



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 5, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #78: September 26, 2005 – October 1, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs): Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

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.

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 26th, 28th, and 30th.

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 signed off except for the bank stabilization work adjacent to Moller Road.

Vault installation and tie-ins 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, conduit installation, and backfill of 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 topsoil and stockpile it along the side of the right-of-way. Excavation is being conducted using a trenching machine. Two trenches are being installed 15 feet apart as part of the double circuit project. Trenching through Cayetano Creek, which parallels Road 5, has been completed and is currently being backfilled. 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.

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 conducted surveys to outline the slope stabilization area on Moller Road. The area needed to be resurveyed because the topographical information was not matching the staking in the field. New culverts were installed on Moller road near the proposed substation.

Granite crews continued work in the mitigation pond site. Construction of a concrete wall took place as part of the spillway (see Figure 2). 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 Towers 1, 2, and 13 during the subject week. 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 on-site with the tower crews during the week. Stringing of lines between power poles took place along Moller Road (see Figure 3).

No work on the new substation occurred during the week. Granite Construction will be staking the project area and will conduct the construction of the substation roads and pad.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The exclusion fencing around the Congdon's tarplant was observed to be in need of repair to keep workers and equipment out of the area. The biological monitor onsite was notified of the problem.

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 20th, which includes impacts and mitigation not identified in the original notification to the Department, specifically, the impacts to the Congdon's tarplant.

One CRLF were found in the project right-of-way at the underground stream crossing near Road 5 on September 28th. Project biologists believe it was the same frog found last week. The frog was taken outside of the work area and released. Several other CRLFs were seen at the release location. Opus Environmental notified Mary Hammer of the USFWS and Marcia Grefsrud of 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 10-05-05)

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 numerous e-mail and phone correspondence records with CDFG regarding CRLF sightings and relocation.

A dead scrub jay found in the area of the slope stabilization last week was given to the County to see if it had been infected by West Nile Virus. A County Mosquito Abatement Biologist visited the project site on September 27th and took a sample of water from a nearby pond. According to the County Biologist, several species of mosquito larvae were found in the pond including one that can transmit the virus to humans. The Biologist treated the pond with a granular protein, which will hamper the development of mosquito larvae and has no effect on other wildlife.

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 10/05/05)

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:

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

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

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 two vault installation sites	Completed	9/19/05

Photographs



Figure 1 – Spillway construction at the Mitigation Pond site, September 27, 2005.



Figure 2 – Crews conducting tie-ins along North Livermore Avenue, September 28, 2005.



Figure 3 – Stringing taking place along Moller Road, September 28, 2005.