

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization for PG&E Aerial Crossings of the San Luis Drain Near Kamm Avenue

CEC-17-012

Prepared by:

Cameron Alfving

Cameron Alfving
Natural Resources Specialist Student Trainee
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 08/31/18

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
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:

Lisa Buck

Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 09/04/2018

Concurred by:

Rain L. Emerson

Rain L. Emerson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
South-Central California Area Office

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 09/05/2018

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 9/5/2018



Background

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) plans to decommission the existing Stroud Switching Station located at the northwest corner of Kamm Avenue and Yuba Avenue and to construct the new Crescent Switching Station near the southeast corner of this intersection. The Crescent Switching Station is being constructed in order to accommodate a third party photovoltaic solar generation project. The solar project will help meet the program requirements of increasing renewable energy resources outlined in California's Senate Bill 1078. The proposed decommissioning of the existing Stroud Switching Station and rerouting of existing transmission lines into the new Crescent Switching Station is necessary to support the currently proposed and potential future solar projects in Fresno County.

The existing transmission lines will be rerouted into the new Crescent Switching Station to the north of the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) San Luis Drain along Kamm Avenue, and will not require any new overhang easement. However, future lines entering the Crescent Switching Station will need to overhang the San Luis Drain. Other transmission line routes are available; however, they are not preferred as the crossing of Reclamation land is the most direct route.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to PG&E for the future construction, operation, and maintenance of three new 70kV electrical transmission lines crossing over and above the San Luis Drain at approximate milepost 150.28-151.28 (Figure 1). The future crossings will be aerial only and no structures or ground disturbance will take place on Reclamation land. Installation of the crossings is planned to occur within the next 5 years (2018-2023). No temporary work areas are needed within Reclamation right of way.

Structures supporting the aerial crossings will be constructed outside of Reclamation right of way and will be of sufficient height to maintain a minimum ground to conductor height of at least 40 feet in order to meet Reclamation requirements. Pull lines would be strung from the new transmission poles and the new conductor would be pulled into place over the San Luis Drain. It is possible that the conductor may temporarily be lower than the minimum height requirements for utility overhang on Reclamation right of way during construction and prior to energization of the lines, depending on construction methods.

The construction period of the future electric transmission lines that will span the San Luis Drain is expected to be approximately 1 week at each crossing.



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"/>
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: 18-SCAO-097

Project Name: Land Use Authorization for PG&E Aerial Crossings of the San Luis

Drain NEPA Document: CEC-17-012

NEPA Contact: Cameron Alfving, Natural Resources Specialist Student Trainee

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Joanne Goodsell, Archaeologist

Date: May 14, 2018

JOANNE GOODSSELL Digitally signed by JOANNE GOODSSELL
Date: 2018.05.14 13:52:05 -07'00'

Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to PG&E for the future crossings of three new 70kV electrical transmission lines over/above the San Luis Drain in the vicinity of milepost 150.28-151.28. The crossings will be aerial only and no structures, ground disturbance, or temporary work areas will be located place on Reclamation land. Installation of these crossings is planned to occur within the next 5 years (2018-2023).

Reclamation determined the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking, as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y), that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Title 54 U.S.C. 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Item 8 on CEC-17-012 is supported by this determination.

This document conveys the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process and cultural resources review 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 California State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.