



Variance Request Form

PG&E Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

Variance Request No.: 37

CONTRACTOR SECTION

Request Prepared By: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

Landowners: Public road rights-of-way

Current Land Use: Agriculture, public roadway, residential

Photos? Yes No

- Variance #37 Photographs

Attachments? Yes No

- Attachment A: Variance 37 Map

Permit Measure or Specification:

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Project Description
 - Deviation from the project description to install a temporary distribution switch.

Detailed Description of Variance:

PG&E is requesting authorization from the CPUC to allow installation of a temporary distribution switch. The temporary distribution switch is intended to minimize outages to customers during the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (project). The proposed work will include the installation of a temporary switch at a distribution pole located on Westside Road approximately 1000 feet south of Pole 21/13.

The proposed work will occur at a distribution pole located along Westside Road, a public road, as shown in Attachment A: Variance 37 Map. All construction activities will be conducted between the pole and the road shoulder, as shown in the attached Variance #37 Photographs. No vehicles will be stopped on any portion of the travelled road from the road shoulder. The proposed activities will require up to two bucket trucks, two crew trucks, and approximately seven to ten crew members. The proposed activities will include the installation of a temporary switch by installing temporary wires that can be connected and disconnected, as necessary. Construction activities to install the temporary switch are anticipated to last approximately two hours on two separate days. Additionally, periodic switching, currently scheduled for June 16, and June 25 2013, of these wires will be required for the remaining pole and wire installation work in this vicinity during scheduled clearances for the project. These periodic activities will require one bucket truck, as well as a small crew consisting of approximately no more than three people. These periodic activities require the manual installation/removal of a fuse in the switch and are are- anticipated to take up to 20 minutes. No excavation or other earthwork is required.

Variance Justification:

PG&E is requesting this variance because installation of a temporary switch was recently determined to be necessary to minimize power outages to customers during power line reconductoring and maintenance. Construction activities associated with this variance will occur within a public road right-of-way and will be short in duration; therefore, potential impacts associated with this variance are consistent with those evaluated during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and variance reviews and will not result in any new significant impacts that were not previously identified. Additional details regarding potential impacts as a result of this variance are described in the following resource evaluation section. 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		
<p>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 each resource area analyzed in the MND.</p>		
CEQA SECTION	Applicable	(Y) Define Potential Impact or (N) Briefly Explain Why CEQA Section is Not Applicable
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> No new sources of light or glare will be introduced to the area from the installation of a temporary switch. The installation of the temporary switch at the distribution pole will not adversely affect the quality of the site and its surroundings. In addition, environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation of a temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to aesthetics.</p>
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The installation and use of the temporary switch will not significantly impact agricultural activities because the temporary switch will be located at an existing distribution pole and the work will be conducted from a public road shoulder; therefore, the installation and use of the temporary switch will not convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Installation and use of the temporary switch will not result in impacts to forestry resources because the location will not require additional tree trimming or removal. Installation and use of the temporary switch will not conflict with Williamson Act contracts or existing zoning because it will not result in any changes to existing land uses. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to agriculture or forestry resources.</p>
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed temporary switch is located on a distribution pole along a public roadway surrounded by agricultural land. The proposed work would occur from the road shoulder. The installation and use of the temporary switch will not increase traffic beyond the estimated 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day that were analyzed in the MND. In addition, the installation and use of the temporary switch will not significantly increase the amount or use of heavy equipment on the project and; therefore, will not increase emissions or fugitive dust, beyond what was analyzed in the MND. Work associated with the temporary switch will occur from a public road that vehicles use regularly; therefore, pollutant concentrations and objectionable odors will not increase 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 installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to air quality or greenhouse gas emissions.</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">Biological Resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed temporary switch is located on a distribution pole along a public roadway surrounded by agricultural land. The proposed work would occur from the road, which is used for local traffic and farm equipment. The proposed temporary switch and distribution pole are not located within any California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas. The temporary switch will be located in an area already disturbed by light and heavy-duty agricultural equipment. <u>In accordance with project permits, pre-construction wildlife surveys for San Joaquin kit fox, Western burrowing owl, and American badger were performed at the switch location by a project-approved biologist on June 6, 2013. The habitat was determined to be unsuitable for these species, and no sign or evidence of these species was observed during the surveys. In addition pre-construction nesting bird surveys were completed on June 6, 2013. No evidence of active nests was observed during the survey. These results were transmitted to the CPUC by electronic mail on June 6, 2013.</u> In addition, surveys for California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and nesting birds will be conducted immediately prior to construction. If any special-status species or nesting birds are observed, the appropriate and required measures, including construction buffers, will be implemented as described in the MND and project permits. Installation of the temporary switch will not require any additional tree trimming or removal. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND and other project permits. Therefore, potential impacts to biological resources associated with this variance are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to biological resources.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cultural Resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> The temporary switch is not located in an area of high archaeological sensitivity, and no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. No excavation or similar ground-disturbing work is required. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND and other project permits. Therefore, potential impacts to cultural resources associated with this variance are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to cultural resources.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Geology, Soils, and Seismicity</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed work is limited in size and scope. The installation of the temporary switch will occur above ground at an existing distribution pole and no new impacts to geology, soils, and seismicity are anticipated. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional impacts to geology, soils, or seismicity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hazards and Hazardous Materials</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> Installation of the temporary switch will not create new significant hazards or require new hazardous materials. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts from hazards or hazardous materials.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hydrology and Water Quality</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> Installation of the temporary switch is not proposed within any hydrologic features and will not result in new significant impacts to hydrology or water quality. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to hydrology or water quality.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Land Use and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Y </p>	<p><i>No Change.</i> Installation of the temporary switch will not result in new</p>



