

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization to PG&E for Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a new Electrical Crossing at Lateral 32.2-9.9-1.5S and Avenue 19 1/2 in Madera, California

CEC-17-004

Prepared by:

Kate Connor
Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/23/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Scott Williams
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

Shauna McDonald
Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/23/17

Concurred by:

R. Emerson
Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 05/23/2017

Approved by:

for Michael P. Jackson
Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/23/2017



Background

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has requested permission to access Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) property near the Madera Canal at Lateral 32.2-9.9-1.5S and Avenue 19 1/2 in Madera County, California in order to install a new overhead electrical transmission line (Figure1).

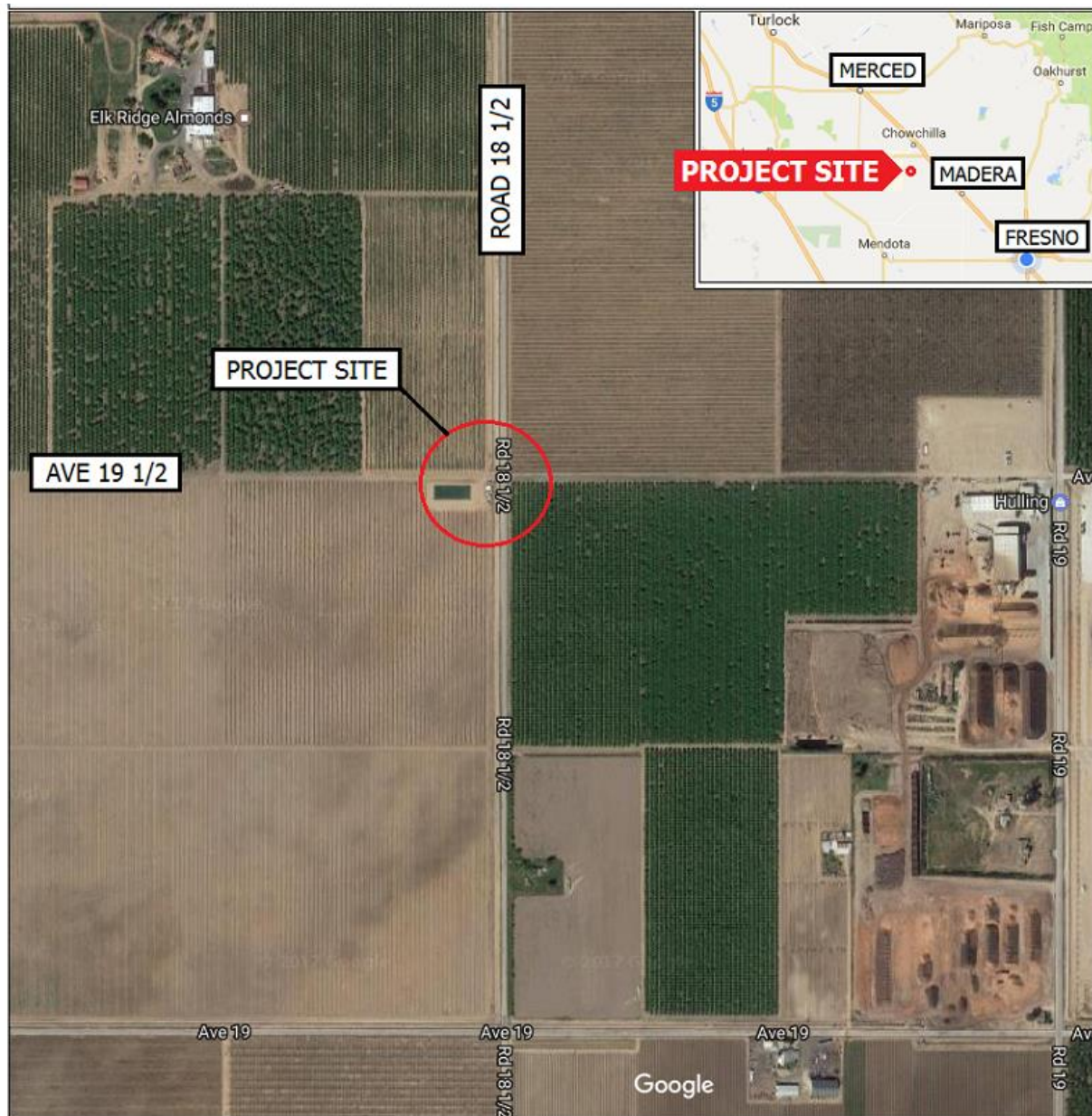


Figure 1 Project location

Nature of the Action

Reclamation will issue a land use authorization to PG&E for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a new overhead electrical transmission line crossing over the Madera Canal at Lateral 32.2-9.9-1.5S. No ground disturbance would occur on Reclamation land for this project and no grading or staging areas would be required. In order to extend electrical service from the existing utility pole on Reclamation's land 900 feet to an existing pump on a parcel of private property, three additional poles would be installed outside of Reclamation right-of-way (Figure 2). Construction would take approximately 1 week to complete once initiated.

