



Aspen

Environmental Group

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As the millennium ends, we at Aspen Environmental Group are preparing for growth through continued service to our existing customers and expansion of services to new clients. Our new contracts include a three-year, \$5.4 million contract for the California Energy Commission to provide engineering and environmental technical assistance on certification application review and, for the California Public Utilities Commission, a multi-million dollar hydroelectric divestiture project. We are also continuing our environmental assessment and planning services to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Forest Service, and Los Angeles Unified School District.

We are growing at such a rate that we have outgrown our newly opened Bay Area office. Read on for more detail on the changes.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



Aspen is providing engineering and environmental technical assistance to review power plant certification applications for the California Energy Commission under a 3-year, \$5.4 million contract. Our experience with environmental analysis and facility permitting enables us to oversee 26 specialty subcontractors

on approximately 30 applications expected to be reviewed. This service capacity and flexibility allows us to handle multiple concurrent work authorizations.

Aspen is providing specialists to serve as part of the Commission's team during review of Applications for Certification and to manage the complete environmental and engineering review process. This includes specialists in all disciplines who are familiar with the range of facilities and infrastructures.

Aspen will assist the Commission in preparing staff assessments, permit conditions, and ensuring compliance with applicable regulations.

Recent Accomplishments and Ongoing Projects

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Aspen won the contract to prepare environmental investigation reports for the divestiture of hydroelectric generation assets (and related assets) proposed by Pacific Gas & Electric. This project could result in the sale of more assets than any of the prior utility divestitures from the restructuring of the electrical market.

PG&E's hydroelectric system is composed of 110 generation units at 68 powerhouses. The system includes 99 reservoirs, 76 diversions, 174 dams, 184 miles of canals, 44 miles of flumes, 135 miles of tunnels, 19 miles of pipe and 5 miles of waterways. It also includes 102,000 acres of land, 92 contracts for water rights, and 161 statements of water diversion and use.

Aspen's flexibility and diversity are essential to the success of the project, requiring the efficient deployment of a variety of technical experts (economists, hydrologists, and engineers, etc.) and sophisticated computer models to prepare thorough CEQA documents as quickly as possible. Aspen will prepare project descriptions, identify baseline conditions, and develop approaches and methodologies for analyzing the environmental impacts, cumulative impacts and operations. The core groups will coordinate a comprehensive public participation program and address global issues while the local issues are delegated to focused teams within the five watershed areas of the project.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



Aspen continues to provide environmental services to the Corps' Los Angeles District under our second multi-year delivery order contract. We have received 24 delivery orders so far under our current contract, including:

An EIS for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) for changes required to the Colorado River where it forms the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The USIBWC, with assistance from the Corps,

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PIPELINE AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES



As Prime Contractor to the Lolo National Forest, Aspen is preparing a Final EIS on a proposed petroleum products pipeline to reconnect the 725-mile **Yellowstone Pipeline** through western Montana.

YPL decided to withdraw their application for a new pipeline reroute and will continue to use rail and truck for transportation of products from Missoula to Thompson Falls. The Final EIS will only address the changes to the existing pipeline that would occur in the process of renewal of the pipeline permit by the Forest Service. Aspen will also respond to several hundred comments received by the public on the Draft EIS.

Aspen is assisting the Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico in permitting the proposed **Navajo Pipeline** that will cross the Pueblo. Assistance is being provided in pipeline safety to ensure that environmental and cultural resources are protected.

Aspen was awarded a contract by a confidential client to assist them in reviewing a proposed natural gas pipeline project.

CONSTRUCTION AND MITIGATION MONITORING



Aspen's successful approach to mitigation monitoring and compliance has been applied to pipeline projects, transmission line projects, and telecommunication projects, as well as projects under our Corps contract.

Level 3 Communications is installing a 2,000-mile fiber optic network throughout California. Aspen is supporting the CPUC by providing pre-construction compliance review and mitigation monitoring for all construction segments, as well as supplemental CEQA compliance documentation for the proposed station facilities and routing changes.

Alpine Natural Gas is constructing a 27-mile natural gas pipeline and distribution system in a rural residential area of Calaveras County, CA. Under contract to CPUC, Aspen is conducting pre-construction compliance review and mitigation monitoring for Phase I of this construction effort.

Southern California Edison is constructing a 11.5-mile 115 kV power line in Riverside County, CA. The project upgrades system reliability and power transmission to this rapidly growing area. Under contract to CPUC, Aspen prepared the CEQA compliance documentation, conducted the pre-construction compliance review, and is monitoring the power line upgrade.

ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES



Aspen's experience with electrical power facilities was recognized with the award of the contract for the CPUC's environmental review of **PG&E's Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project**. This is the CPUC's first large transmission siting project after California's restructuring of the utility industry.

Aspen and our team of expert subcontractors are preparing an EIR for the CPUC for a new 230 kV transmission line and substation project proposed by PG&E in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, CA. The 7.3-mile transmission line would connect an existing substation in Fremont with a new substation in Santa Clara County, providing increased electrical capacity to the rapidly growing Silicon Valley development in San Jose, Santa Clara, Milpitas, and Fremont.

