

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*


## Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

### PG&E Maintenance – Pole Replacement – Tehama Colusa Canal Milepost 47.22 – Glenn County, CA

NCAO-CEC-17-10

Prepared by: See Attachment 1 Date: January 19, 2017  
Megan Simon  
Northern California Area Office Designee  
for Tribal Trust Assets/Natural Resource  
Specialist

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: March 22, 2017  
Mark Carper  
Archeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 3/23/17  
Paul Zedonis  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/  
Division Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 3/24/17  
Don Bader  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office

## Proposed Action

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is requesting Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) permission to replace a single 40-foot electric distribution pole on their Logan Creek 2102 distribution line, located on Reclamation land, within the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) right-of-way near TCC milepost 47.22 (Figure 1). The new pole will be 45 feet in height. The work will be conducted in an undeveloped area with ruderal vegetation approximately 150 feet northeast of the TCC. The site will be accessed by a line truck with boom from an access road on a privately-owned property to the adjacent east, recently planted for almonds. No vegetation removal/pruning is reported as necessary for site access. There will be no on-site staging or stockpiling of materials or soils.

The work crew will dig a new hole adjacent to the existing pole for the replacement pole, disturbing an area of approximately three (3) feet in diameter, approximately six (6) feet deep. The work crew will install the replacement pole, transfer the lines from the old pole to the replacement pole, then remove the old pole. The old pole will be transported off-site for proper disposal. The hole will be backfilled with generated spoils and disturbed areas of the site returned to their previous contours.

PG&E's work will take approximately one day to complete and will begin immediately upon approval from Reclamation. The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and Reclamation conducted a site visit on January 24, 2017; no objections to PG&E's work plan were voiced.

The location of project is in Glenn County, approximately five miles northwest of the town of Willows, CA, near the center of the USGS 1:24000 scale quadrangle for Stone Valley. The latitude/longitude of the project is approximately 39.574003°, -122.291004°. A topographic map, an aerial photograph, a tax assessor's parcel map, and PG&E's engineering drawing are included as Figures 1A-D: Project Location Figures. Photographs are included as Figure 2.

## 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 ☐

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 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

