

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**  
***Madera Irrigation District Lateral 32.2***  
**Amendment to an Existing Perpetual License to PG&E**

South-Central California Area Office

January 20, 2010

**Background:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), provides natural gas and electric service to approximately 15 million people throughout a 70,000-square-mile service area in northern and central California. PG&E has an existing perpetual license, issued on August 19, 1983, to aerially cross the Madera Irrigation District (MID) Distribution System at Lateral 32.2, a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) facility which is operated and maintained by MID (Figure 1.)

Cavaletto Farms, which is located within MID's service area, requested permission to install a power pole on Reclamation right-of-way to provide electrical service to an existing irrigation pump. Cavaletto Farms however installed the power pole prior to receiving approval from Reclamation. This Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) addresses the PG&E power line crossing over the MID canal which would provide electric service to the unapproved power pole installed by Cavaletto Farms. Because the unapproved power pole is in place and any environmental impacts have already occurred as a result of the poles installation, Reclamation includes the unapproved pole as part of this CEC. Reclamation has advised MID to issue a warning to Cavaletto Farms prohibiting future encroachment on Reclamation right-of-way.

**Purpose and Need for Action:** The purpose of this proposed action is to provide electrical service to an existing irrigation pump at Cavaletto Farms.

**Proposed Action:** Reclamation proposes to amend the existing perpetual license to PG&E to reflect the increased voltage and altered path of the aerial crossing.

This action will require PG&E to install a new power pole outside of Reclamation right-of-way south of the lateral. The pole to be installed would be connected to the newly installed power pole inside Reclamation right-of-way (Figure 2.) The power line would span across the canal connecting the power pole outside of Reclamation right-of-way to the recently installed power pole inside Reclamation right-of-way. All staging grounds would be outside of Reclamation right-of-way.

