



Variance Request Form

PG&E Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

Variance Request No.: 34

CONTRACTOR SECTION

Request Prepared By: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Photos? Yes No

Landowners: Codiroli Milton and Janis L. Campbell & Pamco Investments - APN: 199-011-001-000 Attachments? Yes No
 • Attachment A: Variance 34 Map

Current Land Use: Grazing

Permit Measure or Specification:

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
 - Deviation from the project description and project maps to reflect the addition of a new construction area between Tower Pull Site (TP)-3 and TP-4.

Detailed Description of Variance:

PG&E is requesting authorization from the CPUC to utilize a new construction area between TP-3 and TP-4. The location of the new construction area is shown in Attachment A: Variance 34 Map. Because the towers near TP-3 and TP-4 are not designed to accommodate the forces associated with the pulling and tensioning of the new conductor, it will be necessary for PG&E to utilize an additional construction area to install snub poles between these two pull sites. The construction area will include two snub poles (i.e., one for each circuit) and two anchor wires. The snub poles will carry the load associated with the pulling and tensioning of the new conductor.

Installation of the snub poles will require a bucket truck and line truck. PG&E will auger a total of four holes within the construction area (i.e., one for each snub pole and one for each anchor wire). No construction equipment will remain parked within the construction area overnight. All the equipment associated with the pulling and tensioning of the new conductor and installation of the snub poles and anchor wires will be stored within TP-3 or TP-4, which are currently surrounded by wildlife exclusion fence. The pulling and tensioning equipment will also be located within TP-3 and TP-4 during the pulling and tensioning of the conductor. Installation of the snub poles and anchor wires is anticipated to be no more than 2 days. Once the reconductoring is complete in this area, the snub poles and anchor wires will be removed and the construction area will be restored to pre-construction conditions. The total new area of temporary disturbance resulting from the new construction area will be approximately 0.23 acre; however there will be no permanent area of disturbance, no vegetation removal, and no grading in the construction area. No additional access roads are required because the construction area is approximately centered on the power line alignment and an existing road is located there.

Variance Justification:

PG&E is requesting this variance because a method to reduce the load on the towers near TP-3 and TP-4 is necessary to safely reconductor the tower segment of the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (project). As described in the resource evaluation section below, because the new construction area will be within the survey area originally evaluated in the MND, potential impacts associated with this variance are consistent with the measures evaluated during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and will not result in any significant impacts that were not previously identified. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND and other project permits.



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PG&E ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

RESOURCE EVALUATION

The proposed variance was analyzed to verify that the project change would not introduce new significant impacts and that any potential impacts were fully analyzed in the MND. The following table provides a brief summary of that analysis for each resource area analyzed in the MND.

CEQA SECTION	Applicable	(Y) Define Potential Impact or (N) Briefly Explain Why CEQA Section is Not Applicable
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The new construction area is located in grazing land along the existing power line right-of-way (ROW) between two existing pull sites and tower work areas. There are no designated scenic vistas, scenic highways, or visually sensitive areas within view of the new construction area. There are no designated scenic vistas, scenic highways, or visually sensitive areas within view of new construction area. The new construction area will not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Furthermore, no new sources of light or glare will be introduced to the area. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to aesthetics.</p>
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The new construction area is not located in Important Farmland or land under Williamson Act contract, but is located in grazing land. The new construction area will not conflict with existing zoning because impacts will be temporary, limited in size, and will not result in any changes to existing grazing land or zoning. The new construction area is not located on forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timber Production. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to agriculture and forestry resources.</p>
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The MND analyzed approximately 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day within the project area. The use of the new construction area will not increase the amount traffic beyond the estimated 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day that were analyzed in the MND. In addition, the use of the new construction area will not increase the amount or use of heavy equipment on the project; therefore, emissions, including fugitive dust, will not increase beyond what was analyzed in the MND. The MND found that these emissions will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan, violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or project air quality violation, or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. The new construction area is located along the existing power line ROW and will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations or objectionable odors beyond those described in the MND. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts from air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>



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Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The MND evaluated the project areas and a 500-foot buffer for listed species including Pajaro Manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos pajaroensis</i>), California Tiger Salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) (CTS), California Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>) (CRLF), western spadefoot (<i>Spea hammondi</i>), western pond turtle (<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>) (WPT), Coast horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>), San Joaquin coachwhip (<i>Masticophis flagellum ruddockii</i>), BUOW, American badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) (AMBA), San Joaquin kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>) (SJKF), special-status bats, nesting birds, and South-Central California Coast Steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>). The proposed new construction area is located along the existing power line ROW between two pull sites and tower work areas, and within the 500-foot survey buffer and was; therefore, included in the evaluation. In accordance with APMs and mitigation measures in the MND, surveys for CTS and CRLF will be conducted immediately prior to construction. In addition, pre-construction wildlife surveys for AMBA, SJKF, and BUOW have been previously conducted in this area within the 30 day timeframe required by the project permits. A report describing the survey results was submitted to the CPUC. The new construction area will be located in areas already disturbed by light and medium-duty equipment. If work is initiated during the nesting season, nesting bird surveys will be conducted. If any special-status species or nesting birds are observed, the appropriate and required construction buffers would be implemented as described in the MND and project plans and permits. The use of the new construction area will not require tree trimming or removal and; therefore, will not conflict with local tree protection policies and ordinances. As described in the MND, the new construction area will not conflict with any other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND and other project permits. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to biological resources.</p>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> PG&E prepared a Historic Properties Inventory Report, which included an evaluation of cultural resources in the project area and a 500-foot buffer. The new construction area is within the 500-foot survey buffer and was; therefore, included in the evaluation. The new construction area is not in an area of high or moderate archeological sensitivity identified in the MND. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND and other project permits. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to cultural resources.</p>
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The new construction area will be located along the existing power line ROW and was; therefore, included in the evaluation of geology, soils, and seismicity in the project area. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional geology, soils, or seismicity impacts.</p>



