RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

PG&E Utility Pole Relocation at Friant-Kern Canal

CEC-13-063

Prepared by: _____ Date: 4-21-14
Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: See Attachment Date: See Attachment
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by: See Attachment Date: See Attachment
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 4/21/14
Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 04/22/2014
Rain Emerson
Acting Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Approved by: for Randy English Date: 4/30/2014
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Background

The Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) carries water over 151.8 miles in a southerly direction from Millerton Lake to the Kern River, four miles west of Bakersfield. The water is used for irrigation supplies in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties. The canal has an initial capacity of 5,000 cubic feet per second that gradually decreases to 2,000 cubic feet per second at its terminus in the Kern River.

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates a power line which crosses the FKC at approximately milepost 7.58. PG&E currently has a land use authorization from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the crossing and for locating the associated utility poles in Reclamation right of way. The project area is shown in Figure 1.

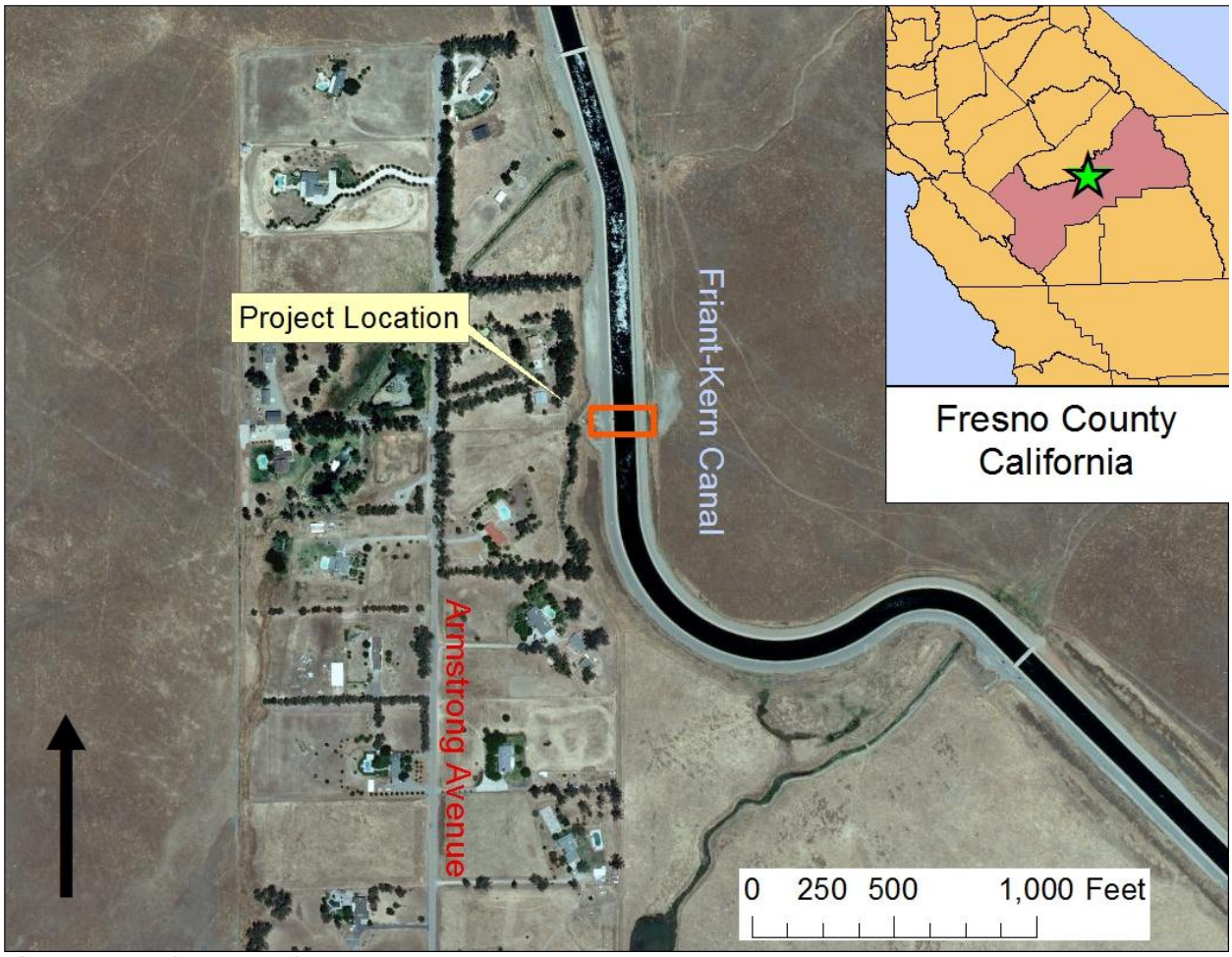


Figure 1 - Project Location

In 2004, the City of Fresno constructed a storm water treatment facility to provide operational flexibility and enhance security for the city's potable water. The City is currently finalizing environmental review to install an additional 60-inch pipeline to connect the facility to a new turnout/check structure at the FKC, as well as a new hydropower facility at that location. These