**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.

LD 2210-16-

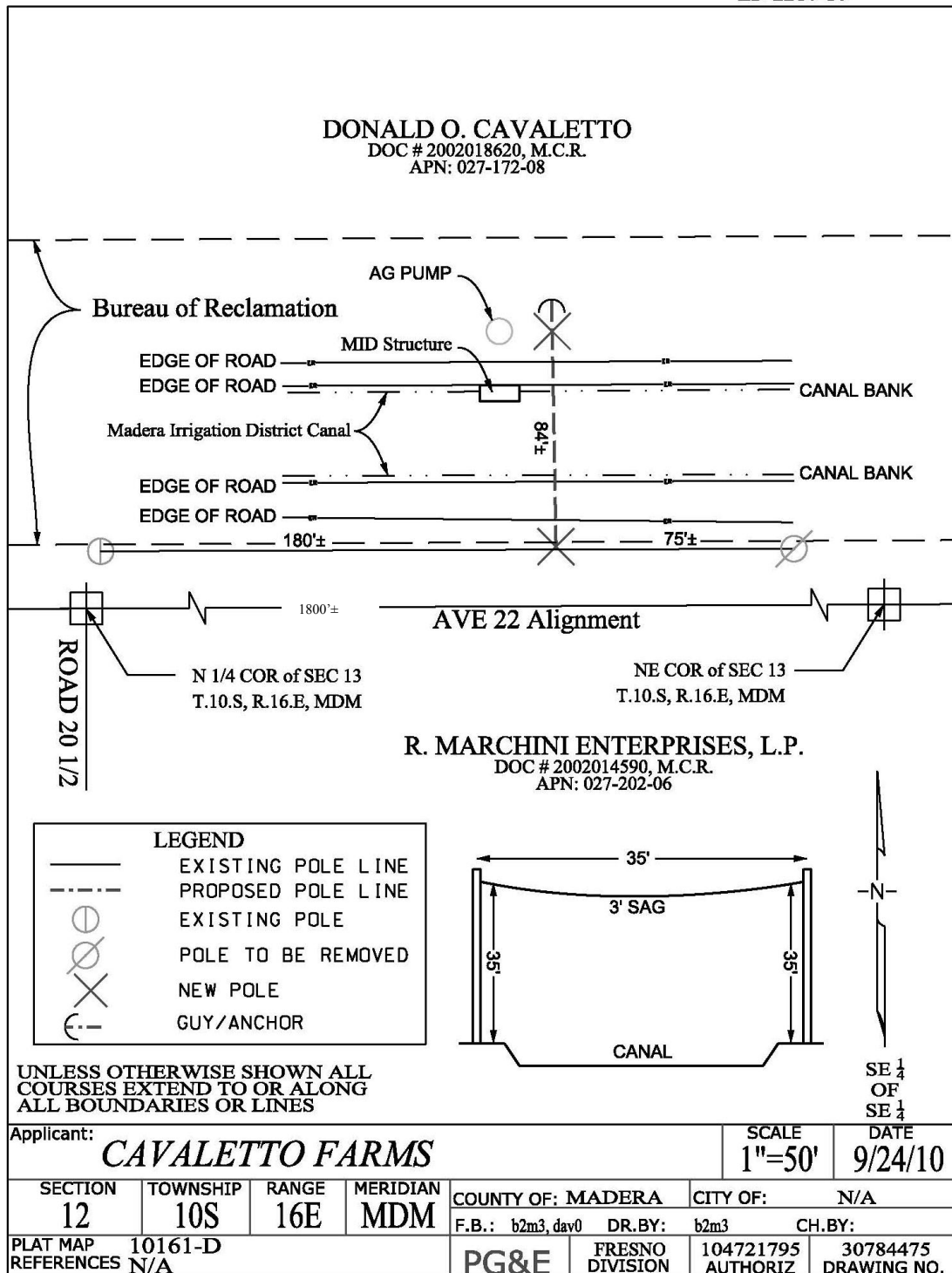


Figure 1. Project Layout



Figure 2. Project Location

### Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- |   |             |                |     |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This Action will have a significant effect on the quality of human environment   | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

### Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

- |   |             |                |     |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety  | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. 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 (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 3. This action will have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks  | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 4. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects   | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

- |   |                 |                         |     |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|
| 5. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects   | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 6. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register or Historic Places (National Register) as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, LND 02-01 D(1)(a))                    | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 7. 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  | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 8. This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment  | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 9. This action would affect ITAs (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs)   | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 10. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations   | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 11. 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  | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |
|   |                 |                         |     |
| 12. 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 Weeds Control Act) | No <u>  X  </u> | Uncertain <u>      </u> | Yes |

**NEPA Action:** Categorical Exclusion   X  

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

☐ Yes     ☒ No     Environmental commitments are required and attached.

- ☐ San Joaquin Kit Fox Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ Giant Garter Snake Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ California Tiger Salamander Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ California Red-Legged Frog Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ Other:

Prepared by:

Danielle Oliveira

Date:

1/25/2011

South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:  
See attachment.ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:  
See attachment.

Concur:

Shanna McDonald

Date:

1/25/11

Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

[Signature]

Date:

1/29/11

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

David Woolley  
Laura Myers

2-3-11

Date:

2/3/11

Chief, Resources Management Division, South-Central California Area Office

Approved:

Laura Myers

Date:

2/3/11

Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office



## Oliveira, Danielle M

---

**From:** Goodsell, Joanne E  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:17 PM  
**To:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Cc:** Barnes, Amy J; Bruce, Brandee E; Dunay, Amy L; Fogerty, John A; Leigh, Anastasia T; Nickels, Adam M; Overly, Stephen A; Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M  
**Subject:** RE: CR Review for CEC-10-106

Project Tracking No: 11-SCAO-047

Location: SE ¼ SE ¼ sec. 12, T. 10 S., R. 16 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, Madera County, California

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 the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

Danielle,

CEC-10-106, dated December 16, 2010, describes a proposed action to amend an existing perpetual license with PG&E to permit an aerial electrical line crossing of Madera Irrigation District (MID) Lateral 32.2, a Reclamation-owned water conveyance facility that is operated and maintained by MID. This aerial reroute was being proposed to provide power to a privately owned agriculture pump located adjacent to Lateral 32.2, which would require the installation of a new utility pole on the north side of Lateral 32.2 within Reclamation right-of-way (ROW). The installation of the utility pole within Reclamation ROW was determined by our cultural resources staff to be the type of activity with the potential to cause effects on historic properties. As such, under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), we initiated the Section 106 process pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

As part of the Section 106 process, Reclamation cultural resources staff conducted a field investigation of the project area on January 12, 2010. During this site visit it was noted that the utility pole, associated electrical boxes, and conduit slated for placement on the north side of Lateral 32.2, within Reclamation ROW, had already been installed. Since this activity occurred prior to consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and without affording the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment, Reclamation was unable to fulfill its Section 106 statutory responsibilities related to the proposed action as originally described in CEC-10-106.

