

RECLAMATION

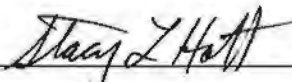
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization for PG&E to Install an Aerial Electrical Transmission Line over Lateral 24.2 in Madera

CEC-15-036

Prepared by:


Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

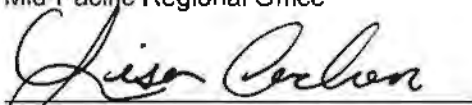
Date: 08/23/2016

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

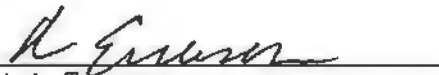
Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


for Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office


Date: 08/31/2016

Concurred by:


Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 08/31/2016

Approved by:


for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 08/31/2016



Nature of the Action

Reclamation will issue a 25-year land-use authorization to PG&E that would allow them to install, operate, and maintain a 172-foot long overhead transmission line overcrossing Lateral 24.2 near and east of the intersection between Avenue 16 and Road 22 in Madera County, California (Figure 1). This transmission line would provide year-round service to one new customer. The line would originate from an existing pole and then be connected onto two new PG&E poles located on either side of Lateral 24.2 in Madera County's Right of Way (ROW). Three aerial aluminum (3-2AR) conductors would extend over Lateral 24.2 requiring a minimum 35 foot clearance over the canal.

Each pole would require a 13 inch diameter hole dug with an auger (7 feet deep). The trenching would be 8 feet x 220 feet, and 31 inches deep. Equipment that will be used to perform the work include 1 Line Truck (Auger), 1 Line Truck (no auger), and 1 Foreman truck. The entire project would take approximately four days to complete and will be installed in line with and connected to PG&E's existing lines, poles, and related appurtenances (see Figure 1).

Project location: SE ¼ SEC 7, T11S, R17E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian, as depicted on the Mendota 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map.

Environmental Commitments

PG&E shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce 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 Measures
Biological	PG&E would need to survey for Western Burrowing Owls and implement measures to protect the owls sufficiently to avoid any take (as defined under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act) (CDFG 2012 ¹).
Biological	A preconstruction survey report would be submitted to Reclamation prior to the start of ground disturbance.

¹ California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2012. *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation*. Available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843>.

