

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## **Pacific Gas and Electric Company – 21 KV Powerline Crossing along the Tehama-Colusa Canal – County Road 33, Glenn County, CA**

### **NCAO-CEC-12**

Prepared by:



Date:

7/12/2016

Irene Hobbs  
Realty Specialist  
Northern California Area Office (Willows)

Concurrence by:

Attachment 2

Date:

June 30, 2016

Megan Simon  
Northern California Area Office Designee for  
Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by:

Attachment 3

Date:

July 11, 2016

Mark Carper  
Archaeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:



Date:

7/12/2016

Paul Zedonis  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/  
Division Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:



Date:

7/13/2016

Donald Bader  
Acting Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office



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

July 2016



## Proposed Action

Reclamation will approve PG&E's installation, operation and maintenance of a 21kv powerline with three conductors across and along the Tehama-Colusa Canal (Canal) right-of-way (ROW) near Canal milepost 43.17 to provide additional electrical service to the Glenn County (County) Landfill (Landfill). The power line will extend approximately 210 feet west from an existing power pole, cross over the Canal at milepost 43.17 on the south side of County Road 33 to another existing pole, then turn north where it will be attached to eight existing poles in the County's easement along the road shoulder, outside of Reclamation's fence, traversing north approximately 2,240 feet, then continue west towards the Landfill.

The work will be completed from County Road 33 using a standard line truck. County Road 33 is paved and maintained by the County and terminates at the Landfill. The 21-kv line and pole guide wires will be placed on the 50 and 60-ft high poles. One anchor will be installed in the gravel along the shoulder at each pole to a depth of approximately four feet below ground surface. There will be a minimum 35ft clearance from the Canal to the new powerline. No new construction will occur within the fenced area of the Canal ROW. No vegetation removal is necessary to complete the work.

PG&E's work will take approximately three weeks to complete and will begin immediately upon approval from Reclamation. The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and Reclamation conducted a site visit on June 28, 2016; no objections to PG&E's work plan were voiced.

The project location is in Section 35, Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, Glenn County, CA, west of the town of Artois. An assessor's parcel map, an aerial photograph, and PG&E's engineering drawing are included as Attachment 1: Project Location Figures. Photographs are included as Attachment 2.

## Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - D(10): Issuance of permits, licenses, easements and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau of Reclamation lands where the action does not allow or lead to larger public or private action.

## 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:**

As outlined on the engineer's drawing included in Attachment 1, the power poles will be framed with raptor protection to protect raptors and other migratory birds from risk of electrocution.

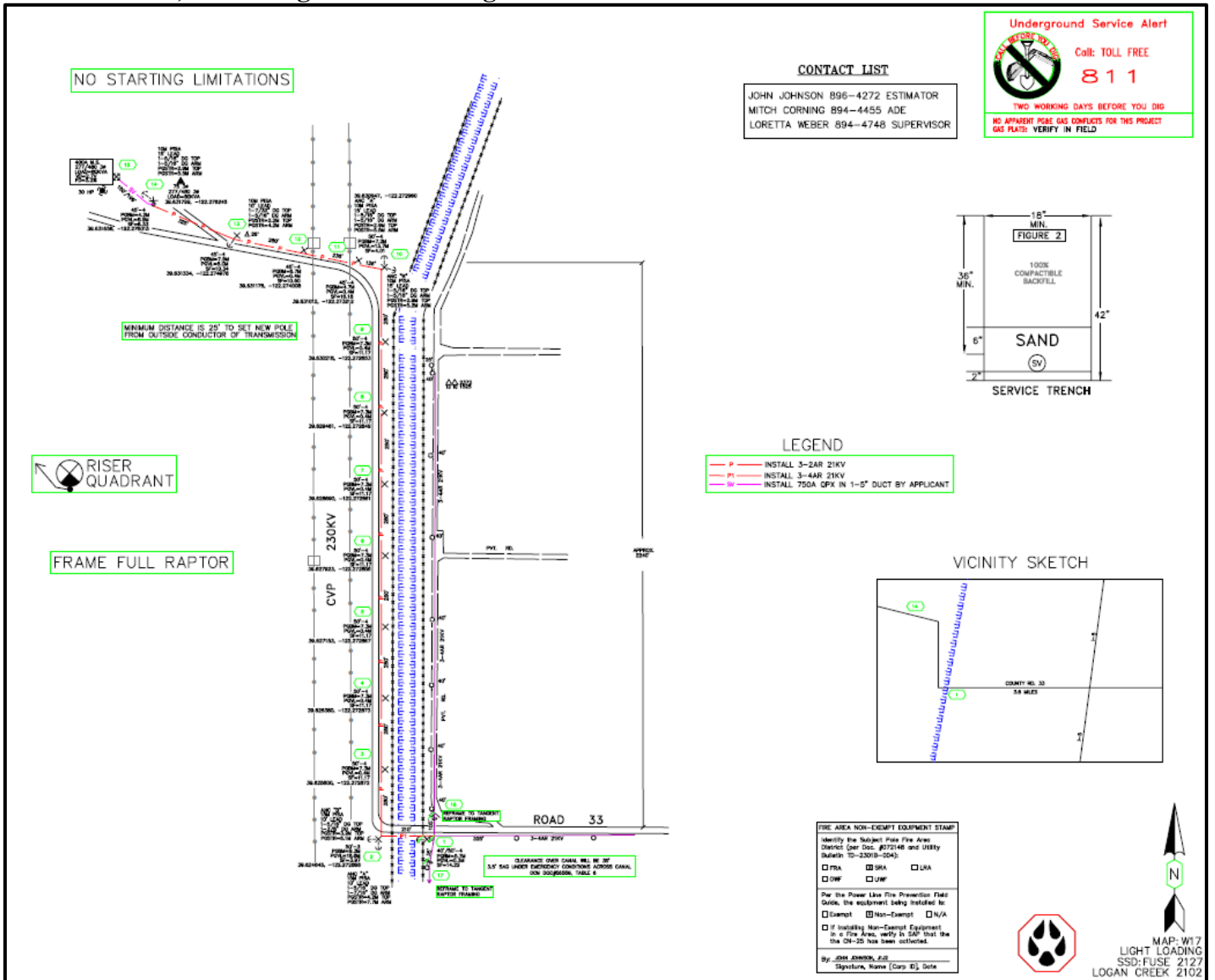
Cost Authority Number to review this request: 16XR0680A2RX.07258947.3230000