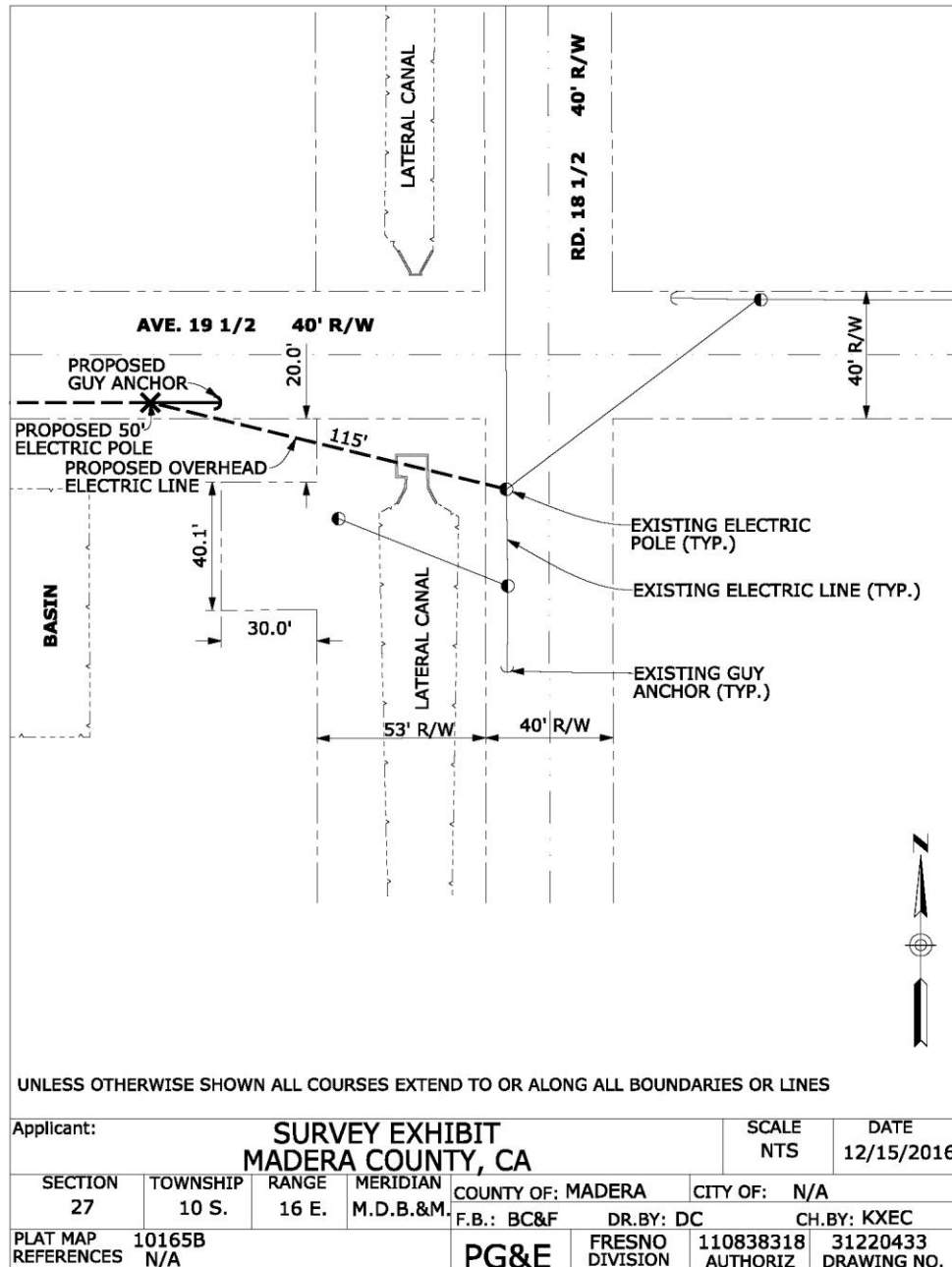


Figure 2 Project action area

Environmental Commitments

The PG&E shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action.

1. Follow their standard procedure for protecting raptors from take that might occur due to the presence of an additional power line.
2. Refer to their HCP/Section 10 ESA permit with regard to the San Joaquin kit, and comply with any requirements contained within those documents.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (10). *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-129

Project Name: Land Use Authorization to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a new Electrical Crossing at Lateral 32.2-9.9-1.5S and Avenue 19 1/2 in Madera, California

NEPA Document: 17-004

NEPA Contact: Kate Connor, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Scott Williams, Archaeologist



Date: April 12, 2017

Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the installation, operation, and maintenance of electrical service for the proposed project in Madera County, CA. 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 would extend aerial electrical service from an existing utility pole on Reclamation land to power an agricultural well on land owned by a private landowner. PG&E has requested permission to access the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) property in order to install a new overhead electrical transmission line crossing over the Madera Canal at Lateral 32.2-9.9-1.5S at Avenue 19 1/2 in Madera County, California. The general location of the project is Avenue 19 1/2 and Road 18 1/2. The purpose of this project is to provide electrical service to consumers in that area. . No ground disturbance would occur on Reclamation land. No grading or staging areas would be required.

This document 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.