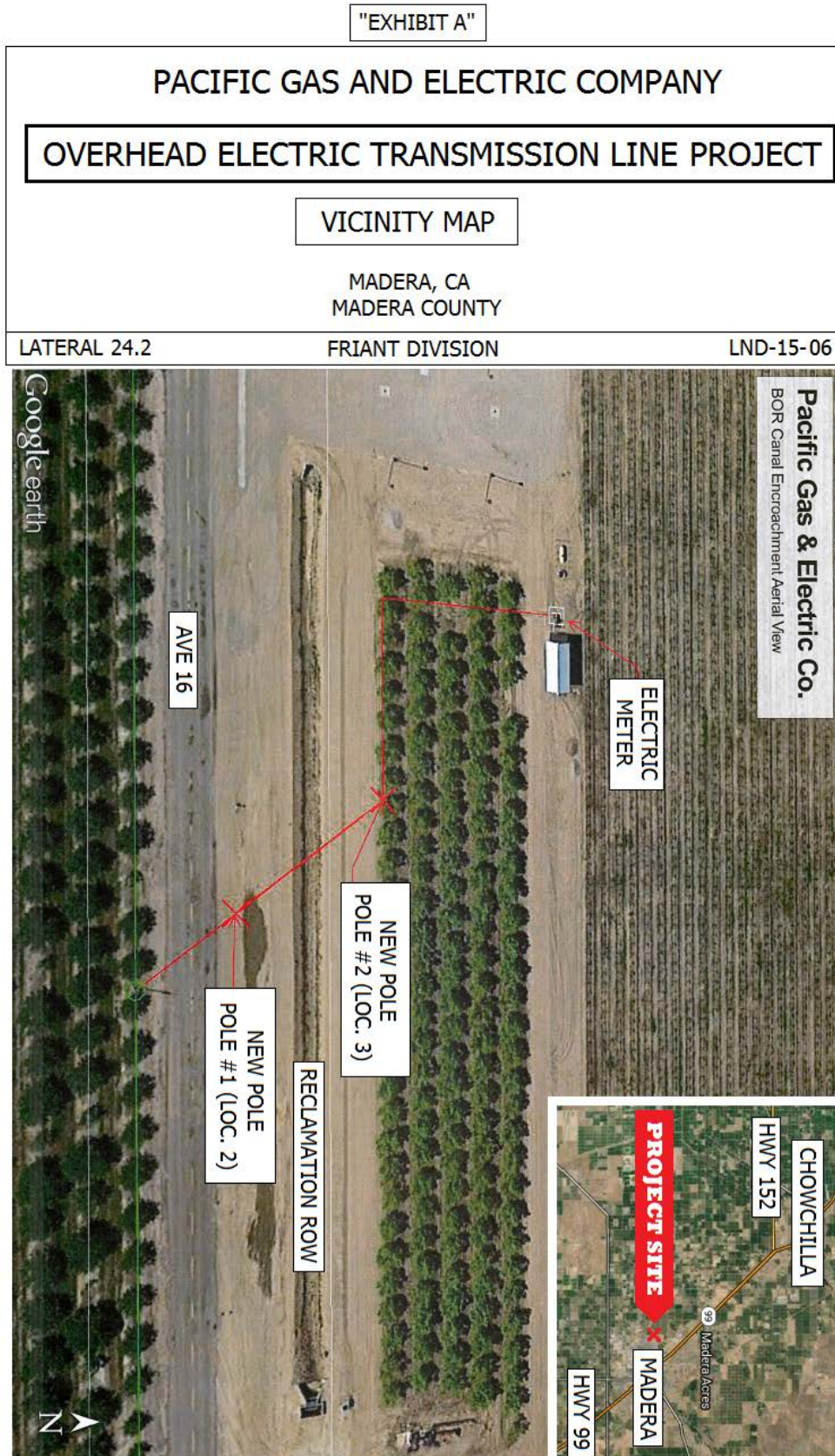


Figure 1. Proposed Action location

Exclusion Category

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

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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) (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) (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 integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-239

Project Name:

NEPA Document: CEC-15-036

NEPA Contact: Stacy Holt, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Joanne Goodsell, Archaeologist

Date: August 24, 2016

Reclamation proposes to issue a 25-year land-use authorization to PG&E that would allow them to install, operate, and maintain a 172-foot long overhead transmission line overcrossing Lateral 24.2 near and east of the intersection between Avenue 16 and Road 22 in Madera County, California. Reclamation determined that issuance of this authorization constitutes an undertaking subject to review under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Efforts to identify historic properties in the area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking were conducted by Garcia and Associates (GANDA) on behalf of PG&E. A segment of Lateral 24.2 was the only cultural resource identified and recorded by GANDA. Lateral 24.2 is a component of the MID water distribution and delivery system, which delivers water to MID customers from Reclamation's Madera Canal, a component of the Central Valley Project (CVP). For the purposes of the current undertaking only, Reclamation assumed that the entire MID water distribution system, including Lateral 24.2, are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, under the themes of water conveyance and the development of agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley. For the current undertaking, Reclamation reached a finding of no adverse effect on historic properties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b). Reclamation entered into consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on this finding of effect and, through correspondence dated August 22, 2016, received SHPO concurrence. With receipt of SHPO concurrence, Reclamation's responsibilities under Section 106 are fulfilled.

This document conveys the completion of the Section 106 process and NEPA review for the undertaking. Item 8 on CEC-15-036 is supported by Reclamation's Section 106 finding: the proposed action will not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. Please retain a copy of this document with the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 22, 2016

In Reply Refer To: BUR_2016_0713_001

Anastasia T. Leigh, Regional Environmental Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: Section 106 Consultation for the PG&E Aerial Transmission Line across Madera Irrigation District (MID) Later 24.2 Project, Kern County, California (15-SCAO-239)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for your letter received July 13, 2016. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), is initiating formal consultation, seeking my comments on its determination of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and its determination that no adverse effects to historic properties will occur by implementation of the above referenced undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b). The BOR is reviewing a proposed project submitted by PG&E to install a power pole and 35 foot high aerial transmission line over Lateral 24.2. The BOR is assuming the entire MID to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A and has determined that this undertaking will not cause an adverse effect, only a minimal visual introduction. Tribal consultation, records search review, consideration for the presence of buried resources, and pedestrian survey, identified no additional cultural resources in the APE or concerns over the project.

Having reviewed your letter and supporting documentation, I have the following comments:

1. I agree that the BLM's delineation of the project's Area of Potential Effects is consistent with 36 CFR 800.16(d).
2. I concur pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b) that no historic properties will be adversely affected by this undertaking.

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the BOR may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for considering historic properties in planning your project. If you require further information, please contact Brendon Greenaway of my staff at phone 916-445-7036 or email brendon.greenaway@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julianne Polanco".

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer