

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)


PG&E Maintenance – Pole Removal – West Side Highway – Glenn County, California

NCAO-CEC-16-05

Prepared by:  Date: 5/3/2016
Irene Hobbs
Realty Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: 4/28/16
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee
for Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: 4/28/16
Mark Carper
Archeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 5/3/2016
Paul Zedonis
Natural Resource Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 5/9/16
Federico Barajas
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



Proposed Action

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is requesting Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) permission to remove a single electric distribution pole and two associated transformers on their 12Kv power line, located on Reclamation land, off West Side Highway, approximately four miles south of Orland, Glenn County, California (Figure 1). The work will be conducted in undeveloped, grassed area within Reclamation's Tehama-Colusa Canal (Canal) right-of-way along the siphon area south of Walker Creek. The right of way is operated and maintained by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority. The site will be accessed using a standard line truck. 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. The ground disturbance associated with the pole removal will be limited to approximately four square feet.

A crew of the (3) to four (4) workers will access the work location directly from an unnamed gravel road and remove the transformers via a lift bucket or by workers climbing the pole. The old pole will be removed using a hydraulic jack, mounted to the line truck's boom arm. The work crew will use hand tools (e.g. shovels, picks and pole anvils) to backfill and collapse the old pole excavation. The hole will be backfilled with the generated spoils and disturbed areas of the site returned to their previous contours. The transformers will be transported from the work location to Willows Service Center (310 East Wood Street, Willows, CA 95988) in a United Nations/ Department of Transportation-approved over-pack drum for later transport to PG&E's Emeryville, CA repair facility for decommissioning. Any oil in the transformers will be properly disposed of in concert with State and Federal guidelines.

The latitude/longitude of the project is approximately 39.690183°, 122.219067°.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 ☒ 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 ☐

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:

The crews will possess a spill clean-up kit on site during the handling of the transformers. If a spill occurs, the crews will immediately notify the Local Environmental Field Specialists who will make the required agency notifications per California Office of Emergency Service guidance, and mobilize a contractor to clean up the spill, as appropriate.

PG&E completed a Biological Constraints Review for the project. Based on the findings of the report, avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) will be implemented to prevent potential impacts to nesting birds and other sensitive species that may be present in the site vicinity. The AMMs, include adherence to PG&E's Avian Protection Plan (APP), which requires PG&E to cease work and contact a biologist for instruction in the event of encounter with a nesting bird or other sensitive species. The APP also requires PG&E to

conduct surveys prior to work start, in the event that a significant amount of vegetation removal is necessary for the work, the timeframe of which may coincide with nesting season for some bird 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: 14XR0680A2 RX.07258947.3230000