After informing your office of the utility pole's presence, on January 21, 2010, we received a revised version of CEC-10-106, dated January 20, 2010 [sic], for cultural resources review. The proposed action is now limited to the amendment of PG&E's existing perpetual license to cross MID Lateral 32.2. As this proposed action does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, no additional consideration under Section 106 of the NHPA will be required. I concur with Item 6 of revised CEC-10-106. Please file a copy of this correspondence with the CEC administrative record and feel free to contact me, or Regional Archaeologist Laureen Perry, if you have questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,

Joanne Goodsell, M.A., Archeologist  
Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-5499 [jgoodsell@usbr.gov](mailto:jgoodsell@usbr.gov)

**From:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 11:59 AM  
**To:** Goodsell, Joanne E; Dunay, Amy L  
**Cc:** Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M  
**Subject:** CR Review for CEC-10-106



Good Afternoon,

After your discovery that the telephone pole had already been installed for Cavaletto farms I have adjusted the NEPA document to reflect the actions that still need to happen.

Please see the attached document.

Please use Cost Authority Number: **A1R-1752-9652-220-04-3-8**

Danielle M. Oliveira  
Biological Science Technician  
Resource Management Division  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1243 "N" Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Office: (559)487-5295

## **Oliveira, Danielle M**

---

**From:** McDonald, Shauna A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2010 12:13 PM  
**To:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Cc:** Hyatt, David E  
**Subject:** RE: ESA Request for CEC-10-106

Hi Dani. Okay, I believe they have their permit associated with their San Joaquin Valley HCP, so I think there is already ESA coverage for this type of activity. The San Joaquin Valley region HCP covers almost all of PG&E's routine operations and maintenance, as well as minor new construction activities that would occur within the San Joaquin Valley for the next 30 years. This project is within the covered area.

Thanks,  
Shauna

---

**From:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2010 11:54 AM  
**To:** McDonald, Shauna A  
**Subject:** RE: ESA Request for CEC-10-106

One power pole will be taken out and an separate power pole will be replaced perpendicular to the lateral. So therefore if I know the correct definition of ground disturbance then yes there will be.

Danielle M. Oliveira  
Biological Science Technician  
Resource Management Division  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1243 "N" Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Office: (559)487-5295

---

**From:** McDonald, Shauna A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 2:15 PM  
**To:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Subject:** RE: ESA Request for CEC-10-106

Hi Dani. So I was assigned to this CEC for ESA review. Is there any ground disturbance with this project (i.e. for the power pole replacement)? I wasn't sure.

Thanks,  
Shauna

---

**From:** Hyatt, David E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 1:24 PM  
**To:** McDonald, Shauna A  
**Subject:** FW: ESA Request for CEC-10-106

And how about this one too?

---

**From:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 08, 2010 11:46 AM

**To:** Hyatt, David E  
**Cc:** Gruenhagen, Ned M; Lewis, Jennifer; McDonald, Shauna A  
**Subject:** ESA Request for CEC-10-106

Good Afternoon Dave,

The contents of this email contains the project description for CEC-10-106 to Amend an Existing Perpetual License to PG&E. Along with the project description I have attached an schematic map of the project location and their application.

**Project Description:** PG&E has an existing perpetual license to aerially cross the Madera Irrigation District's Distribution System Lateral 32.2 with 240 V electric service, which serves an existing AG pump on Reclamation's right of way. At this time, PG&E has requested to change the path of the aerial crossing, replace one power pole on Reclamation right of way, and increase the voltage to 480 V. Crossing is approx. 84' and will run perpendicular to the lateral. The pump is existing.

Lands action will be to amend an existing perpetual License to PG&E to reflect the increased voltage and altered path of the aerial crossing.

**Project Location:** The SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 12, T10S, R16E, Madera County, CA. Just north of the intersection of Avenue 22 and Road 20 ½.

**Cost Authority:** A1R-1752-9652-220-04-3-8

**Key Code:** 584

If you have any question or need any further information do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Have a great day and I will see you all on Tuesday!

Danielle M. Oliveira  
Biological Science Technician  
Resource Management Division  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1243 "N" Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Office: (559)487-5295

## **Oliveira, Danielle M**

---

**From:** Rivera, Patricia L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 08, 2010 11:51 AM  
**To:** Oliveira, Danielle M  
**Subject:** RE: ITA Request for CEC-10-106

Danielle,

I reviewed the proposed action wherein Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has an existing perpetual license to aerially cross the Madera Irrigation District's Distribution System Lateral 32.2 with 240 V electric service, which serves an existing agriculture pump on Reclamation's right of way. The proposed action is to approve PG&E's requested to change the path of the aerial crossing, replace one power pole on Reclamation right of way, and increase the voltage to 480 V. Crossing is approx. 84' and will run perpendicular to the lateral. The pump is existing.

Lands action will be to amend an existing perpetual License to PG&E to reflect the increased voltage and altered path of the aerial crossing.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia