

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners  
& Interested Parties

**From:** Monisha Gangopadhyay, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject:** NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION (IS/MND) AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:  
Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (A.09-11-016)

**Date:** November 16, 2010

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) application to construct, operate, and maintain the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (A.09-11-016). The Draft IS/MND details the Proposed Project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts.

#### **Description of the Proposed Project.**

The Proposed Project would be located in Monterey and San Benito Counties near the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. The Hollister Tower and Hollister Pole Segments would generally traverse the existing PG&E right-of-way (ROW), across open space and agricultural lands and passing a few scattered residences along the alignment. The Proposed River Crossing would be located in new ROW and would primarily traverse agricultural rangeland. PG&E requests authorization for the following activities:

- **Hollister Tower Segment:** Replacement of approximately 36 of the 38 existing towers with new lattice steel towers (LSTs) and installation of one new LST, resulting in a total of 39 LSTs in the seven-mile section of the existing double-circuit Moss Landing-Salinas-Soledad 115 kV subtransmission line, beginning at the Lagunitas Switches and extending north to a point near the Anzar Junction.
- **Hollister Pole Segment:** Replacement of the single-circuit 154 wood poles with 30 double-circuit tubular steel poles (TSPs) and 135 light-duty steel (LDS) poles along an existing nine-mile section of the Hollister No. 1 115 kV subtransmission line, with the exception of the 1.7 mile Proposed River Crossing, which would be in new right-of-way. The Hollister Pole Segment would begin near northern end of the Hollister Tower Segment and extend east to the Hollister Substation.
- **Conductors:** Installation of a 477 kcmil (circular wire gauge size = 1,000 circular mils) steel-supported aluminum conductor (SSAC) on both the Hollister Tower and Hollister Pole Segments.
- **Hollister Substation:** Upgrade of the Hollister Substation, including relocation of two existing poles, updating relay settings, and changing the 115 kV bus conductors.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to build electrical facilities necessary to maintain safe and reliable electric service to customers, and serve the forecasted electrical demand in the northeastern portion of Monterey County and northwestern portion of San Benito County.

**Public Comment on the Draft IS/MND.**

The Draft IS/MND is available for a 30-day public comment period November 17, 2010 through December 17, 2010. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Project and the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than **December 17, 2010**. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be sent to:

**Ms. Monisha Gangopadhyay**  
**Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project**  
**c/o Environmental Science Associates**  
**225 Bush Street, Suite 1700**  
**San Francisco, CA 94104-4207**  
**Fax: (415) 896-0332**  
**E-mail: [hollister@esassoc.com](mailto:hollister@esassoc.com)**

The CPUC will also hold a public comment meeting to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. Following the end of the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND and submitted within the specified 30-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft IS/MND, will constitute the Final IS/MND for the Proposed Project. The public meeting will be held:

**Thursday, December 2, 2010**  
**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Gabilan Hills School**  
**921 Santa Ana Rd. Suite 100**  
**Hollister, CA 95023**  
**Phone: (831) 636-4430**

**Availability of Draft MND.**

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for public review at the San Juan Bautista City Library, the San Benito County Free Library, and on the project website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/hollister/hollister.html>. This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft IS/MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8418 or by e-mail at [hollister@esassoc.com](mailto:hollister@esassoc.com).

Project information repositories include the following libraries:

San Benito County Free Library 470 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Hollister, CA 95023 Phone : (831) 636-4107	San Juan Bautista City Library 801 Second Street San Juan Bautista, CA 95045 Phone : (831) 623-4687
---	--

**REMINDER: Draft IS/MND comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through December 17, 2010. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.**