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Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> Proposed construction activities at the new construction area will be the same as those described for other work areas and will not create significant new hazards. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts from hazards and hazardous materials.</p>
Hydrology and Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The new construction area is not proposed within any hydrologic features, and they will not result in new significant impacts to hydrology or water quality. Although soil disturbance will result from the installation of the of the snub poles and anchor wires, applicable measures in the existing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and other relevant measures described in the MND and other project permits will be implemented. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to hydrology or water quality.</p>
Land Use and Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed new construction area will be located along the existing power line ROW and; therefore, have the same land use designation that was analyzed in the MND. In addition, use of the new construction area will be temporary, and the current land use will not be converted. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create significant additional impacts to land use and planning.</p>
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed new construction area does not cross any known mineral resources. Therefore, the use of the new construction area will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to mineral resources.</p>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The used of the new construction area will not result in new significant impacts from noise because the new construction area will not be located closer to residences or sensitive receptors. The use of the new construction area will not increase traffic beyond the estimated 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day that were analyzed in the MND. In addition, impacts to noise as a result of construction vehicles were analyzed in the MND and the proposed new construction area will have the same impacts. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts from noise.</p>
Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The new construction area will not be closer to residences than those described in the MND, and use of the new construction area will not induce population growth or displace existing housing or people. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to population or housing.</p>



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Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The use of the new construction area will not result in a substantial increase on the demand for public services because each site will be of relatively short duration. The MND found that potential impacts on emergency response services, fire protection services, police services, school facilities, recreational facilities, public libraries, and hospitals will be less than significant because construction activities are temporary and do not require construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities for public services. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to public services.
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed new construction area will not be located in a recreational area, nor will it increase demand on existing recreational resources. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to recreation.
Transportation and Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed new construction area will be located along the existing power line ROW and will not impact roadways, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, airports, or rail service not previously identified in the MND. In addition, construction vehicles traveling to the proposed new construction area are not expected to disrupt traffic on public roads. Furthermore, construction activities at the proposed new construction area will be short in duration. In the MND, it was estimated that construction would generate over 200 vehicle trips per day within the project area. Construction activities at the proposed new construction area will not increase the number of vehicle trips per day beyond what was analyzed in the MND. The use of the new construction area will not result in a change in air traffic patterns. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to transportation and traffic.
Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The use of the proposed new construction area will not result in any impacts to existing utilities or service systems. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the use of the new construction area will not create additional significant impacts to utilities and service systems.
Other Variance Conditions Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		



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PG&E Approval					
Title	Name	Approval Initials	Date	Conditions (see attached)	
Insignia Project Manager (if applicable)	Keith Miller	KM	01/28/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Lead Environmental Inspector	Nick Fisher	NF	01/28/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Biologist (if applicable)	Andrea Henke	AH	01/28/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Archaeologist (if applicable)	Wendy Nettles	N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Storm Water Program Manager (if applicable)	Keith Baker	N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Environmental Compliance Lead	Andy Smith	AS	01/28/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Manager (if applicable)	Bill Czabaranek	BC	01/28/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Landowner Approval (if needed)					
Landowner Name	Approval Signature	Date			
N/A	N/A	N/A			
Resource Agency Approvals					
Determine required agency approvals based on the following:					
Will biological resources/habitats be affected? NO	If yes, obtain CDFG and USFWS approval				
Is this a variance from a permit? YES	If yes, obtain permitting agency approval				
Will wetlands or waters of the U.S. be affected? NO	If yes, obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval				
Will riparian areas or drainages be affected? NO	If yes, obtain CDFG approval – may require a permit				
Will surface or groundwater be affected? NO	If yes, obtain RWQCB approval				
Resource Agency	Name	Approval Initials	Date	Conditions (see attached)	
USFWS		N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
CDFG		N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
USACE		N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
RWQCB		N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



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CPUC and CPUC CONSULTANT SECTION		
Variance Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
AFFECTED RESOURCE(s) and APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality:	<input type="checkbox"/> Soils:	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise:
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials:	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic:	
Other Variance Conditions Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
REQUIRED APPROVAL SIGNATURES		
Consultant Environmental Monitor:		(Note: signature signifies review only)
Consultant Project Manager: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Verbal Approval
CPUC Project Manager: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Verbal Approval
<i>Level 1 variances require only verbal approval from CPUC Project Manager and Consultant Project Manager. Level 2 variances require signatures.</i>		