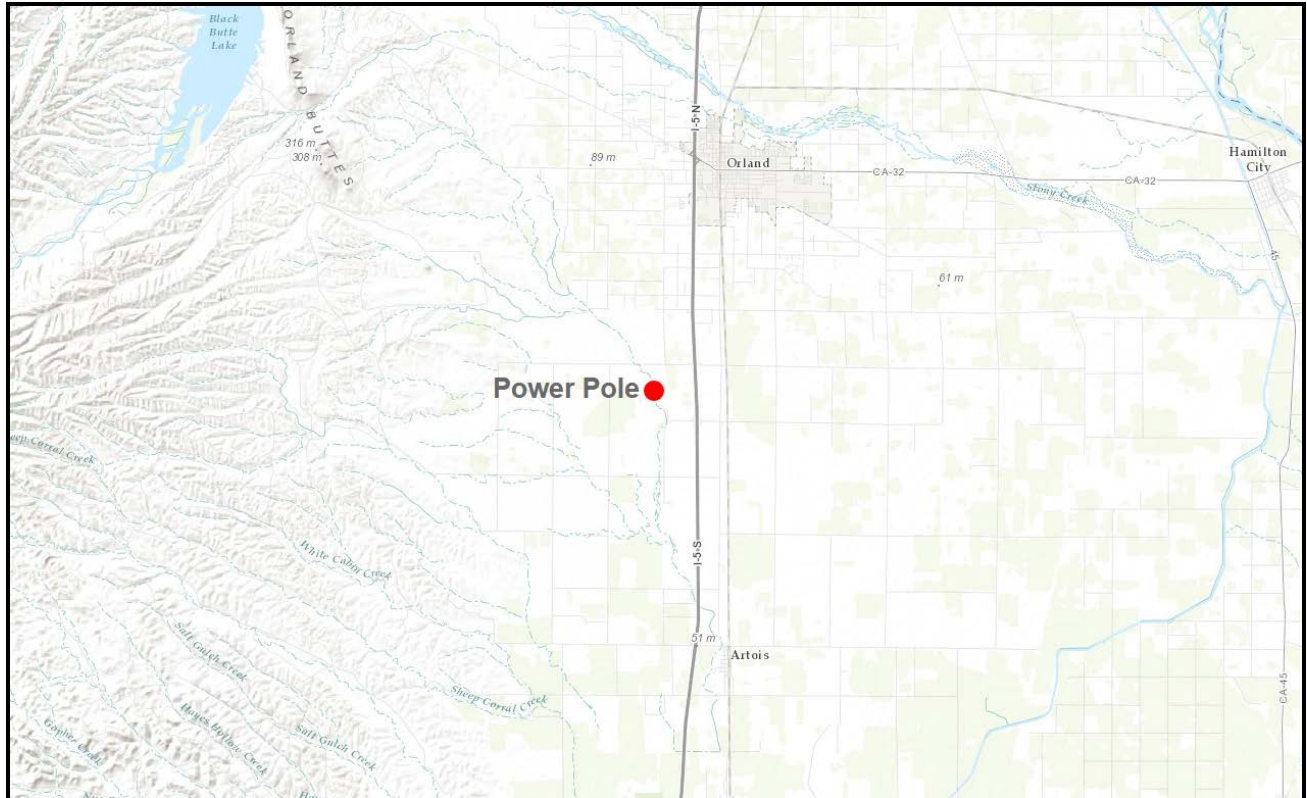


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2. Site Map

Figure 3. Site Photographs



Figure 3A. Pole and transformers to be removed and Walker Creek.



Figure 3B. Pole and transformers to be removed (left side of photo).

Figure 3, Cont.



Figure 3C. Base of pole to be removed, located in annual grassland with stands of blackberry.

Attachment 1. ITA Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - PG&E Pole Removal - Westside Highway - Glenn County

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 3:50 PM

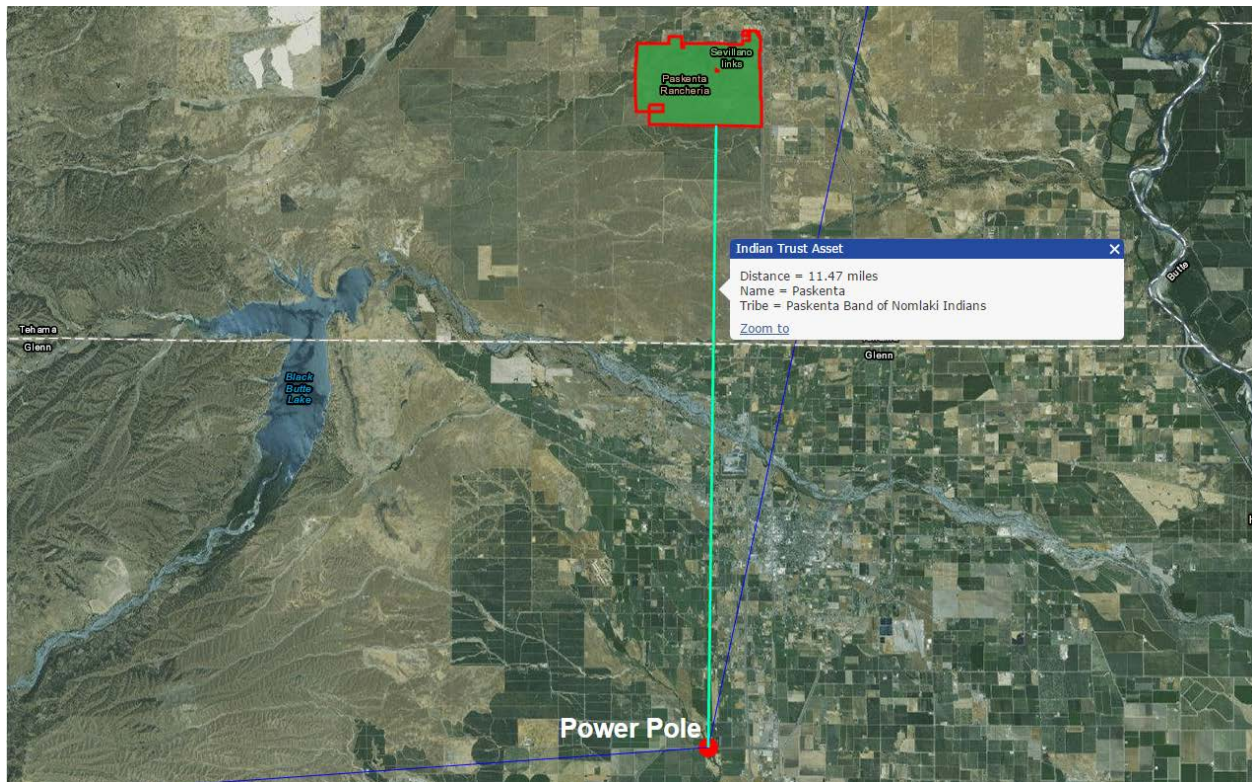
I have examined the proposal for the PG&E pole removal project and have determined that this project is at least 11 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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

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Megan K. Simon

Natural Resources Specialist
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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: 16-NCAO-117

Project Name: PG&E Pole Removal – West Side Highway – Glenn County, California

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-16-05

**MARK
CARPER**

Digitally signed by MARK CARPER
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of the Interior,
ou=Bureau of Reclamation,
cn=MARK CARPER,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=14001
002870287
Date: 2016.04.28 08:11:30 -0700

Determination: No Potential to Affect Historic Properties

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation to authorize PG&E to remove a single electric distribution pole, and two associated transformers, from Reclamation land within Tehama-colusa Canal's right-of-way. Reclamation determined that the provision of federal authorization for the proposed project, is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y).

The pole will be removed by a hydraulic jack and the hole backfilled with generated spoils using hand tools. Reclamation has determined that the proposed action 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 at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. After reviewing NCAO-CEC-16-05 for the proposed project Reclamation concurs with item #8 and finds that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places

This document conveys the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should additional changes be made to the project description, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.