



Aspen *Environmental Group*

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 18, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #80: October 9, 2005 – October 15, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Current construction of the PG&E Tri-Valley Project includes the Phase Three portion 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. The substation work is being engineered by Black and Veatch who has subcontracted construction to Granite Construction.

Summary of Phase Three Activity:

Weather was clear and warm throughout the subject week with light rain on the evening of Friday, October 14. During the subject week, the PG&E EIs conducted environmental trainings as new crew members joined the project.

The CPUC EM monitored construction on October 10th, 11th and 12th.

Vault installation and tie-ins continued on the underground sections. Extending up and over the hill off of Manning Road and continuing to the Transition Station, crews are finishing up backfill and compaction of the double circuit trench line. Crews initially used a disk to break up the soil and then were able to strip the topsoil and stockpile it along the side of the right-of-way. Top soils are being backfilled over the completed installation. Crews have started restoration activities including reseeding. Crews have begun installing slope erosion controls including fiber rolls; however, resident pasturing cows have begun to dismantle and eat the rolls. Solutions to this problem are being investigation including working with land-owners to install fencing around the restored areas. Crews also continued conduit proofing.

Trenching through Cayetano Creek, which parallels Road 5, has been completed and backfill was completed during the subject week. California red-legged frogs (CRLF) were identified in the project right-of-way and surrounding areas of the creek. An approved biologist was at the location monitoring for frogs preceding and during construction. The temporary culvert through this area will be removed prior to October 31, as required by the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement. Adjacent to this location the site biologist identified a single Congdon's tarplant (protected species) which appeared dead and desiccated. No tire tracks or soil disturbance was found around the plant so construction activities were not thought to be the cause. On Friday October 14, Opus sent CDFG representatives notification of the discovery.

Granite Construction continued disking and grading along Access Roads 6 during the subject week. The area appeared to be watered frequently to cut down on construction related dust. Granite worked to install culverts along Road 7. At the Transition Station, Ranger Construction continues vault installation activities.

The bank stabilization work flagging adjacent to Moller Road was approved on October 4. The CPUC EM conditioned the approval to have ready and on-site all of the necessary materials for an upstream coffer dam and water diversion pipe as outlined in the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement. The materials were brought to the site and the Tassajara Creek bank stabilization work including the installation of filter fabric and rock riprap continued through out the subject week (see Figure 1). Crews still need to remove dirt from within the installed riprap, restore the creek bed where heavy equipment traveled and tracked spoils, as well as dismantle the earthen ramp crews used to access the site. The CPUC EM notified PG&E that until the final bank work is complete, the coffer dams and diversion pipe must be on-site and installed prior to forecasted rain events. All work must be completed prior to the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement deadline of October 31.

Rock was installed around the new culvert installations on Moller Road (see Figure 2). The CPUC EM expressed concerns that the culvert inlets seemed very deep and could pose a safety hazard and potential erosion concerns. During the subject week, crews also installed several french drains. The CPUC EM expressed concerns that existing wetland areas adjacent to the roads could be impacted by the new drain features. PG&E Planner Buck Jones responded that the Army Corps permit submittal outlined all of the installations and the potential impacts were included in the mitigation agreements. Given the existing site erosion topography, the CPUC EM had inquired if a hydrologist has field reviewed the new drainage installations.

Granite Construction 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. On Friday, October 14, Opus sent CDFG a mark-up of the revision to the access road into the Wetland Mitigation site in order to avoid a population of Congdon's tarplant.

Along Moller Ranch Road, graded and slope areas, some fiber rolls have been installed, and mulching and hydro seeding should be completed by the end of the month.

Disking continued at the new substation site during the week.

The PG&E tower crews will not work on the Tri-Valley Project for the next two weeks.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The CPUC EM observed that all 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 10-19-05)

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 and phone correspondence records with CDFG regarding work notifications and resource sightings and relocation.

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 10/19/05)

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.
#8	August 18, 2005	Phase Three: North Dublin Substation.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Phase Three Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 10/19/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
11	7/7/05	Variance to allow travel through home-stead 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 two vault installation sites	Completed	9/19/05

Photographs



Figure 1 – Bank stabilization area within Tassajara Creek,
October 11, 2005.



Figure 2 – Culvert installation along Moller Ranch Road,
October 12, 2005.