



We started in 1991 believing we could offer environmental consulting services better than the “big” companies and, as we close our 10th year, we still believe we can. We have stretched and sometimes struggled but we have learned and grown, each time improving our level of service and commitment to our clients while maintaining our integrity and philosophy.

We have recently added a number of new organizations to our valued client list. New clients include:

- * **California Department of Fish and Game** (field services and permit reviews for the fiber optics industry)
- * **Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources** (evaluate current Kern County well permitting system and recommend improvements)
- * **Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District** (on-call environmental services).

Aspen is proud to be part of the solution to this year’s energy crisis in California. Aspen is a major consultant to the two primary agencies in charge of energy resources: the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). California must build new power plants. Our contract with the CEC eased the crisis by providing technical assistance with the fast-paced power plant certification applications that eventually will provide more electricity for California.

Once the power plants are built (and the energy is created), the CPUC regulates the distribution of the energy to the people of California. With the pending sale of some of Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s (PG&E) hydroelectric system, Aspen managed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the CPUC. Aspen also prepared a DEIR for the Tri-Valley 2002 Increase Project, which will ease the crunch in the Bay area.

We are also continuing our environmental assessment and planning services to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the National Forest Service.

CEC



Aspen continues to provide engineering and environmental technical assistance to the California Energy Commission to review power plant certification applications. Currently, Aspen is working on 540 Work Authorizations for 48 proposed power plants.

Aspen scientists and engineers are preparing Staff Assessments, which are equivalent to impact assessments under the California
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Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These independent analyses will determine whether a proposed power plant can be constructed and operated safely in accordance with laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The Staff Assessment evaluates whether the proposed power plant would cause any environmental consequences or create any potential public health and safety impacts. Aspen scientists and engineers also participate in public workshops, testify at Evidentiary Hearings, and review the Commission’s Decision.



Aspen is providing staff support to the California Energy Commission for its permitting process and construction monitoring for new power generation throughout California.

In addition to Staff Assessments, Aspen has been asked to prepare several important research papers for the Energy Commission. These papers include: Power Plant Licensing Constraints; Environmental Performance of Electrical Generation Facilities; Alternative Technology Assessment and Readiness Study; and Coastal Plant Inventory Study.

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 38 Delivery Orders so far under our current contract, including the following:

1. *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA Environmental Impact Analyses:*
 - a) An Environmental Impact Study for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission for changes required to the **Lower Colorado River** where it forms the border between the U.S. and Mexico; b) a Final Supplemental EIS/EIR for improvements to **Prado Dam, Norco Bluffs, and Reach 9 of the Santa Ana River**; c) an EIS/EIR for shore protection in **Imperial Beach, California**; d) a Supplemental EIS/EIR for operation and maintenance of flood control improvements on the **San Luis Rey River**; and an EIS/EIR for the removal of

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the **Matilija Dam** on a tributary to the Ventura River.

2. *Ecosystem Restoration:*

a) An Ecosystem Restoration Report for **Old San Jose Creek** in Goleta, California; b) a Preliminary Plan Formulation Report for the restoration of **Wood Canyon Creek** in Orange County, California; c) and a Detailed Project Report for the restoration of a portion of the **Agua Fria River** in Maricopa County, Arizona.

3. *Special Studies:*

a) A hydrogeomorphic wetlands delineation study and biological assessment for the **San Luis Rey River**; b) a Habitat Criteria Report for the **Park Avenue Basin Complex** in Tucson, Arizona; and c) an Alternatives Analysis Report for the **NE Phoenix Drainage Area**.

Aspen is currently working with Tetra Tech on other Corps habitat restoration projects along the **Little Colorado River** in Holbrook, Arizona; along the **Rillito River** in Tucson, Arizona; **Cucamonga Creek** in Ontario, California; and the **Bull Creek Channel** in Los Angeles, California. Aspen also recently prepared Habitat Criteria Reports for the **Rio Salado Environmental Restoration Project** along the Salt River in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona.

L.A. UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Aspen holds an On-Call Environmental Services Contract assisting the Los Angeles Unified School District with one of the largest public works projects in the country – the planning and construction of more than one hundred new schools and the expansion of dozens of existing schools.

As part of our on-call environmental services contract, Aspen is currently preparing EIRs for three new high schools and a new middle school in the San Fernando Valley. In addition, Aspen is preparing mitigated negative declarations for numerous new primary centers and school expansion projects.

