

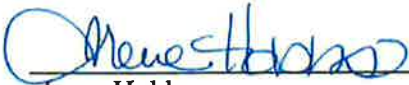
RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

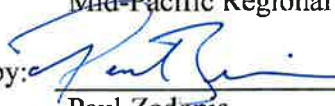
PG&E – Power Pole Replacement at Wintu Pump Station

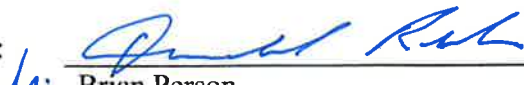
NCAO-CEC-13-21

Prepared by:  Date: 9/24/2013
Irene Hobbs
Realty Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: 08/22/13
Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: 09/20/13
Mark Carper
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 9/24/13
Paul Zedonis
Natural Resource Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 9/25/13
for: Brian Person
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

September, 2013

Proposed Action

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is requesting permission to replace one power pole (Pole 001/040) on Reclamation lands at the Wintu Pumping Plant in Shasta County, CA (Figure 1). The site location is 40.59344100598679, -122.36919164893554.

The existing wood pole, approximately 45' in height and 30" in diameter, will be replaced with a new wood pole that is 50' in height and 33-36" in diameter. The wood pole will be directly-imbedded approximately 7 feet deep. The crew will be setting the new pole next to the old pole, transferring the conductor to the new pole and removing the old pole. They will use the dirt from the new pole to backfill the old pole hole. Crews will use a temporary workspace (confined to the previously disturbed areas around the base of the existing poles to the greatest extent possible) within an approximately 40-foot radius of each pole, depending on site conditions, to provide a safe and adequate workspace.

New poles will be delivered and staged next to each pole site using a standard line truck with trailer or by helicopter, depending on site-specific conditions. A line truck with trailer and a potential second truck (crew-cab truck and/or half-ton pickup) will be used to access. A maximum of four or five truck trips are anticipated to the pole site. The truck trips to the site are to deliver the pole, auger the hole, and remove the old pole. The pole site is expected to be accessed one or two days during construction. When delivering and removing poles, the line truck is expected to access two or three sites per trip per day, as schedule and conditions permit. Additionally, pole delivery, augering, and setting the bottom pole may occur in one day during a single trip.

New holes will be excavated using a standard line truck with auger attachment (highway digger with 15- to 18-foot depth capacity) and large crane, or by helicopter and hand dug (with the aid of a hand jack powered by an air compressor or long handled shovel). The replacement poles will be located as close as possible to the existing poles, usually within 3 to 6 feet, in line with the existing pole holes. Plywood and plastic covering will be used to cover the excavated holes until pole installation activities begin.

Soil will be covered with plastic covering until later backfilled around the pole base and used to backfill existing holes from the original pole-holes once removed. Any excess soil generated from project activities will be dispersed evenly around the pole and properly compacted over areas in which drainage and vehicle accessibility will be maintained. In the unlikely event that the soil cannot be spread and adequately contoured or compacted into the landscape, crews will remove the excess soil from the pole site and it will be disposed in accordance to the legal requirements. The appropriate construction storm water BMPs will be used before, during, and after all project-related construction where necessary to prevent off-site sedimentation.

The existing poles do not have foundations. A hydraulic jack mounted on the line truck will be used to loosen old poles as needed. Crews will pull the old wood poles directly out of the ground using the line truck. Pole removal activities will utilize bucket trucks to remove cross arms and wires. Poles are expected to be cut into two sections for removal on the line truck with trailer or by helicopter. All old poles, associated hardware, and any other debris generated from project activities

will be removed from the project and disposed of properly. Existing holes will be filled with soil excavated from the new replacement pole. In the unlikely event that additional fill is needed, fill will be imported; PG&E will obtain necessary encroachment permits and comply with the associated conditions and requirements

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 14.5 Paragraph D(1): *Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and or operation.*

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |

8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
10. This action would violate a Federal, Tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007; 43 CFR 46.215 (k); and 512 DM 3). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act; EO 13112; and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

NEPA Action Recommended

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

The action will not cause environmental harm and is merely an O&M type activity whereby the existing power pole will be replaced.