proposed improvements are collectively known as the City of Fresno Raw Water Project, and are being evaluated by Reclamation under an Environmental Assessment. As currently designed, the check structure and associated facilities will conflict with PG&E's power line crossing at milepost 7.58. Therefore, PG&E is requesting permission from Reclamation to relocate the poles several feet to the north.

Purpose and Need for Action

The current location of PG&E's power lines conflicts with a project being undertaken by the City of Fresno. PG&E would like to relocate the poles to resolve the conflict while continuing to serve their customers.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to amend PG&E's land use authorization for their crossing of the FKC at approximately milepost 7.58. PG&E would be permitted to relocate their poles within Reclamation right of way as shown in the attached plans (Attachment A).

Environmental Commitments

PG&E would implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological	A preconstruction survey for burrows that could be used by California tiger salamanders will be required. If burrows are present and cannot be avoided, Reclamation's biologist must be contacted for further review.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph C (3): *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.*

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (10): *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

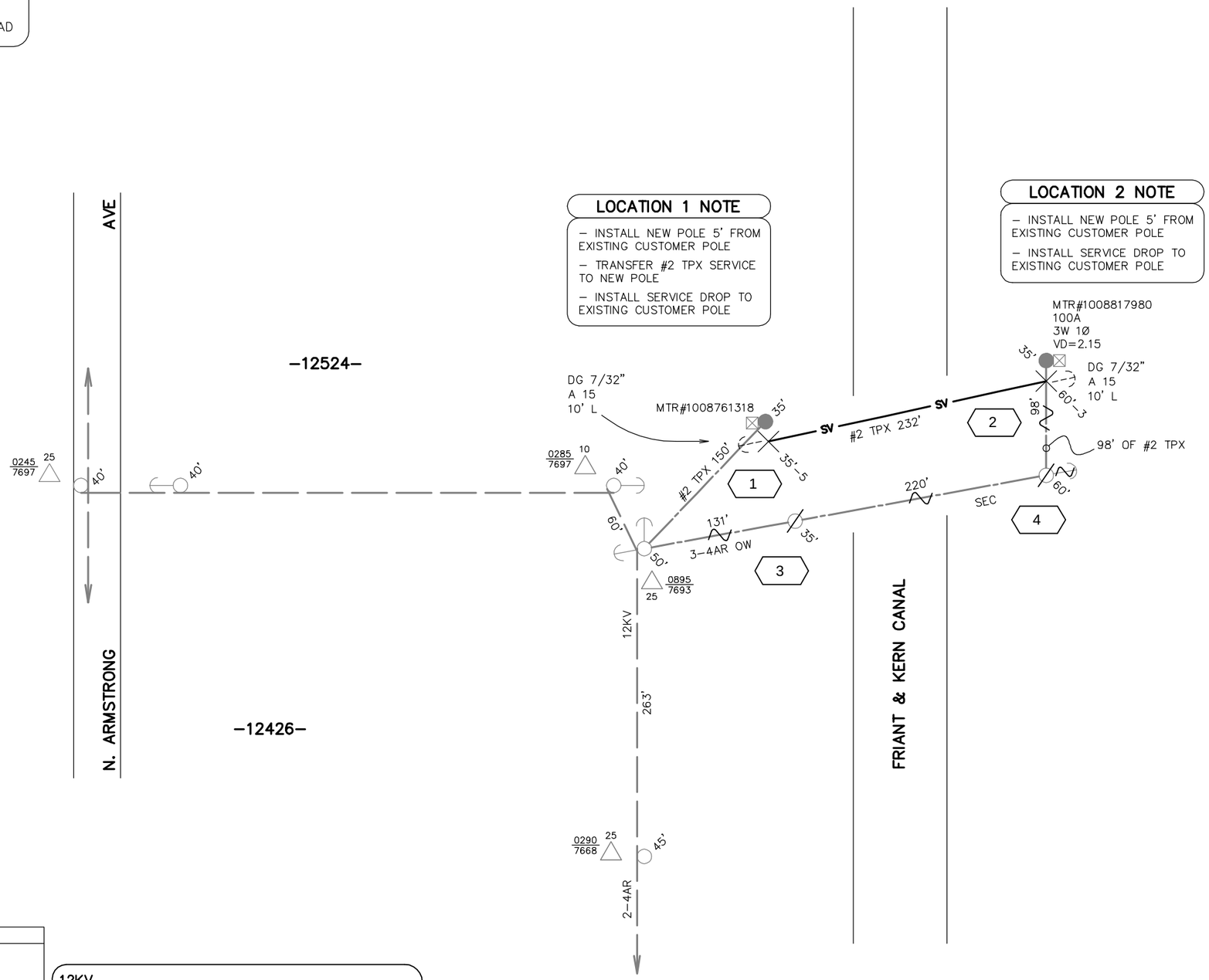
		No	Uncertain	Yes
1.	This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	☑	☐	☐
2.	This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)).	☑	☐	☐
3.	This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
5.	This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
7.	This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	☑	☐	☐
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) (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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	☑	☐	☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐

