




Essex Environmental, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT

City of Oakland – Leona Quarry

Date:	January 28, 2005; 3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	
Inspector:	Matthew Weinand (Essex Environmental)	
Weather:	Overcast with some rain, approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and approximately 0 to 5 mph wind.	

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 near the rocky outcrop area.

Since the last report (January 26, 2005), the contractor has installed new segments of Alameda whipsnake protection fencing in the outstanding areas. Progress has been made in bringing the whipsnake fence into compliance. The protection fence is now one continuous and unbroken line of fence rather than isolated segments. Three additional new segments were installed.

A new segment of fencing was installed along the dirt access road parallel to Hwy 580. Fencing originally crossed this access road, but had to be removed because it blocked vehicles. Previously installed fencing on the hillside now connects to the new segment which makes a ninety degree turn at the bottom of the hill and travels approximately 120 feet northwest along the access road. Due to the steepness of the slope along this new segment, the top of the installed fencing is closer to the ground than the required minimum of 24 inches. Installation of taller fencing in this and other steeply sloped locations is recommended to solve this problem. Installation of taller fencing at this location would also allow for a greater angling of the fence outward away from the construction zone.

Another new segment of fencing was installed across the north slope repair area. Existing fencing terminated at the east and west edges of the north slope repair area. New fence is now tied-into these endpoints creating a continuous protective barrier across the north slope repair area. The new fencing does not follow the outer edge of the construction footprint and instead was installed across the base of the north slope at the bottom of the plastic mesh. The exposure of this mesh and the potentially attractive black plastic above it could pose a possible hazard to whipsnakes. Jeff Dreier communicated to me that the contractor does not plan to use any heavy equipment or perform any work in the area in the near future. This segment of fence would need to be relocated or other protective measures approved before any additional work occurs in this area.

A third new segment of fencing was installed from the eastern terminus of the existing fence (below the Ridgmont Basin) up towards the rocky outcrop area. This new fencing exhibits some

holes that need to be patched, has some areas where the minimum 24-inch height requirement is not met, and portions where the lean of the fence is not outward away from the construction zone. This fence should be extended further up the hillside. At the time of this inspection, the fence terminated early within the oak trees. This fence should exclude all of these oaks on the west side of the rocky outcrop area and key into the location further up the hill determined by Jeff Dreier. No sensitive species were observed in the work area.

Some of the outstanding deficiencies in the existing protective fence, which were addressed in previous reports, have not been corrected and continue to present a risk to whipsnakes. These deficiencies include areas of improperly installed/maintained protective fence including damaged, collapsed, improperly buried, incorrectly leaning, or fencing with insufficient height.

Following the inspection, the fencing deficiencies were discussed on-site with Jun Osalbo (City of Oakland).

Since the time of this site inspection, I have communicated with Jeff Dreier (WRA) and discussed the contents of this report including the status and actions needed to resolve the outstanding issues with the protection fence. Jeff Dreier plans to be onsite on Monday, January 31, 2005 to review the current condition of the fence and advise the contractor of additions, adjustments, and repairs needed to bring the fence into compliance.

Outstanding items are listed below.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

The overall condition of the Alameda whipsnake fence has improved but is not yet compliant with the Project's Special Status Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. As noted above, Jeff Dreier (WRA) will be onsite on Monday, January 31, 2005 to review the current condition of the fence after recent installation activities and advise the contractor of fencing additions, adjustments, and repairs contained within this report to bring the fence into compliance.

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 all protective 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.