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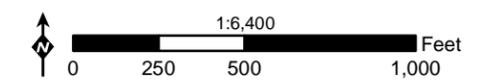
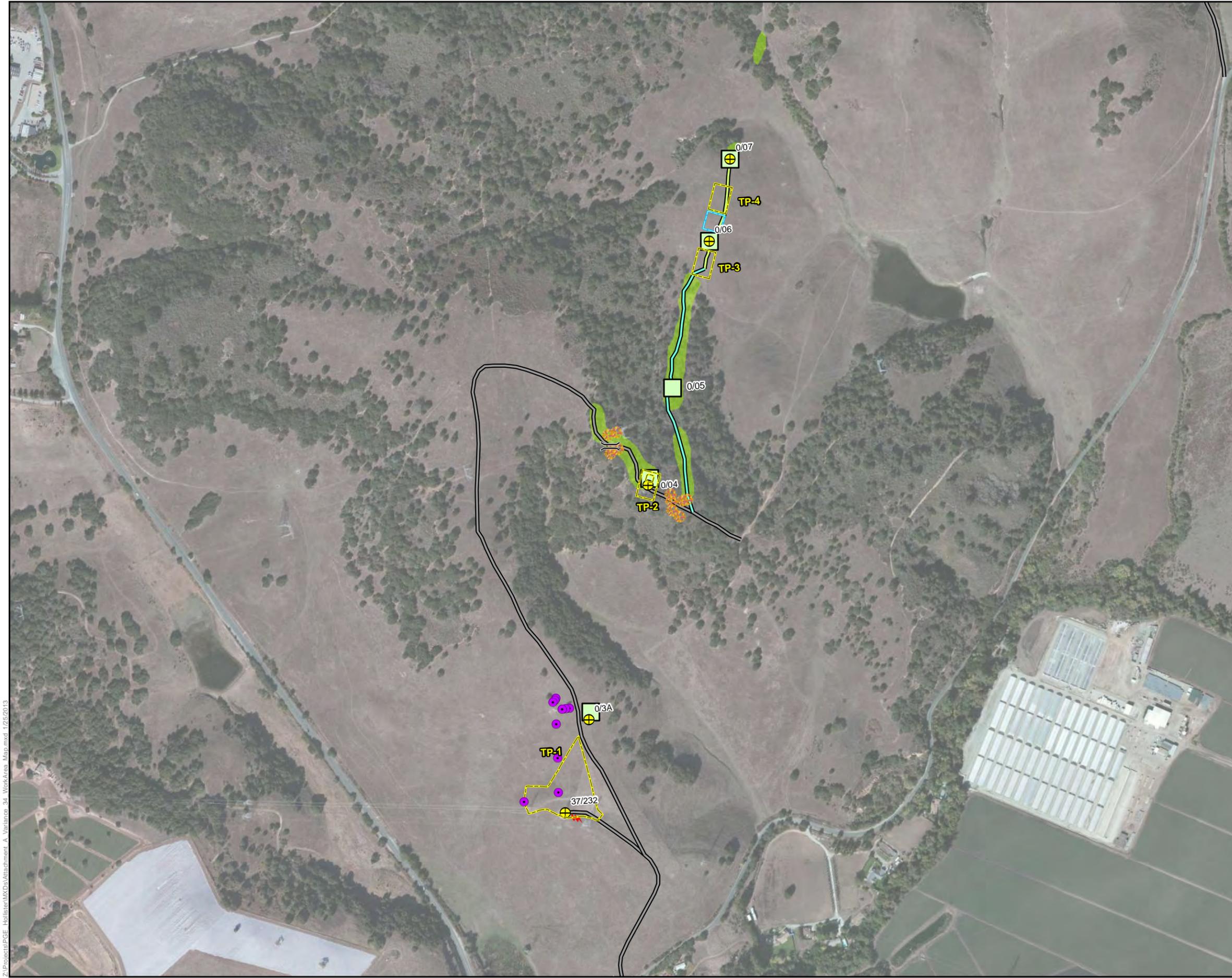
VARIANCE CONDITIONS

Condition Name:
Conditions:
Condition Name:
Conditions:
Condition Name:
Conditions:

ATTACHMENT A: VARIANCE 34 MAP

Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconducting Project

- New Tower
 - + Existing Tower
 - Proposed Gate
 - Tree Removal and Trimming
 - Pajaro Manzanita (ICF 2008)
 - Existing Switch
 - Shoo Fly Points
 - Existing Road
 - Existing Road - Needs Improvement
 - Overland Travel Route
 - Construction Area
- Variance 34**
- Proposed Construction Area



Source: ICF, 2008; Insignia, 2012; PG&E, 2012; USGS, 2012

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Photograph 1:

Looking to the north towards TP-4. The proposed construction area is in the foreground.



Photograph 2:

Looking to the north into TP-5. The existing snub poles are the two wooden poles within TP-5. The anchor cables are also visible in front of the snub poles.