

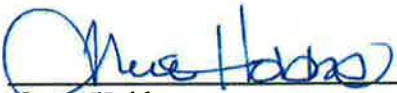
# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)


### PG&E Maintenance – Pole Replacement – Section 6, Township 32 North, Range 5 West, Shasta County


NCAO-CEC-15- 02

Prepared by:  Date: 10/20/2015  
Irene Hobbs  
Realty Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: 10/3/2015  
Megan Simon  
Northern California Area Office Designee  
for Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: Aug 6, 2015  
Mark Carper  
Archeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 10/23/15  
Paul Zedonis  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 10/23/15  
Federico Barajas  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office



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

October 2015

## Proposed Action

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is requesting Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) permission to replace a single electric distribution pole on their Keswick 1101 distribution line, located on Reclamation withdrawn land, approximately 2.7 miles north of Keswick in Shasta County, California (Figure 1). The work will be conducted in undeveloped foothill woodland of pine and manzanita, approximately 1,000 feet west of Iron Mountain Road, to be accessed on foot and by air, due to its inaccessibility to a standard line truck or other motorized vehicle. No vegetation removal/pruning is reported as necessary for site access, although six (6) square feet of herbaceous vegetation will be crushed or removed during soil excavation and temporary stockpiling activities.

A crew of the (3) to four (4) workers will carry their equipment on foot approximately 440 feet west of a residential complex, crossing Flat Creek, to the project location. The work crew will dig a new hole approximately one (1) foot east of the existing pole for the replacement pole, disturbing an area of approximately four (4) square feet and excavating approximately six (6) cubic feet of soil, using hand tools. The new pole will be trucked to, and staged at, a cleared location (yet to be determined) with road access, then transported to the site by helicopter where it will be lowered to the hole from above. The work crew will transfer the lines from the old pole to the replacement pole by climbing the poles.

Following installation of the replacement pole, the old pole will be removed and transported to the staging site by the helicopter for off-site disposal. The hole will be backfilled with the generated spoils and disturbed areas of the site returned to their previous contours.

The location of project is in Section 6, Township 32 North, Range 5 West, Shasta County, CA.

## Exclusion Categories

**Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion** – 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 ☐

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|---|--|
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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)).
- No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

***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:**

PG&E’s consultant, Transcon Environmental Inc. (Transcon) of Berkeley, CA conducted an archaeological survey for the project following Reclamation’s Field Authorization procedures. The survey was conducted to verify the lack of cultural resources with the Area of Potential Effect (APE): a 100 foot radius around the distribution pole, as well as a 10-foot wide corridor, 440 feet long, leading from the residential complex to the project location. The survey resulting in a finding of “no historic properties affected”, with which the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred.

Transcon also completed a Biological Constraints Review for the project. The report indicated that nesting birds may be present in the project area. Avoidance and minimization procedures to be in place, including PG&E’s Avian Protection Plan, require PG&E to cease work and contact a biologist for instruction in the event of encounter with a nesting bird or other sensitive species. However, the temporary, low-intensity nature of the project dictates that project activities are not likely to disturb any sensitive species that might be encountered.

