



Variance Request Form

PG&E Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

Variance Request No.: 41

CONTRACTOR SECTION

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

Photos? Yes No

Landowners: Public road right-of-way

Attachments? Yes No

Current Land Use: Public roadway and residential

- Attachment A: Variance 41 Map
- Attachment B: Photographs

Permit Measure or Specification:

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Project Description
 - Deviation from the project description and project maps to perform work at an existing electric distribution switch and to install temporary grounds.

Detailed Description of Variance:

PG&E is requesting authorization from the CPUC to allow for minor work at an existing distribution switch and to install temporary grounds on a distribution line associated with the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (project). Work at the existing distribution switch and the installation of temporary grounds at this location was not included in the MND. In order to complete reconductoring of the power line, the distribution line will need to be accessed and temporarily put out of service. PG&E's Systems Operations group plans and schedules clearances to facilitate the reconductoring work, manage customer power needs, and provide a safe working environment for construction crews. For the most part, the distribution switches used to temporarily take the distribution line associated with the project out of service are located within work areas identified in the MND. However, in this case, the poles that must be accessed were not previously identified in the MND.

The proposed work will occur at two existing distribution poles located along Buena Vista Road, which is a public road. The location of each pole is shown in Attachment A: Variance 41 Map. The existing distribution switch is located on an existing distribution pole approximately 125 feet southwest of Pole 20/01, as shown in Attachment B: Photographs. In addition, the installation of grounds will occur on an existing distribution pole approximately 90 feet southeast of Pole 19/14, as shown in Attachment B: Photographs. While these locations are outside the work areas depicted in the MND, they are located within the 500-foot survey buffer that was included in the evaluation of the MND.

Providing clearances along the project power line ensures that power outages to customers are minimized and that the power line can be returned to service quickly should it be needed to support the local transmission system. The distribution switch work in conjunction with the installation of temporary grounds is also intended to create a safe work environment by deactivating the flow of electricity through the distribution line during construction activities associated with the project. This variance is necessary because the work at the existing distribution switch and the installation of temporary grounds is required in order to install conductor between Pole 19/14 and Pole 20/00. Both the distribution switch work and installation of grounds must be performed prior to planned clearances that are scheduled on July 30 and 31, 2013 and August 5 and 6, 2013.

All construction activities will be conducted between the pole and the road shoulder, as shown in the Attachment B: Photographs. Although Buena Vista Road is a lightly traveled road, no construction vehicles or equipment will obstruct the flow of traffic.

The work at the existing distribution switch will enable the switch to be activated remotely. The work related to enabling the existing distribution switch to be activated remotely will include manually activating the remote capability of the switch and is anticipated to last approximately 30 minutes on two separate days. This work will require approximately one bucket truck, one crew truck, and between three to five crew members. Additionally, although the distribution switching will be done remotely, periodic activity at this location may be required to ensure the distribution switch is working correctly and to repair the switch if necessary. No excavation or other earthwork is required as a result of the minor work at this switch. The installation of the temporary grounds will require one bucket truck, as well as a small crew consisting of no more than five people. Construction activities to install the temporary grounds will occur twice during the days of the clearances, and each visit is anticipated to last approximately 15 minutes. No excavation or other earthwork is required as a result of the installation of temporary grounding wires.

Variance Justification:

PG&E is requesting this variance because the distribution switch work and installation of temporary grounds were recently determined to be necessary to accommodate the current clearance schedule, minimize power outages to customers during



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power line reconductoring, and to create a safe work environment by deactivating the flow of electricity through the distribution line while construction crews are conducting activities on the line. Construction activities associated with this variance will occur within a portion of and adjacent to a public road right-of-way, and will be short in duration. The potential impacts associated with this variance are consistent with those evaluated during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis 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. Applicable 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> No new sources of light or glare will be introduced to the area from the work at the existing distribution switch or the installation grounds. The proposed work will not adversely affect the quality of the site and its surroundings. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the proposed construction activities will not create any new or additional impacts to aesthetics.
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The work at the existing distribution switch and installation of grounds will not significantly impact agricultural activities because the work will occur at existing distribution poles and the work will be conducted from a public road shoulder. As a result, the proposed construction activities will not impact agricultural or forestry resources.
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities are located on existing distribution poles along a public roadway surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The work is proposed to occur from the road shoulder and will not increase traffic beyond what was analyzed in the MND. In addition, the proposed construction activities 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. Construction activities 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 proposed work will not create new or additional impacts to air quality or greenhouse gas emissions.