Attachment A Pole Layout Plan

NOTE TO CREW

JOB SITE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH
GATE AT AUBERRY RD, 1.8M N/O
JOB SITE VIA CANAL SERVICE ROAD



PROJECT CONDITIONS STAMP
Type(s) of Work:
☐ New Business
☒ PG&E Maintenance & Construction
Project Conditions:
☒ NONE APPARENT (if project design changes, contact ADE) or
☐ CONDITIONS APPLY:
☐ PERMITS ☐ TAILBOARD ☐ OTHER (Provide additional information on line below)
BY: _____ SIGNATURE, NAME, [CORPORATE ID], DATE

12KV
SSD – FUSE D8392
PLAT# – 12212
SUB ID – COPPERMINE SUB 1112
ESTIMATOR: DOUGLAS R CHENEY – 559.263.7358
ADE: TIM L PETERSON – 559.263.5653
SUPERVISOR: HENRY H DIAZ – CO. 559.263.7389
– CELL 559.341.5283
JOB OWNER: ROBERT J HOWARD (R3Hd)

Underground Service Alert
Call: TOLL FREE 8 1 1
TWO WORKING DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG

NOTIFIED U.S.A.
DATE:
TICKET #
BY:

CO:
SD:
NOTIF.: 103897617
OTHER:
SHT: 1 OF 1 SHEETS
PM: 30726420
REV. 0

CITY OF FRESNO

E/O 12426 N ARMSTRONG AVE
FRESNO

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

EST: D3CG
ADE: TLP1
SUPV: HHD2
REP: R3HD
PLNR: CMP5
SCALE: 1"=100'
DATE: 05.07.13

Attachment B Cultural Resources Determination

United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

November 14, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Ben Lawrence
Natural Resource Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

From: William E. Soule
Archaeologist, Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: Section 106 Compliance for: 14-SCAO-026: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Relocation of Two Poles at a Power Line Crossing of the Friant-Kern Canal at Milepost 7.58

Reclamation proposes to permit PG&E to relocate the two power poles on opposite sides of the Friant-Kern Canal at the existing power line crossing at canal milepost 7.58. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such historic properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The purpose of the proposed action is to permit PG&E install two new power poles at locations approximately 5-10 feet north of the current existing poles. Power lines will then be relocated to the new poles and the old poles will be removed. This action is required as the locations of the existing poles conflict with a City of Fresno pipeline project.

After reviewing the submitted materials, I concur with Item 8 in CEC SCCAO-13-063 which states that this proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. With this determination, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 obligations. 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)

Attachment C Indian Trust Assets Determination

Lawrence, Benjamin <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 13-063, PG&E Utility Pole Relocation

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov> Fri, Nov 8, 2013 at 8:46 AM
To: Benjamin Lawrence <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Ben,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) proposal to
relocate a power line which crosses the Friant-Kern Canal at milepost 7.58, because the current location conflicts with a City of Fresno pipeline project. New poles would be installed five to ten feet north of the current pole locations, power lines would be relocated to the new poles, and the old poles would be removed.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 47 miles West of the project locations.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
Bureau of Reclamation-Mid-Pacific Region