# Attachment 1, Cont: Engineer's Drawing





## **Attachment 2. Site Photographs**



**View to south at PG&E's pole line along CR 33 where 21 kv line will be attached outside Reclamation's fenceline.**



**View to south at Canal Milepost 43.17.**



### Attachment 3. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

#### PG&E 21KV Crossing - TCC / Co. Road 33, Glenn Co.

1 message

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

Thu, Jun 30, 2016 at 5:12 PM

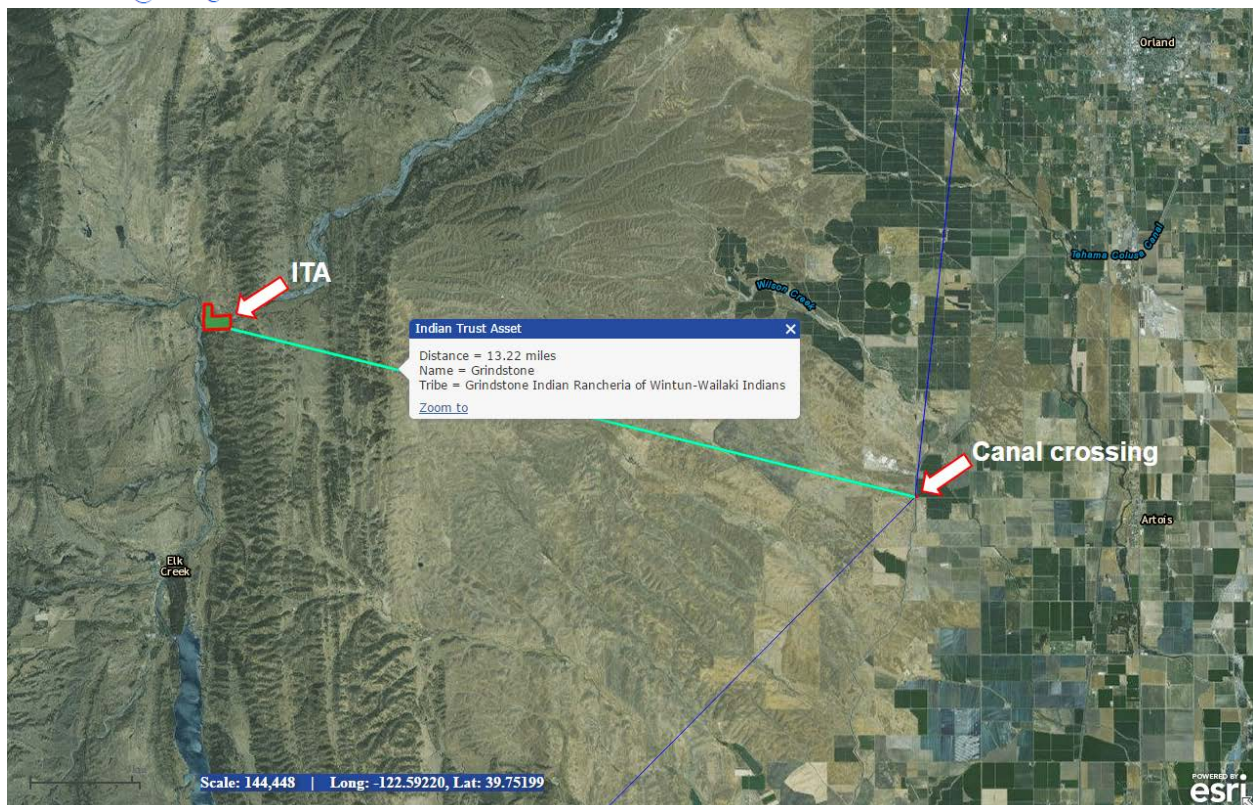
I have examined the proposal for the referenced project and have determined that the facility is at least 13 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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

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*Megan K. Simon*

Natural Resources Specialist  
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 276-2045  
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**Attachment 4. Cultural Resources Review**

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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 16-NCAO-166

**Project Name:** 21 KV Powerline Crossing along the Tehama-Colusa Canal Project

**NEPA Document:** NCAO-CEC-16-12

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

**NEPA Contact:** Megan Simon

**Determination:** No Potential to cause effects

**Date:** July 11, 2016

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize PG&E to install, operate, and maintain a 21kv powerline across the Reclamation owned Tehama-Colusa Canal right-of-way in Glenn County, California. 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 proposed project involves connecting 21-kv line and pole guide wires on existing 50 and 60-foot high poles. No new construction or ground disturbance will be required for the proposed project.

After reviewing NCAO-CEC-16-12 for the proposed project, dated June, 2016, 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.