Cost Authority Number to review this request: 14XR0680A2RX.07258947.3230000

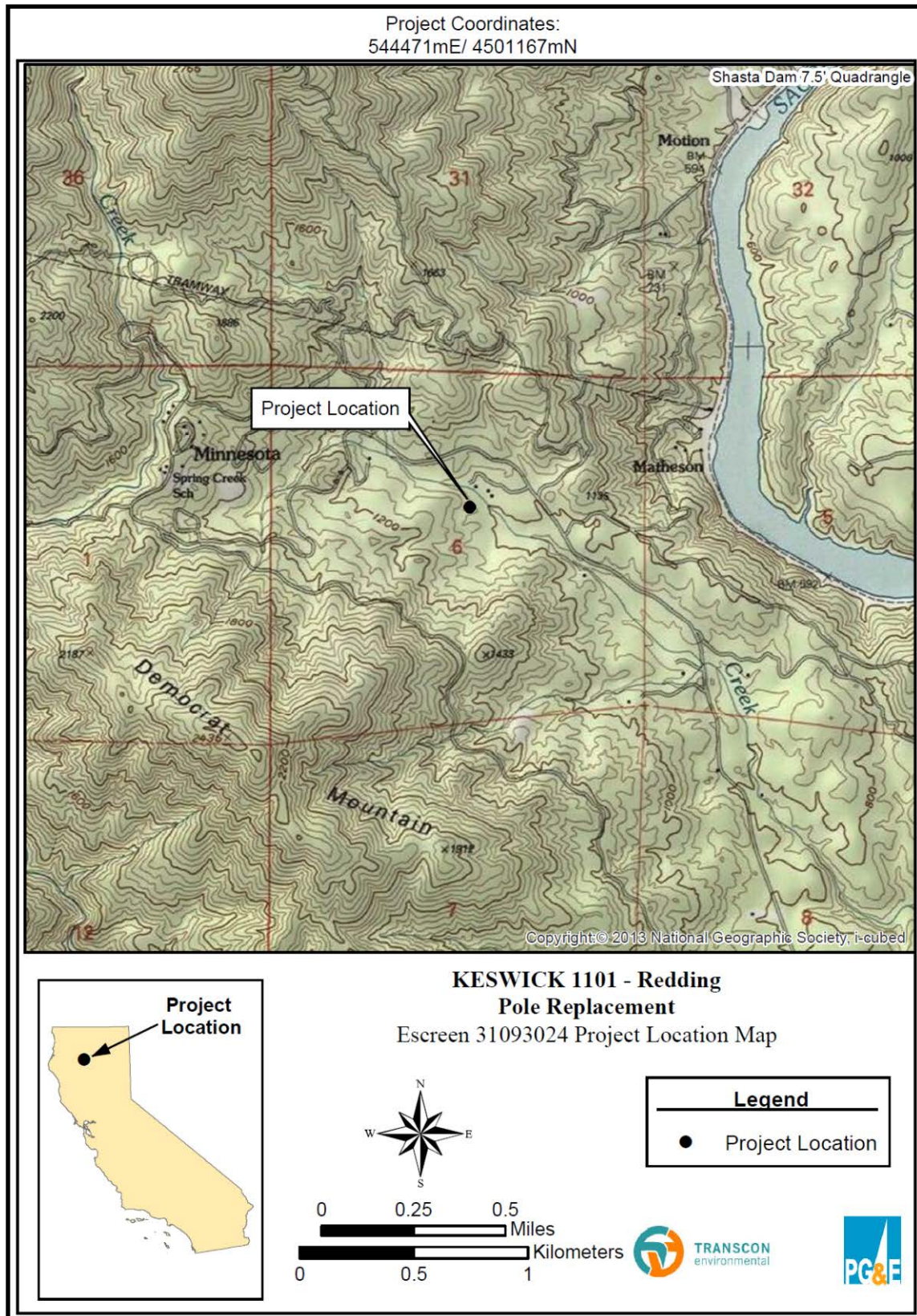


Figure 1. Project location map



## Attachment 1. ITA Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

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### PG&E Pole Replacement Shasta Co. NCAO-CEC-15-02 ITA Review

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Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>  
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Sat, Oct 3, 2015 at 7:23 PM

I have examined the proposal for the PG&E pole replacement project and have determined that this project is at least 4.7 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this project will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

—

*Megan K. Simon*

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**Attachment 2. Cultural Resources Review**

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Division of Environmental Affairs  
Cultural Resources Branch**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 15-NCAO-071

**Project Name:** PG&E Pole Replacement Project

**NEPA Document:** NCAO-CEC-15- 02

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Mark Carper

**NEPA Contact:** Paul Zedonis

**Determination:** No Historic Properties Affected

**Date:** August 6, 2015

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This proposed undertaking by a PG&E is a pole replacement project in Shasta County, California, near the community of Keswick. Reclamation owns the property on which the pole replacement is proposed. Reclamation determined that approval of the proposed project conducted on Federal lands is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

The proposed project includes removal of vegetation by hand within a 5-foot radius of the proposed new pole location and the excavation of a hole for the placement of the pole. All work for the proposed project will be conducted by hand. The construction crew will walk into the project area from a nearby (440 feet away) residential complex. The new pole will be delivered by helicopter so there will be no off-road vehicle traffic. The lines from the existing pole (1-foot away) will be transferred to the new pole, and the existing pole will be hauled away by helicopter.

In an effort to identify historic properties, PG&E contractor, Transcon Environmental Inc., conducted a records search through the Northeast Information Center, an archival search, and an intensive pedestrian survey of the APE. These efforts identified no historic properties within the APE.

Reclamation sent a letter to the Redding Rancheria on April 14, 2015, (enclosed) to invite their participation in the Section 106 process and request their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may

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**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch**

be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). Reclamation also sent a letter to the Winnemem Wintu, identified as a Native American organization likely to have knowledge or concerns with historic properties in the area, requesting their assistance in identifying historic properties which may be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(3). Reclamation received no responses from the notified tribes.

No historic properties were identified in the APE and, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d), Reclamation found no historic properties affected for the undertaking.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May, 27, 2015 with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated July 2, 2015.

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.