



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 28, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #77: September 18, 2005 – September 24, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs):** Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

Current construction of the PG&E Tri-Valley Project includes the Phase Three portions of the project, including construction of the overhead transmission line, underground alignment, North Dublin Substation, and Transition Station; all roadway and vault pad grading; and preparation of the 0.33-acre and 0.94-acre mitigation areas. 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. Road improvement and installation is being conducted by Granite Construction. The tower work is being conducted by PG&E. The underground construction is being engineered by Wilson Construction and is being completed by Ranger Construction.

### **Summary of Phase Three Activity:**

Weather was clear and warm throughout the subject week. During the subject week, the PG&E EIs conducted environmental trainings as new crew members joined the project.

The CPUC EMs monitored construction on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and between September 21<sup>st</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The CPUC Lead EM was on-site on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

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. All project areas have been reviewed except for the bank stabilization work adjacent to Moller Road.

Vault excavation and installation continued on the underground portion north of the Cayetano Substation on North Livermore Avenue (see Figure 1). Extending up and over the hill off of Manning Road, crews are finishing up the excavation, installing conduit, and backfilling the second trench of the double circuit line. Crews initially used a disk to break up the soil and then were able to strip the top soil and stockpile it along the side of the right-of-way. Excavation is being conducted using a Cleveland trenching machine. Two trenches are being installed 15 feet apart as part of the double circuit portion of the project. Crews have completed trenching past Road 5 toward the Transitions Station and used a slurry pumping system to backfill the trench up the steep hillside. Crews continually separate the topsoil as the trench line proceeds. Trenching through Cayetano Creek, which parallels Road 5, has been completed and is currently being backfilled. California red-legged frogs (CRLF) were identified approximately 400 feet from this location and an approved biologist was at the location monitoring for frogs prior to and during construction.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Streambed Alteration Agreement Amendment was issued allowing PG&E to install the permanent culverts along access Road 6 and remove the Congdon's tarplant in that construction area. Culvert installation at Road 6 took place over the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Crews installed rip-rap, gravel, and two 60-inch culverts in a section of the drainage (see Figures 2 and 3). A biological monitor was present during construction. The Congdon's tarplant in the area was collected before the area was disturbed and the seed material will be preserved, as proposed, at Rancho Santa Ana

Botanic Garden. Because the culverts have been installed, the contractor for the underground segment will not have to use the temporary access approved in Variance Approval #16.

Granite Construction continued disking and grading along Access Roads 6 and 7 during the subject week. The area appeared to be watered frequently to cut down on construction related dust.

Granite Construction also continued to work on the Moller Road access. Two 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. CRLF were seen at approximate Station 15+00 on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. CRLF have been repeatedly sighted on Moller Road at approximate Station 27+00. Both Mary Hammer, USFWS, and Marcia Grefsrud, CDFG, were notified.

Granite crews continued work in the mitigation pond site. A PG&E EI was present during all the work in the area in order to avoid any impact to the Congdon's tarplant. At least two populations of the rare plant were identified adjacent to the mitigation pond site and these areas were fenced off with orange fence for avoidance. One population, which was within the access road alignment, will not be impacted because crews have reconfigured the construction of the road in order to avoid all rare plants.

PG&E crews continued to work on completing Tower 6 and started work on Towers 1 and 2 during the subject week (see Figure 4). Tower assembly is occurring in the lay down yard located off Doolan Canyon Road and onsite at tower locations. Materials are being transported to and from the work sites via helicopter or truck. A biological monitor was monitoring the tower crews during the week.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

Crews staged a generator within 100 feet of an aquatic resource. The CPUC EM informed the PG&E EI of the issue.

PG&E has prepared a mitigation plan for the rare Congdon's tarplant found within the project area. The Streambed Alteration Agreement Amendment was issued by CDFG on September 20<sup>th</sup>, which includes impacts and mitigation not identified in the original notification to the Department, specifically, the impacts to the Congdon's tarplant.

Two CRLF were found during surveys at the slope restabilization area on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Both frogs were taken outside of the work area. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, another CRLF was moved out of the project area near Station 136+50. The PG&E EIs are monitoring all construction areas within 800 feet of the habitat. Opus Environmental notified Mary Hammer, USFWS, and Marcia Grefsrud, CDFG.

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 two Project Memoranda (PMs) have been issued for the Phase Three portion of the project to date (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
**(Updated 09-28-05)**

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 burrow. 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 CPUC EM 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 feet 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
Project Memorandum	8/21/05	Crews placed a dumpster outside of the project area and did not move it for three days.	Dumpster was removed 8/19/05

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

PG&E supplied the CPUC EM with e-mail correspondence records with CDFG regarding work around the Congdon's tarplant populations and CRLF sightings.

**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 9-28-05)**

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	September 12, 2002	<b>Phase One:</b> 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	<b>Phase One:</b> 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	<b>Phase One:</b> Construct the final sections of the Phase One portion Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project, within the City of Pleasanton.
#4	May 5, 2003	<b>Phase Two:</b> Construction of the new 5-acre Cayetano Substation located at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and May School Road.
#5	July 14, 2003	<b>Phase Two:</b> 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		<b>Phase Two:</b> Allow construction within the exclusion boundary of the May School road cultural resource discovery area.
#6	June 29, 2005	<b>Phase Three:</b> 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	<b>Phase Three:</b> Underground construction and preparation of the 0.94-acre mitigation area.
#8	August 18, 2005	<b>Phase Three:</b> North Dublin Substation.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

On September 15, 2005, PG&E submitted Variance Request #16. PG&E requested the use of a temporary overland access connector route to access two vault installation sites. The requested access route and work space areas were reviewed by the CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Variance was approved by the CPUC on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Table 3 presents the Phase Three Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 9/28/05)

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	
14	8/12/05	Variance to use three access roads, and a laydown area.	Completed	8/19/05
15	8/19/05	Variance to use two laydown areas and one access road near Road 6.	Completed	8/26/05
16	9/15/05	Variance for use of a temporary overland access connector route to access 2 vault installation sites	Completed	9/19/05

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Vault installation near the North Livermore Substation, September 23, 2005.



**Figure 2** – Cayetano Creek crossing of Access Road 6 before permanent culvert installation, September 22, 2005.



**Figure 3** – Culvert installation at the crossing in Figure 2 was installed on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Figure 4** – Tower 1 construction near Moller Road, September 21, 2005.