that proper flagging and exclusion fencing had been installed as required by Project mitigation measures. Directly upslope of a CTS/CRLF breeding pond burrow clusters were not fenced off and the site was left unmonitored though construction was occurring within 200-ft of the pond. Crews were using new routes which were not previously surveyed or approved.	PG&E must properly flag and fence the work and access areas, and provide maps and survey results. Burrow clusters must be fenced for exclusion.
NCR	7/29/05	Crews graded the other side of the drainage referred to in an NCR issued 7/26/05. Note that a CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement has not been issued for the site.	CDFG notification required

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On August 4, NTP #7 was issue for Phase Three underground construction and preparation of the 0.94-acre mitigation area. Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Tri-Valley Project to date.

**TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED**
(Updated 8-6-05)

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.
#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.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

A Variance Request for use of staging areas was submitted July 28. The requested areas have been reviewed and were incorporated into NTP #7

Table 3 presents the Phase Three Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**
(Updated 8/6/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
11	7/7/05	Variance to allow travel through homestead archaeological site C-Livermore-1H.	Completed	7/8/05
12	7/15/05	Variance to allow the use of staging areas as outlined in road plan drawings along the Phase 3 alignment.	Completed	7/26/05
13	7/29/05	Variance to use three staging areas. Two are located along the Moller Ranch Road. The last is located adjacent to the Cayetano Substation.	Incorporated into NTP #7.	

Photographs



Figure 1 – New staging area along Moller Road, August 3, 2005.



Figure 2 – Construction of Tower 7, August 3, 2005.