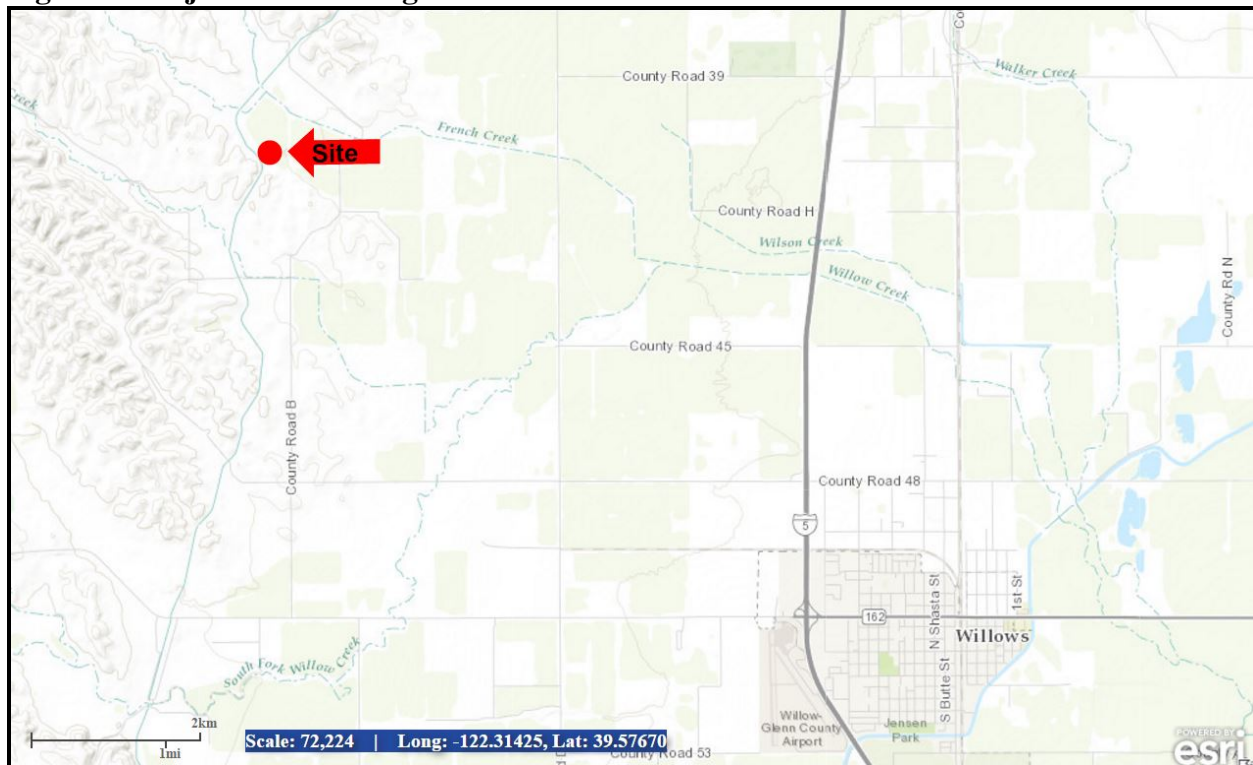
☐ EIS

**Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:**

Reclamation researched the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and requested an Official Species List from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) via the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) website, to determine the presence of Federally-listed species within the Project area. In addition, Reclamation interviewed the TCCA representative, who stated that wildlife observed at the site has been limited to ground squirrels and rattlesnakes (unprotected species). Based on a review of the information obtained and of the project area in relation to the habitat of identified species in the CNDDDB and on the Official Species List, Reclamation determined that the area to be temporarily disturbed under the Proposed Action does not appear to constitute habitat for any species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The nearest reporting of a Federally-listed species in the CNDDDB was a siting of a Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), greater than 1.5 miles from the site. Swainson's hawk is one of many avian species protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). No nests are located on the affected or adjacent poles; There will be no loss of habitat for Swainson's hawk or other species listed under the MTBA as a result of the action. PG&E has standard protocols it employs at all sites to prevent effects to sensitive avian species from construction activities.

**Figure 1. Project Location Figures**



**Figure 1A. Vicinity Map**



**Figure 1B. Aerial photograph of site**



Figure 1, Cont.