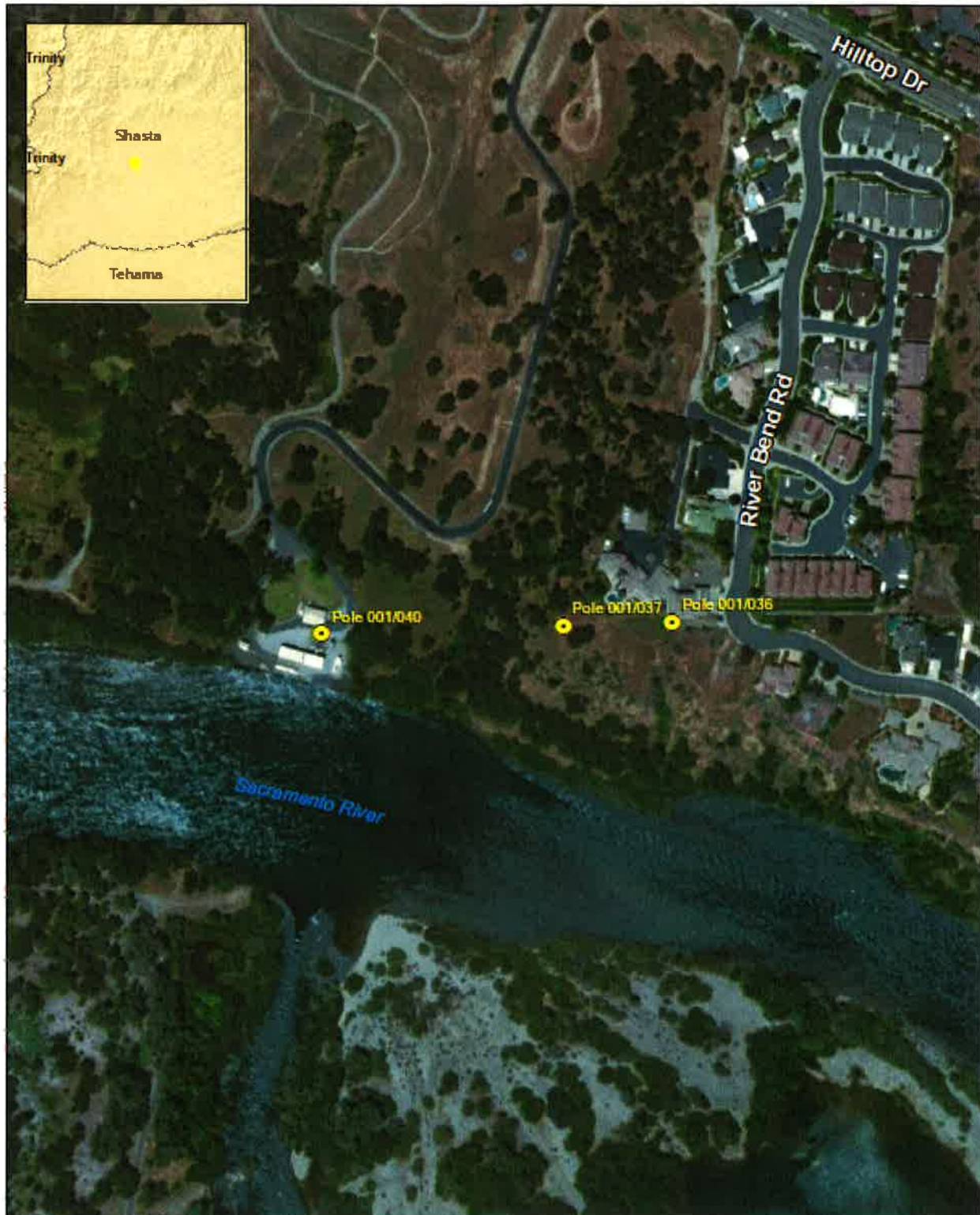


Figure 1. Location of Poles to be replaced by PG&E. Pole 001/040 is located on Reclamation land and the subject of this review.

Attachment 1. ITA concurrence



Zedonis, Paul <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

CR and ITA Review: CEC - PG&E Power Pole Replacement at Wintu Pump Station

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Thu, Aug 22, 2013 at 9:49 AM

Paul,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve Pacific Gas & Electric's request to replace one power pole (Pole 001/040) on Reclamation lands at the Wintu Pumping Plant in Shasta County, CA. As part of the action, a new hole will be bored through asphalt pavement on previously disturbed land to support the new pole.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is the Redding Rancheria, approximately 6 Miles South of the project location.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

Attachment 2. CR Resource Letter



IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

September 20, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Paul Zedonis
Natural Resources Specialist

From: Mark A. Carper
Archaeologist, Division of environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-NCAO-158: PG&E Power Pole Replacement at Wintu Pump Station (NCAO-CEC-13-21)

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to approve and authorize the replacement of one power pole (Pole 001/040) on Reclamation lands at the Wintu Pumping Plant in Shasta County, CA. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The existing wood pole, approximately 45' in height and 30" in diameter, will be replaced with a new wood pole that is 50' in height and 33-36" in diameter. The wood pole will be directly-imbedded approximately 7 feet deep. The crew will be setting the new pole next to the old pole, transferring the conductor to the new pole and removing the old pole. The locations of the current and new poles are in an area of extreme disturbance and consist of artificial fill due to the construction of the pumping plant. The project will not impact native or undisturbed soils.

After reviewing NCAO-CEC-13-21, dated August 2013, I concur with item 8 which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)