Information on the project is available on the CPUC's Internet website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/nesanjo.htm>

Under our Northern California **On-call Environmental Services** contract with the CPUC, Aspen is developing general mitigation monitoring procedures. We are also providing monitoring services during construction of the North San Jose Capacity Increase Project, which involves a new 115kV distribution substation and distribution lines in San Jose and Santa Clara.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS, CONT.

is developing a proposal to enhance the flood capacity of the Colorado River and to stabilize the river course where it serves as the International Boundary.

An EA for the development of new San Diego Sector Support Facilities for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The INS is relocating its Border Patrol facilities management, vehicle maintenance, and air operations in Chula Vista to a new site in Otay Mesa. This new facility will house over 400 employees.

An Ecosystem Restoration Report for Old San Jose Creek in Santa Barbara County. Aspen is formulating alternatives for the restoration of riparian habitat along the creek as it winds through the Old Town Goleta area and will assist the Corps and Santa Barbara County in selecting a preferred restoration concept for the creek. Aspen is also preparing an EA for the project.

OUR GROWTH CONTINUES



historic Russell building.

We are proud to announce that our San Francisco office opened but was too small immediately. They have relocated to a bigger and better suite within the same

Dr. Gary Meunier, Vice President and CFO, has recently relocated to Utah. He will continue his responsibilities as Aspen CFO and will participate in major projects in an oversight capacity. **Jon Davidson** has been promoted to Vice President and assumes the role of Program Manager for Aspen's services to the Corps of Engineers as well as other corporate duties. **Martha Sullivan** has returned to northern California to oversee the San Francisco office and better serve our northern California and Northwest clients.

Dr. Marcus Lane edited, with Geoff McDonald, a book on the Wet Tropics of Australia for The Federation Press. In addition to Shari Koslowsky and Susan Walker, whom we introduced earlier this year, we have added four new trees to our "Aspen grove."

Nasrin Behmanesh, Ph.D. (Chemical Engineering) joined our headquarter office. She will provide assistance to our project managers in air quality, system safety, noise, engineering evaluation and project descriptions.

Joseph Crea, B.S. joins Aspen as an Environmental Scientist in our southern California office, bringing his experience in resource surveys, impact assessments, and mitigation and restoration projects. He is conducting soils, geologic, hydrological and biological studies as well as preparing restoration and mitigation plans.

Rebecca Morgenstern, B.A. joined our San Francisco office as a Project Assistant. She will support and assist Aspen project managers in management, coordination, and direction of multi-disciplinary efforts or on stand-alone projects.

Nicole O'Brien jumped in to help the accounting department. She processes expense, payroll, and travel reports, as well as making all travel arrangements.

HABITAT RESTORATION



Aspen's experience with habitat restoration projects has grown. Later this year, construction of habitat is scheduled to begin at **Ajo Detention Basin** in Tucson, for which Aspen prepared an

ERR for the Corps and Pima County last year. The project was recently featured in Landscape Architecture Magazine as an example of multi-jurisdictional effort to restore habitat in an urban setting. Aspen is currently working with Collins/Piña Consulting Engineers on another Corps ERR along the **Rillito River** in Tucson and the **Bull Creek Channel** ERR in Los Angeles, CA. In addition, Aspen is currently preparing an ERR for riparian habitat along **Old San Jose Creek** in Santa Barbara County.

Aspen also has a significant role in a major Corps riparian restoration project along the Salt River in Phoenix and Tempe, AZ, referred to as the **Rio Salado Environmental Restoration Project**. Aspen recently prepared a Habitat Criteria Report for a 5-mile stretch of the Salt River in Phoenix where a mix of riparian and wetland habitat will be restored. Aspen will soon be preparing a similar report for the Salt River and Indian Bend Wash in Tempe.

TRANSMISSION, CONT.

Also under contract to the CPUC, Aspen and our team of subcontractor specialists will prepare an EIR for the **Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project**, a 230kV transmission line and substation proposed by PG&E. Major issues for this project include safety concerns of the residents along the proposed underground portion

of the transmission line, potential endangered species impacts, and visual impacts of the transmission line and new substations.

Information on the project is available on the CPUC's Internet website at

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/tri-valley.htm>

ASPEN SERVICES

Aspen Environmental Group is a growing business with demonstrated success in managing large and complex as well as small and specialized environmental projects. Aspen offers environmental consulting and management services in areas that include:

- * Environmental Impact Reports and Statements
- * Biological Resources Evaluation, Wetlands Delineation and Field Surveys
- * Mitigation Monitoring
- * Public Participation and Community Involvement

- * Risk of Upset and Public Safety Evaluation
- * Air Quality Modeling and Impact Assessment
- * Air Toxics Inventory and Risk Assessment
- * Environmental Compliance and Permitting
- * Habitat Restoration.