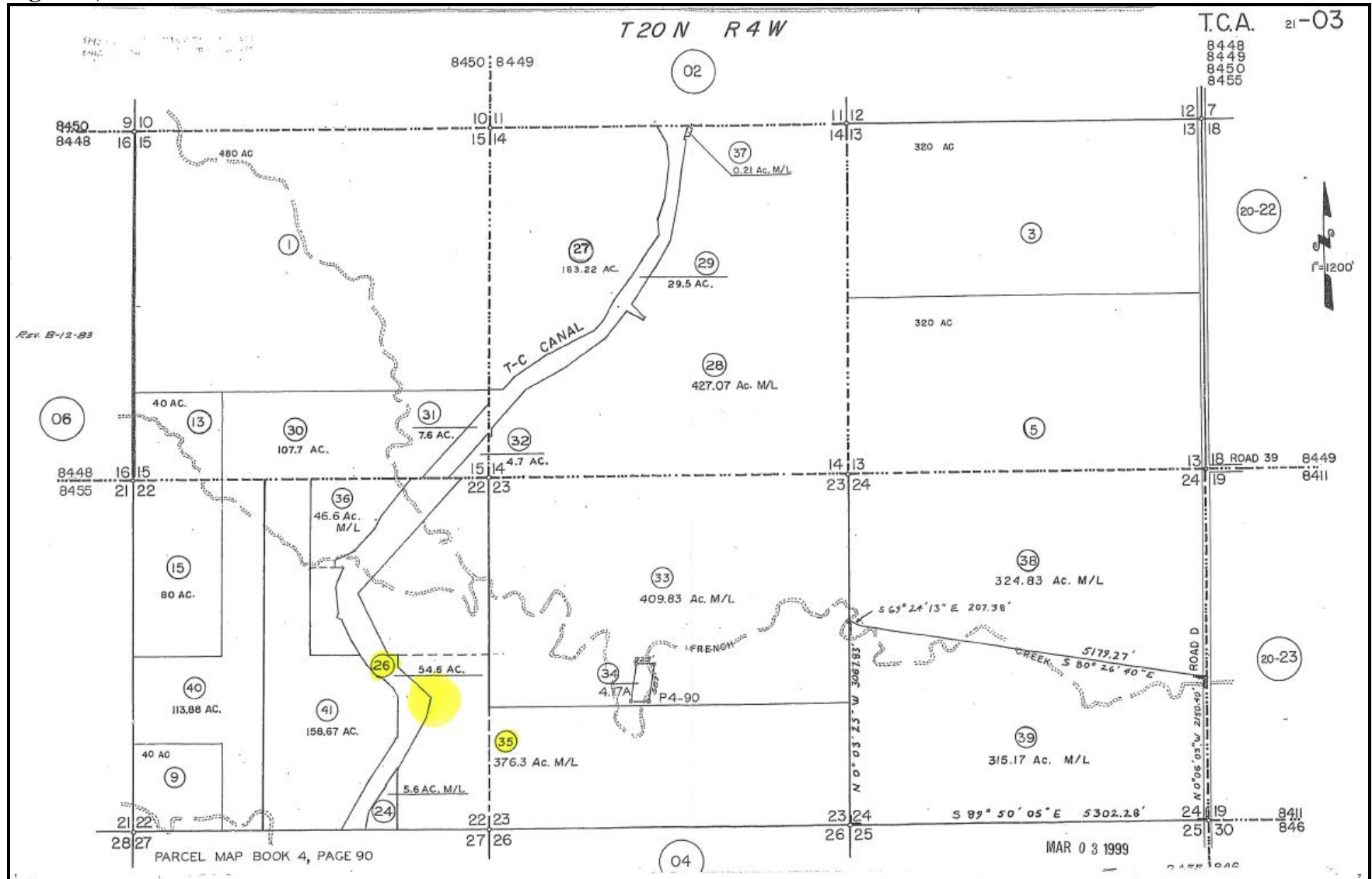


Figure 1C. Tax assessor's parcel map, courtesy PG&E (approximate site location highlighted in yellow)

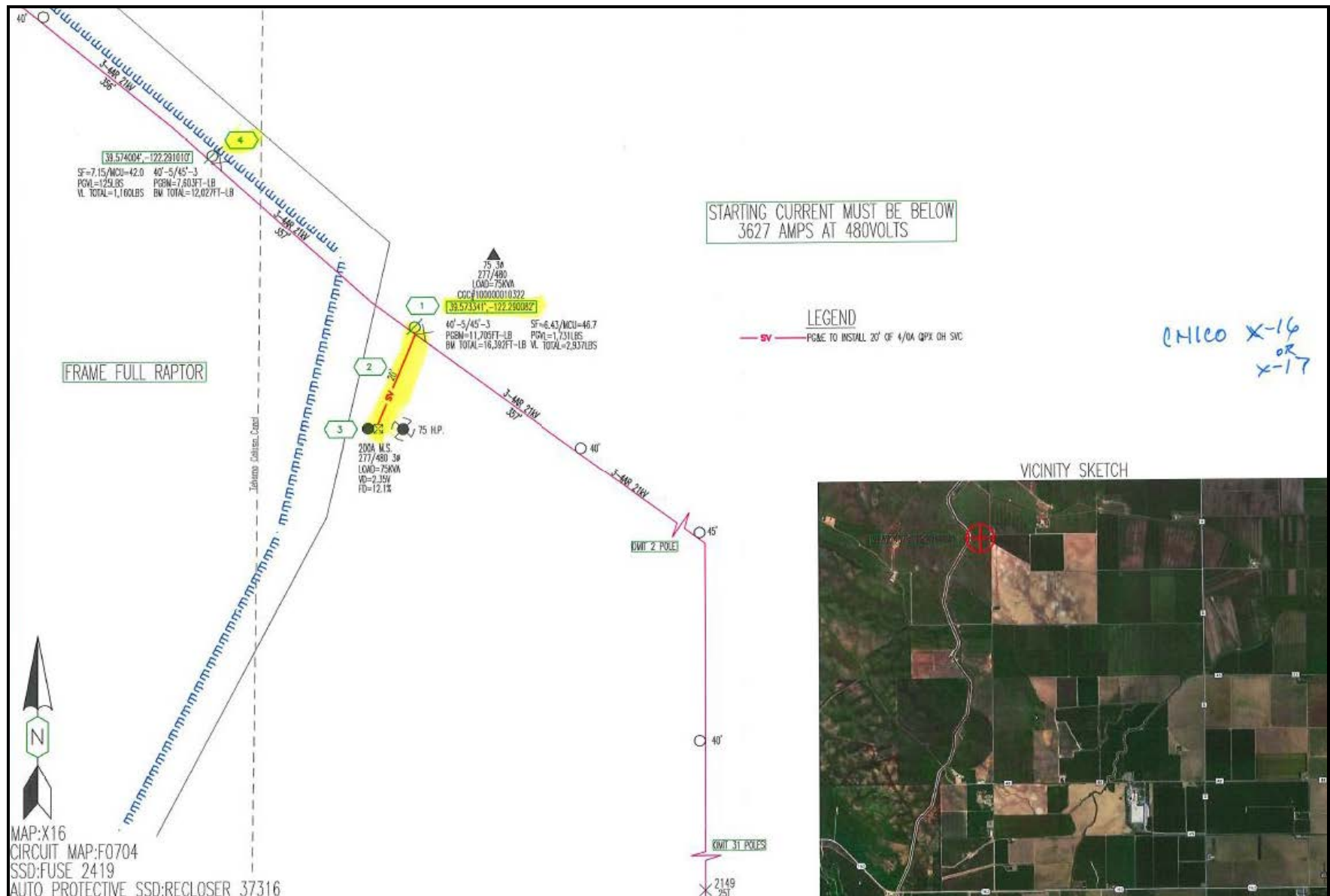


Figure 1D. Engineer's drawing dated 1/6/17, courtesy PG&E

**Figure 2. Photographs**



**View of site to east and existing power pole.**





**View of site to south.**



**View of site to north.**



**View from existing pole to west towards TCC.**



**View of TCC, further west.**



## Attachment 1. ITA Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

### ITA Review - PG&E Pole Replacement - TCC MP47 - Glenn County, CA

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 5:32 PM

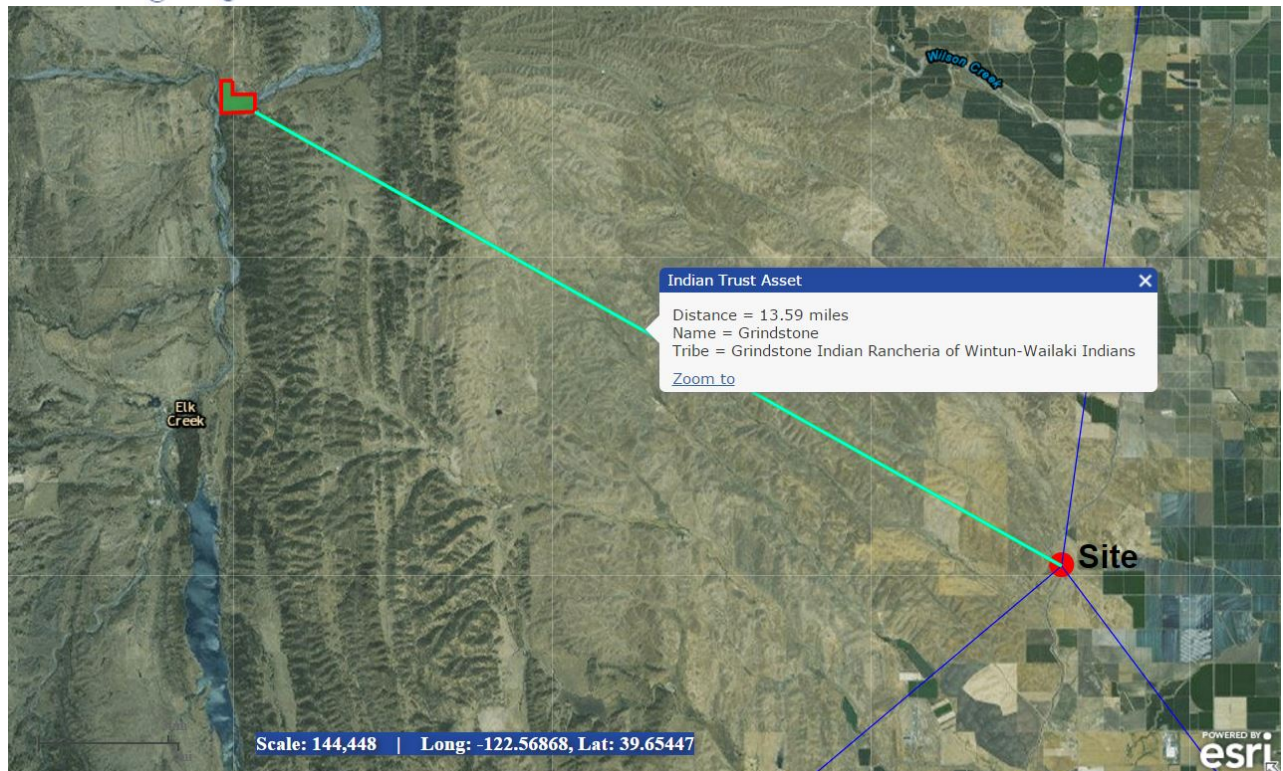
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 13.5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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

