



Variance Request Form

PG&E Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

Variance Request No.: 39

CONTRACTOR SECTION

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

Photos? Yes No

Landowners: San Benito County; Bixby Road Right-of-Way

Attachments? Yes No

Current Land Use: Agriculture, residential, public roadway

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 switches in the vicinity of the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (project). Temporary distribution switches are intended to minimize or prevent customer shutdowns or potential outages to customers affected during line shutdowns on the project. This variance is requesting the installation and use of a temporary distribution switch along Bixby Road, approximately 1,000 feet north of the intersection of Bixby Road and Duncan Road, and approximately 1,700 feet south of Pole 17/10.

Temporary switches are installed to provide operational flexibility minimizing customers affected by a clearance. Temporary switches are operated to avoid customer outages for planned construction activities on the main line and to restore service in the case of an unplanned interruption of the main line. Temporary switches are important to reduce the number of customers a sustained outage affects by allowing the distribution line to be sectionalized.

The pole on which the proposed temporary distribution switch would be located is regularly accessed by PG&E as part of its routine operations and maintenance activities. The temporary switch will be installed on an existing distribution pole from the shoulder of Bixby Road (at the intersection of Bixby Road and two agricultural roads). The construction activities associated with the installation of the temporary switch 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 for temporary switch installation are anticipated to last approximately two hours on two separate days. ~~As currently scheduled, the temporary distribution switch would be opened on July 12, and closed at the end of July. In the event of an emergency situation additional switching may be required. Additionally, periodic switching of these wires during the remainder of the project will be required during scheduled clearances for the project. PG&E will provide the CPUC with one day advanced notice before any periodic switching occurs.~~ Periodic switching will require one bucket truck, as well as a small crew consisting of approximately three people. These periodic activities require the manual installation/removal of a fuse in the switch and are anticipated to take up to 20 minutes. No excavation or other earthwork is required for the installation of temporary switches.

Variance Justification:

PG&E is requesting this variance because installation of temporary switches is necessary to minimize ~~clearances-outages~~ to the smallest number of customers and to help with restoration of power outages if one occurs affecting the circuitry in question. In addition, the installation of temporary switches ensures the safety of the construction crew and general public ~~during reconductoring while constructing a power lines to be cleared in smaller sections during construction.~~ Installation of temporary switches associated with this variance will not require ground disturbance or ~~cause~~ permanent impacts. Construction activities will occur from Bixby Road (an existing public road), and will be short in duration; therefore, potential impacts associated with this variance are consistent with those evaluated during the CPUC's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and will not result in any new significant impacts that were not previously identified. ~~Traditionally, PG&E has considered the installation of these switches part of its ongoing routine operations and maintenance activities, rather than new construction; therefore, the locations of temporary distribution switches were not specifically identified in the MND for the project.~~ 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

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.

| 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> Installation of temporary switch will not introduce new sources of light or glare to the temporary switch installation area. The installation of the temporary switch will not adversely affect the quality of the installation site or the surroundings since the switch will be installed on an existing distribution pole and construction activities will be short in duration. 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 the 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 existing distribution poles and the work will be conducted from the shoulder of an existing public road. 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 will be located on an existing distribution pole along an existing public road. 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 the shoulder of an existing public road that is regularly used by local traffic, farm equipment or by PG&E for operations and maintenance; 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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| Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | <p><i>No Change.</i> The temporary switch is located on an existing distribution pole along an existing public road. The proposed work would occur from the shoulder of an existing road that is regularly used by local traffic, farm equipment, or by PG&E for operations and maintenance. The temporary switch is not located in a jurisdictional area; therefore, the installation and use of the temporary switch will not impact federally or state protected wetlands, movement of native or migratory fish, or riparian habitat. The temporary switch location is located in a developed rural residential area that is regularly accessed by PG&E for routine operation and maintenance activities. Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds, San Joaquin kit fox, western burrowing owl, and American badger will be conducted for the temporary switch location prior to the commencement of construction, although habitat suitability for these species within 200 feet of this pole location is low or non-existent given the rural residential setting. In addition, surveys for California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog 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> |
| Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | <p><i>No Change.</i> No excavation or other ground-disturbing work is required to install the temporary switch and the work will occur from the shoulder of an existing road, at the intersection of that road and two agricultural roads; therefore, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. 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> |
| Geology, Soils, and Seismicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | <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> |
| Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | <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> |
| Hydrology and Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | <p><i>No Change.</i> Installation of the temporary switch will not occur 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> |
| Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <p><i>No Change.</i> Installation of the temporary switch will not result in new significant impacts to land use because the current land use will not be</p> |



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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | converted and the switch will be located on an existing PG&E distribution pole. Work will be conducted at an existing distribution pole from the shoulder <u>of</u> Bixby Road. 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 existing distribution pole where the temporary switch will be installed 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 temporary switch will be installed along an existing road which is currently used for local traffic, farm equipment, and/or PG&E operations and maintenance. The installation and use of the temporary switch will have less than significant impacts on noise because activities will be short in duration. In addition, the installation of the temporary switch will be limited in scope, only requiring up to two bucket trucks, two crew trucks, and approximately seven to ten crew members. The installation and use of the temporary switch will also 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 to public services because installation of the temporary switch will be of relatively short duration. The work at the temporary switch location 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; 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 | <i>No Change.</i> The proposed temporary switch will be located on an existing pole, along the road shoulder for Bixby Road; therefore, no other |



