




Essex Environmental, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT
City of Oakland – Leona Quarry

Date:	January 7, 2005; 8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
Inspector:	Matthew Weinand (Essex Environmental)	
Weather:	Raining, approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and approximately 5 to 10 mph wind.	
Compliance Status:	NON-COMPLIANCE REGARDING VEGETATION CLEARING AND WORK WITHIN POTENTIAL ALAMEDA WHIPSNAKE HABITAT WITHOUT BIOLOGICAL MONITORING.	

ACTIVITY: Whipsnake Fence and General Site Inspection

COMMENTS: Inspected portions of the Alameda whipsnake protection fence along the northwest side of the project from the west end near Hwy 580 to beyond the north slope repair area.

The majority of the deficiencies in the protective fence for Alameda whipsnakes, which were addressed in previous reports, have not been corrected, and continue to present a risk to whipsnakes. These deficiencies generally include several hundred feet of missing, collapsed, or incorrectly installed protective fence. Additional hazards include areas of mesh netting that are accessible to whipsnakes, and an area of black plastic that may attract whipsnakes and their prey.

A meeting between Jeff Dreier (WRA), Kevin Kilpatrick (Essex Environmental), and myself is scheduled for next week. This meeting will focus on the ongoing noncompliant condition of the Alameda whipsnake fence and the determination of a final compliant installation strategy.

Construction activities appeared to be restricted water quality control.

ACTIVITY: Removal of the Rocky Outcrop

COMMENTS:

Non-Compliance:

Observed that the majority of the rocky outcrop has now been removed. Access for equipment has been re-established along the talus slope below and around the rocky outcrop. Noted that rubble (small rocks to large boulders) from the removal was strewn down the talus slope. Equipment tracks were observed in the dirt and rubble where the outcrop had been removed. Some still-green vegetation was scattered amongst the rubble. This is a noncompliance situation because a biological monitor needs to be onsite during all mass grading and supervise initial clearing in potential Alameda whipsnake habitat. There would be no way to document the occurrence of take without a monitor present. Additionally, there is no whipsnake fence installed at this location to prevent the entry of species into the area. The contractor needs to contact Jeff Dreier with WRA to insure that a monitor is onsite when required by the Project's Special Status Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. No sensitive species were observed in the work area. Outstanding items are listed below.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

At this time the overall condition of the Alameda whipsnake fence is inadequate to eliminate the potential for harm or harassment to the species and noncompliant with the Project's Special Status Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. Multiple continuing problems as detailed in previous reports such as holes in the fence, insufficient fence height, incorrect fence lean, insufficient fence base burial depth, and large missing sections of fence occur along the entire length of the whipsnake fence.

As per the Project's Special Status Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, the potential for direct harm or harassment of Alameda whipsnake needs to be eliminated and fencing needs to be:

- Installed and adequately maintained around the construction footprint.
- Have a height of at least 24-inches (fabric height from ground surface) and be buried approximately 6-8 inches below the ground surface.
- Angled outward away from the construction zone.

In order to meet project requirements and protect the Alameda whipsnake, a continuous and unbroken line of fence needs to be properly installed. The fence should extend from the dirt access road parallel to Hwy 580, along the outer edge of the construction footprint, including the north slope repair area, up to where the rocky outcrop once was. As stated above, a meeting is scheduled for next week that will determine a final compliant installation strategy.