--

*Megan K. Simon*

Natural Resources Specialist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Northern California Area Office  
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 276-2045  
[msimon@usbr.gov](mailto:msimon@usbr.gov)



**Attachment 2. Cultural Resources Review**

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE**

**Mid-Pacific Region**

**Division of Environmental Affairs**

**Cultural Resources Branch**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 17-NCAO-080

**Project Name:** Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Maintenance Pole Replacement Project, Glenn County, California

**NEPA Document:** NCAO-CEC-17-10

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

**NEPA Contact:** Megan Simon

**Determination:** No Adverse Effect

**Date:** March 22, 2017

---

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize PG&E to replace a maintenance pole on Reclamation's property in Glenn County, California. The proposed project would be within a PG&E easement along the Tehama Calusa Canal (TCC). Reclamation determined that the approval of construction on Reclamation property 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 entails a PG&E work crew digging a new hole adjacent to the existing pole for the replacement pole, disturbing an area of approximately three feet in diameter approximately six feet deep. The work crew will install the replacement pole, transfer the lines from the old pole to the replacement pole, then remove the old pole. The old pole will be transported off-site for proper disposal. The hole will be backfilled with generated spoils and disturbed areas of the site returned to their previous contours. There will be no on-site stockpiling of materials or soils.

Due to the nature and scope of the undertaking—with all proposed project activities being entirely limited to the existing, constructed berm within the built environment of the TCC—pedestrian survey was unwarranted. Reclamation conducted an internal archival review in an effort to identify historic properties within the APE. The TCC is the only identified cultural resource within the APE. The TCC was constructed between 1965 and 1980 as part of the Sacramento River Division Canals Unit of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) to convey irrigation water south from the Red Bluff Diversion Dam through



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

Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa Counties. The TCC is approximately 110 miles long and terminates in Yolo County approximately 2 miles south of Dunnigan, California. Recording and evaluating the entirety of the TCC is outside the scope of this project

For the purposes of the current undertaking, Reclamation is treating the TCC as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion A as a contributing element of the CVP. The CVP—treated as a historic property by Reclamation—is an extensive network of dams, reservoirs, power plants, and water conveyance systems that cover approximately 400 miles, from northern California near Redding south to near Bakersfield. The TCC is considered significant under the theme of development, construction, and operation of the CVP as a water conveyance component of the CVP that has contributed to northern California's economic and agricultural development and growth

Since, this undertaking is narrowly confined to the built environment of the TCC and its constructed elements with no potential to affect sites of religious or cultural significance to Native Americans, consultations with Indian tribes were not considered necessary for this undertaking.

The TCC is the only historic property within the APE. Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect and determined that measures to install the new replacement pole within the existing berm will not alter any of the characteristics that would make the TCC eligible for National Register listing. Access to the project will occur via existing roads without improvement, and all proposed construction activities are limited to an area previously disturbed and constructed for the TCC. The proposed pole replacement is consistent with existing transmission poles situated along the TCC, resulting in no other changes to the TCC or the larger CVP. Reclamation finds no adverse effect to historic properties for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter dated February 10, 2017 requesting concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties for the proposed project. Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR §800.5(c), SHPO has 30 days from receipt to review an agency finding. The SHPO has yet to respond to Reclamation's finding of effect. If after 30 days the SHPO has not responded, the regulations state that "...the agency official shall then carry out the undertaking in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of this section" [§800.5(c)(1)]. Because the SHPO has

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

failed to comment on Reclamation's finding within the period of time provided to them pursuant to the Section 106 regulations, Reclamation may move on to the next step of the Section 106 process.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. After reviewing CEC NCAO-CEC-17-10 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 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.