CPUC CONTRACTS



Aspen demonstrates its flexibility and diversity in its contracts with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Among our accomplishments:

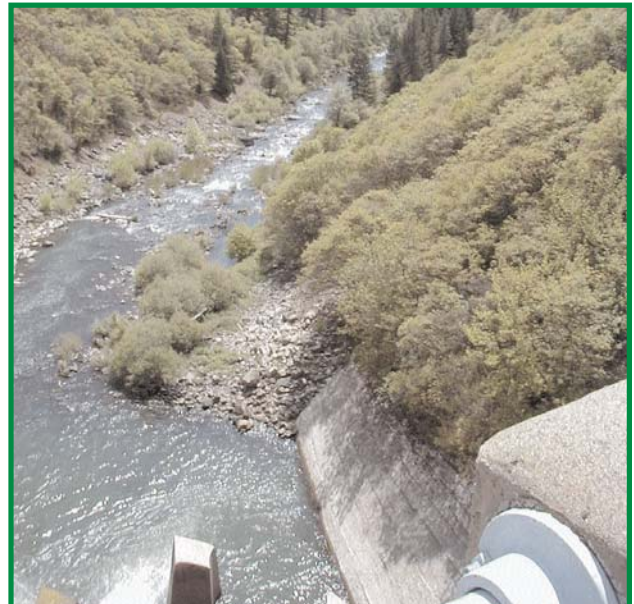
In response to transmission congestion that occurred in early 2001 at the peak of California's energy crisis, the CPUC requested Aspen to prepare an EIR for PG&E's proposed 84-mile long **Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project**, also known as the Path 15 Project. On an expedited schedule, Aspen organized scoping meetings and managed a team including six subcontractors in preparation of a comprehensive 600-page Draft Supplemental EIR (DSEIR) that was released in October 2001. The CPUC's project website is

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/path15>

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PG&E applied to the CPUC for the 230 kV **Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project**. Aspen prepared a DEIR and a Supplemental DEIR in 2000 and the Final EIR in February 2001. Major issues included potential impacts on the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and EMF concerns of high-tech businesses along transmission line routes. This was the CPUC's first large transmission siting project after California's restructuring of the utility industry.

Aspen issued a Final EIR on the **Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project** in April 2001. This project included analysis of 23 miles of 230kV transmission line and two new substations proposed by PG&E. Major issues for this project included EMF and safety concerns, visual impacts of the proposed overhead transmission line, new substations in the developing Livermore Valley, and impacts on endangered species.



Pit below Britton, Hydrodivestiture Project

With an effort of approximately 50,000 labor hours, a DEIR for the **Proposed Divestiture of PG&E's Hydroelectric Generation and Related Assets** was issued in November 2000. This project considered the potential impacts of the sale of PG&E's hydroelectric assets. Aspen managed the environmental and economic analyses of more than 25 subcontractors and specialists. The DEIR analyzed the range of operational changes that could occur under new ownership. The DEIR is nine volumes (approximately 4,000 pages) and is available on the web at <http://cpuc-pgehydro.support.net>

MITIGATION MONITORING



Aspen has an exceptional cadre of scientists (biologists, cultural resource specialists, etc.) who spend most of their time monitoring construction projects on behalf of public agencies to assure compliance with agreed upon mitigation measures. Following are some of our monitoring projects.

Level 3 Communications has been installing a 2,000-mile fiber optic network throughout California. Since April 1999, Aspen has been providing pre-construction compliance review and mit-

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igation monitoring for all construction segments. In addition, Aspen prepared the supplemental CEQA compliance documentation for the proposed station facilities and routing changes.

Aspen is currently assisting the **California Department of Fish and Game** in the review and preparation of Streambed Alteration Agreements for fiber optic projects. This expedites processing applications. Aspen's work involves assisting in organizing or bundling any watercourse crossing applications by appropriate category, territory, or relevant regional division; identifying suitable mitigation and avoidance measures for the CDFG; and reviewing notification packages for completeness. Aspen's staff has also been ensuring compliance with Streambed Alteration Agreements during fiber optic construction activities.

Under our CPUC Northern California On-call Environmental Services contract, Aspen prepared the CEQA compliance documentation for the **Paradise Power Line Reinforcement Project** (upgrade of 6.1 mile long 115kV transmission line). Aspen conducted the environmental review (preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration) and is now monitoring construction of the power line upgrade. Information on these projects is available on the CPUC's Internet website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info>

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST



As Prime Contractor to the **Lolo National Forest**, Aspen recently completed the Final EIS on the **Yellowstone Pipeline** in western Montana and northern Idaho. The Yellowstone Pipe Line Company decided to withdraw their application for a new reroute pipeline and will continue to use

rail and truck for transportation of products from Missoula to Thompson Falls, Montana. The Final EIS addressed the proposed changes to the 60 miles of existing pipeline between Thompson Falls and Kingston, Idaho. The Record of Decision, signed May 9, 2001, provides for seven miles of pipeline relocation away from Prospect Creek, removal of at least 2.6 miles of abandoned pipe, one stream crossing repair on the Coeur d'Alene River, and a variety of mitigation measures for both construction and operations to improve protection of the environment and public safety.

