

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT

City of Oakland – Leona Quarry

Date:	December 23, 2004; 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Inspector:	Kevin Kilpatrick (Essex Environmental)
Weather:	Mostly cloudy, approximately 65 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. Also inspected the east side of the project where grading work is continuing.

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. In a conversation with Peter Helseth, with DeSilva Gates, Peter asked if whipsnake protection measures were necessary during the winter while snakes are hibernating. I let Peter know that while whipsnakes tend to be dormant during the cooler winter months; they can and do move around during this time, particularly during warmer winter days. The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project requires protection measures during construction activities, without exception.

Equipment in use throughout the site at the time of inspection included backhoes, bulldozers, graders, and multiple pickup trucks. No sensitive species were observed in the work area. Outstanding items are listed below.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

1. The Contractor needs to patch holes as needed to the Alameda whipsnake fence and ensure that the fence has an outward lean and is tall enough to both meet the mitigation requirements and to preclude Alameda whipsnakes from easily climbing over the top of the fence.
2. The Contractor needs to make the following repairs to the Alameda whipsnake fence:
 - At the north slope repair area, several hundred feet of fence has either been removed, or has collapsed and requires replacement or repair.
 - East of the north slope repair area, the western edge of the fence ends near the top of a ledge. Fencing should exclude more habitat at this location by either extending down the ledge and up the dirt road or along the dirt road so as to create an effective parallel overlap with the existing fence.

- East of the north slope repair area, at the eastern end of the fence, the fence should be extended across the talus slope to the base of the rocky outcrop adjacent to the erosion control blankets.
3. On the eastern portion of the project there is no protective fencing installed anywhere along the potential whipsnake habitat.