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PG&E completes first phase of work on damaged transmission tower

By *Sora O'Doherty*

Temporary work was completed by PG&E on March 2 to make a high voltage transmission tower safe after it was compromised by a landslide, according to PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkisian.

The mudslide occurred in a remote area of Orinda between the Bruns Amphitheater and Camino Pablo. PG&E used helicopters to move in equipment and materials to the remote location, where the utility's workers shored up the soil and supported the sagging transmission tower. It was also necessary to build a temporary road to get heavy equipment up the hill from Camino Pablo. Transmission lines were removed from the tower and moved to a series of poles installed away from the tower.

The tower was then partially dismantled, and will be replaced, but as yet there is no timeline for the permanent repair. The tower is now secure and the area is safe, said Sarkisian, who emphasized that safety is PG&E's first priority.

Cranes had been placed on Highway 24 near the Bruns Amphitheater in case the mudslide progressed and made immediate removal of the tower necessary. Fortunately, that did not occur and the cranes have now been removed.

Reach the reporter at: sora@lamorindaweekly.com

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