For further information on the Yellowstone Pipeline EIS, including access to reports, please check the project Internet site at <http://www.Aspenege.com/YPL-EIS>

CALTECH



We recently renewed our support to the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) on the Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy project. Aspen is assisting Caltech in obtaining permits for the project, most importantly a special-use permit for a radio telescope array site in the Inyo Mountains of eastern California. After a site favored in 1999 was dropped, we assisted Caltech in evaluating additional sites and in preparing the special-use permit proposal, which was submitted to and accepted by the Forest Service in October, setting the stage for initiation of the EIR/EIS process.

NEW OFFICES AND STAFF

In June, we opened an office in Sacramento, headed by our new Vice President, Dr. Suzanne Phinney, to better serve our State contracts as well as our private clients in northern California. Aspen aims to become the premier environmental assessment firm for infrastructure and energy projects with the Sacramento office as a focal point for contacts with State agencies.



Ribbon cutting at the grand opening of Aspen's Sacramento office.

Suzanne L. Phinney, D. Env. Dr. Phinney has over 20 years experience in the environmental field, supporting both the public and private sectors in remediation, air and water quality assessments, risk assessments, regulatory compliance and permitting, and project and program management. Dr. Phinney recently managed Aspen's technical contributions to the CEC's Environmental Performance Report, which details the current and historical air, water and biological impacts from in-state generation facilities.

Other new staff in our Sacramento office include:

Daniel Gorfain, M.S. and **Matthew Trask, B.A.**, both experienced land use and socioeconomics managers. Mr. Gorfain is primarily responsible for socioeconomic review on CEC projects. Mr. Trask has managed environmental assessments under both CEQA and NEPA.

Michael Meltzer, Ph. D. has joined our CEC special studies team and will work on projects such as the Alternative Technology Assessment. Dr. Meltzer has extensive experience in pollution prevention and other environmental projects including preventing pollution from power plants.

Bruce D. Barnett, Ph.D. Dr. Barnett, who joined Aspen in April 2001 as Director Biological Services, has over 20 years experience in the study of wildlife biology, community and population ecology, and habitat assessments. He directs our biology department from the Sacramento office. The biologists include **Andrea Erichsen, M.S.**, who has over 10 years experience in pure and applied research specializing in ecotoxicology, ornithology, and avian development; **Brad Norling, M.S.**, with over 14 years of experience in the natural resource management field (Mr. Norling is based in our Agoura Hills office); **Tom Scofield, B.S.**, who has over 11 years of experience to both public agencies and the private sector, and has served as project manager, principal biologist, and task leader

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for permitting and environmental assessment projects; and **Julie Colyer, B.S.**, who joined the Aspen office in Sacramento as a staff wildlife biologist.

In our Agoura Hills office, we added several land use and socioeconomics specialists. Among them are: **Negar Vahidi, M.S.** with over 10 years of experience in both the public and private sector managing and preparing environmental, planning, and analytical documents for large-scale infrastructure and development projects; **Jacob I. Hawkins, M.S.**, who has a background in the environmental and biological sciences; **Marc T. Campopiano, M.S.**, who has worked for the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis on a variety of projects, including a coast live oak demographic mapping project using GIS; and **Jessica Cheng, B.A.** with experience in land use and planning, geologic hazards, and agricultural resources. **Will Walters, B.S. and P.E.**, is now leading our Air, Noise, Technology Assessment and Pollution control aspects of projects supported by **Lisa A. Blewitt, B.S.** Ms. Blewitt is a chemical engineer with experience in refinery and power plant design.

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To learn more about Aspen Environmental Group and any specific project, please call (818) 597-3407.

Philip O. Lowe, M.S. and P.E., joined Aspen's Agoura office as Director of our Water and Earth Resources group. Mr. Lowe has more than 20 years experience as a senior engineer and project manager in the hydrologic analysis of watersheds, water resources analysis, flood plain analysis, analysis and design of hydraulic structures, and channel erosion and sedimentation analysis. In addition, Mr. Lowe is educated in wildlife ecology and watershed management. His responsibilities and experience include environmental permitting and environmental impact assessment under CEQA and NEPA.

In our San Francisco office, Aspen added **Brewster Birdsall, M.S.**, as an environmental scientist who specializes in air quality and noise analyses and air quality risk assessments.

We have also increased our support staff in all our offices. In Agoura, **Darlene Freeman** is Dr. Hamid Rastegar's executive assistant. **Matthew Gallien** supports the Sacramento office and accounting has added three new members: **Elise Camacho, B.S.**, **Nabilia Wassef, B.S.**, and **Chris Villafuerte.** **Sohail Tavakoli** is in Information Services, based in Agoura Hills.