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| | <input type="checkbox"/> N | encroachment permit is required because no work within public roads will occur. The road associated with the temporary switch location is currently used for PG&E operations and maintenance. 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. 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. |
| Utilities and Service Systems | <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 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. |
| 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 | 7/01/13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Lead Environmental Inspector | Nick Fisher | NF | 7/01/13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PG&E Project Biologist (if applicable) | Andrea Henke | AH | 7/01/13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PG&E Project Archaeologist (if applicable) | Wendy Nettles | WN | 7/01/13 | <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 | 6/26/13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PG&E Project Manager (if applicable) | Mike Montoya | MM | 7/01/13 | <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:

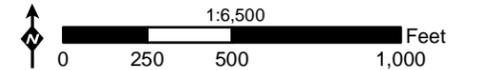
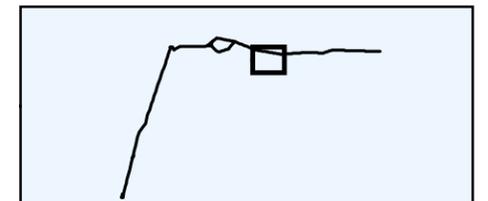
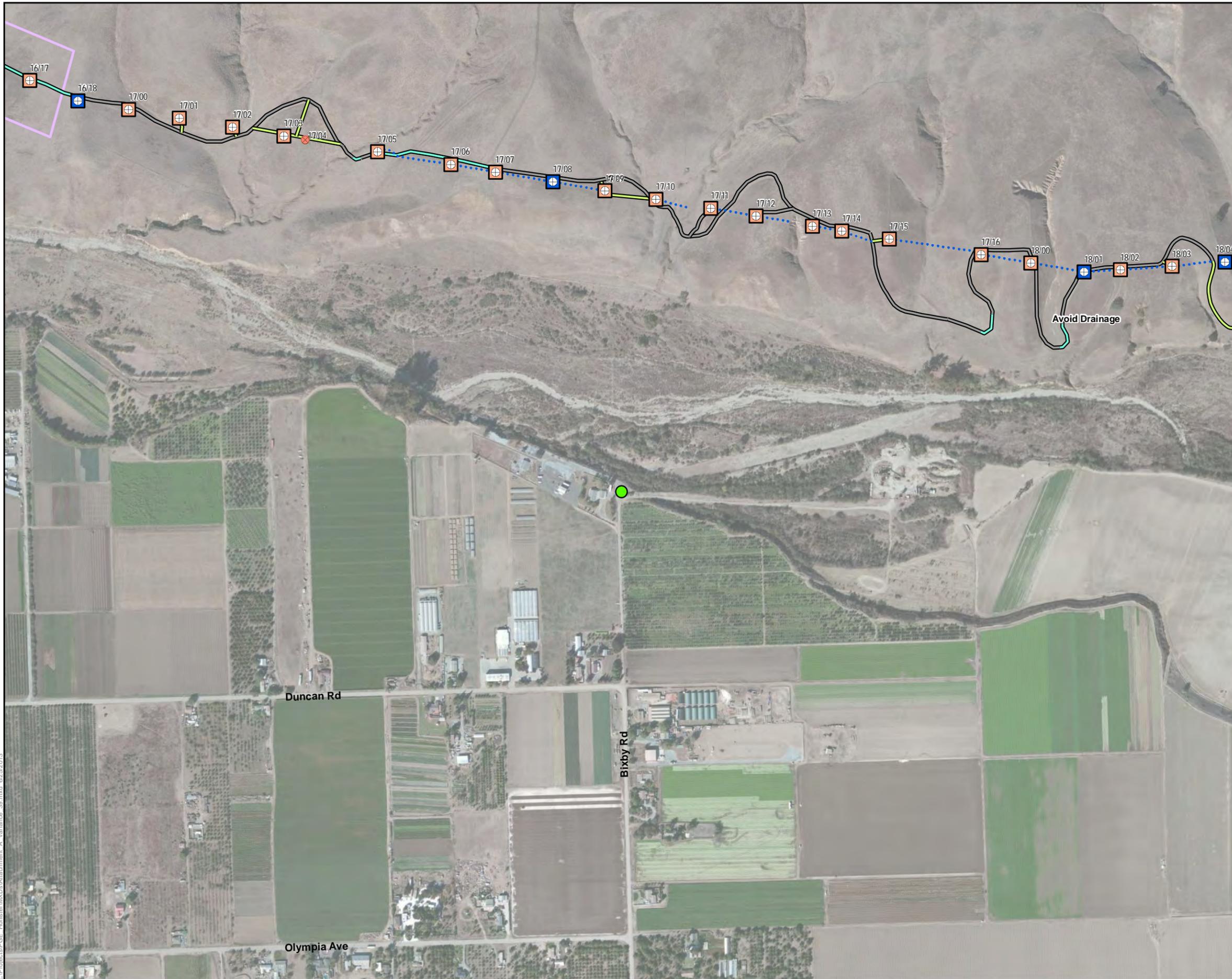
Condition Name:

Conditions:

Attachment A Variance 39 Map

Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

- Temporary Distribution Switch
- ⊕ Existing Pole
- ⊗ Existing Pole to be Removed
- Existing Pole to be Topped
- LDS Location
- TSP Location
- ⋯ ATV
- Existing Road
- Existing Road - Needs Improvement
- New Road
- Overland Travel Route
- High Cultural Resource Sensitivity Area



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

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Photograph 1:

A view to the west showing the location of the proposed temporary switch. Bixby Road runs across the photograph from left to right.



Photograph 2:

A view to the south showing the location of the proposed temporary switch. Bixby Road runs north to south on the lower right side of the photograph.