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Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities are located on existing distribution poles along a public roadway surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The proposed work would occur from the road, which is used for local traffic and farm equipment. The proposed distribution poles are not located within 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. Pre-construction surveys for San Joaquin kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>), western burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>), and American badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) have been conducted and a memo was submitted to the CPUC on July 11, 2013. In addition, surveys for California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and nesting birds will be conducted immediately prior to the proposed construction activities. 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. The proposed construction activities 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 proposed work will not create new or additional impacts to biological resources.</p>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities are 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. Therefore, the proposed work will not impact cultural resources.</p>
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities are limited in size and scope. The proposed work will occur above ground at existing distribution poles and no new impacts to geology, soils, and seismicity are anticipated.</p>
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities 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 proposed work will not create new or additional impacts from hazards or hazardous materials.</p>
Hydrology and Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will not occur within or near any hydrologic features. In addition, no excavation or other earthwork will occur as a result of the proposed construction activities. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the proposed work will not create new or additional impacts to hydrology or water quality.</p>
Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will be conducted from the public road at existing distribution poles. Therefore, proposed construction activities will not impact current or planned land uses.</p>
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities are not located on any known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed construction activities will not impact mineral resources.</p>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p><i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will not result in new impacts from noise because the distribution poles where they will be installed are located on a public road, which is currently used for local traffic and farm equipment. In addition, the proposed construction activities are limited in size and scope and will be short in duration. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the proposed work will</p>



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		not create new or additional impacts from noise.
Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will not induce population growth or displace existing housing or people.
Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will not result in any impacts on public services because construction activities will be of relatively short duration. 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. Therefore, proposed construction activities will not impact public services.
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> Impacts to recreational resources will not increase substantially beyond those identified in the MND because the proposed construction activities are not located near any recreational facilities. The proposed construction activities 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 proposed construction activities 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 construction activities are located on distribution poles along a public roadway surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The proposed work would occur from the edge of road and road shoulder, which is used for local traffic and farm equipment, and will not block the travelled way. The proposed construction activities will not result in new impacts to transportation or traffic because the activities will not create new routes for transportation. The proposed construction activities 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 the proposed construction activities. Environmental protection measures will be implemented as described in the MND. Therefore, potential impacts are consistent with those evaluated in the MND, and the proposed work will not create new or additional impacts to transportation or traffic.
Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<i>No Change.</i> The proposed construction activities will not result in any new impacts to existing utilities 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	Lauren Huff	LH	07/24/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Lead Environmental Inspector	Nick Fisher	NF	07/24/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Biologist (if applicable)	Andrea Henke	AH	07/24/13	<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	07/24/13	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PG&E Project Manager (if applicable)	Mike Montoya	MM	07/24/13	<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 CDFW 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 CDFW 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
CDFW		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:

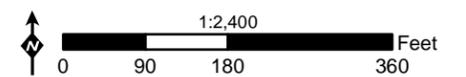
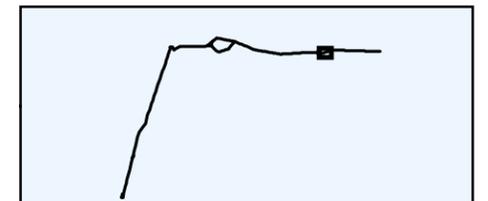
Condition Name:

Conditions:

**Attachment A
Variance 41 Map**

**Hollister 115 kV Power Line
Reconductoring Project**

- Existing Distribution Switch
- ▲ Temporary Grounds
- ⊕ Existing Pole
- ⊗ Existing Pole to be Removed
- Existing Pole to be Topped
- LDS Location
- TSP Location
- Overland Travel Route
- High Cultural Resource Sensitivity Area



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



Photograph 1:

A view of the proposed location for the temporary grounds southeast of Pole 19/14. Buena Vista Road is located directly adjacent to the distribution pole and the project is visible in the background.



Photograph 2:

A view of the proposed location for the existing distribution switch southwest of Pole 20/01. Buena Vista Road is located directly adjacent to the distribution pole and the Pole 20/01 is visible in the background.