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Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	significant impacts to land use because the current land use will not be converted. Work will be conducted from the public road at an existing distribution pole. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create significant additional impacts to land use or planning.
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The site of the temporary switch is not located on any known mineral resources. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts to mineral resources.
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The installation and use of the temporary switch will not result in new significant impacts from noise because the distribution pole where it will be installed is located on a public road, which is currently used for local traffic and farm equipment. The installation of the temporary switch will occur approximately 300 feet from the closest residence. The installation and use of the temporary switch will have less than significant impacts on noise because activities will be short in duration and will occur from a public road. In addition, the installation and use of the temporary switch will not increase traffic beyond the estimated 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day that were analyzed 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 installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts from noise.
Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> Installation and use of the temporary switch will not induce population growth or displace existing housing or people. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts to population or housing.
Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The installation and use of the temporary switch will not result in any impacts on public services because installation of the temporary switch will be of relatively short duration. The work will require no more than two hours on two separate days. In addition, construction activities are temporary and do not require construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities for public services; therefore, impacts to emergency response services, fire protection services, police services, school facilities, recreational facilities, public libraries, and hospitals will be less than significant. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND and installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts to public services.
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> Impacts to recreational resources will not increase substantially beyond those identified in the MND because the temporary switch is not located near any recreational facilities. The installation and use of the temporary switch will not increase local population or housing and; therefore, will not increase demand for recreational facilities. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch 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 temporary switch is located on a distribution pole along a public roadway surrounded by agricultural land. The proposed work would occur between the pole and the roadway, in areas that are covered by PG&E's existing franchise agreement. No other encroachment permit is required because there is no use of the paved road and no excavation within



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		<p><u>the road right-of-way. The road from the road shoulder, which</u> is used for local traffic and farm equipment. The installation and use of the temporary switch will not result in new significant impacts to transportation or traffic because the installation process will not create new routes for transportation. The installation of the temporary switch will not increase traffic beyond the estimated 200 construction-related vehicle trips per day that were analyzed in the MND. As described in the MND, where necessary, traffic control will be provided during installation of the temporary switch, and as specified in Caltrans, San Benito County, and Monterey County encroachment permits. <u>Based on a site visit performed by the construction crew foreman on June 6, it was determined that equipment can safely park off the roadway and shoulder adjacent to the pole, in an area already disturbed by agricultural equipment, and that no traffic control would be required. These areas are shown in the attached Variance #37 Photographs.</u> Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts to transportation or traffic.</p>
Utilities and Service Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The installation and use of the temporary switch will not result in new significant impacts to existing utilities or service systems because the duration of work will be very brief. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the installation and use of the temporary switch will not create additional significant impacts to utility or service systems.</p>
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)	
Environmental Compliance Supervisor	Keith Miller	KM	06/0 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Lead Environmental Inspector	Nick Fisher	NF	06/0 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Biologist (if applicable)	Andrea Henke	AH	06/0 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Archaeologist (if applicable)	Wendy Nettles	Not Applicable (NA)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Storm Water Program Manager (if applicable)	Keith Baker	NA		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Environmental Compliance Lead	Andy Smith	AS	06/0 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Manager (if applicable)	Bill Czabaranek	BC	06/0 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Landowner Approval (if needed)					
Landowner Name	Approval Signature	Date			
NA	NA	NA			
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? NO	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		NA		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
CDFG		NA		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
USACE		NA		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
RWQCB		NA		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



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CPUC and CPUC CONSULTANT SECTION

Variance Approved: Yes No

AFFECTED RESOURCE(s) and APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics: | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources: | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources: | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources: | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology, Soils, and Seismicity: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials: | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality: | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources: | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise: | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services: | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation: | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems: | | |

Other Variance Conditions Attached: Yes No

REQUIRED APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Consultant Environmental Monitor: _____ (Note: signature signifies review only)

Consultant Project Manager: _____ Level 1 Verbal Approval

CPUC Project Manager: _____ Level 1 Verbal Approval

Level 1 variances require only verbal approval from CPUC Project Manager and Consultant Project Manager. Level 2 variances require signatures.



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VARIANCE CONDITIONS

Condition Name:

Conditions:

Condition Name:

Conditions:

Condition Name:

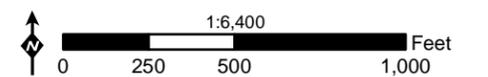
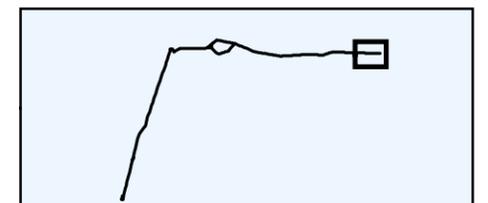
Conditions:

Attachment A Variance 37 Map

Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project



- New Tower
- Existing Tower
- Existing Pole
- Existing Pole to be Removed
- Existing Pole to be Topped
- LDS Location
- TSP Location
- Construction Area
- ATV
- Existing Road
- Existing Road - Needs Improvement
- New Road
- Overland Travel Route
- Burrowing Owl Burrow (Insignia 2012)
- Burrowing Owl Burrow (Insignia 2011)
- Burrowing Owl (ICF 2011)
- Great blue heron rookery (Insignia 2012)
- California Tiger Salamander
- California red-legged frog (Insignia 2012, 2013)
- Wetland (ICF 2008)
- Water Crossing (ICF 2008 Delineation)
- High Cultural Resource Sensitivity Area



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



Photograph 1:

A view to the northwest showing the location of the proposed temporary switch. Westside Road is in the foreground, and the project in the background.



Photograph 2:

A view to the northeast showing the proposed location of the temporary switch.