

# PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT

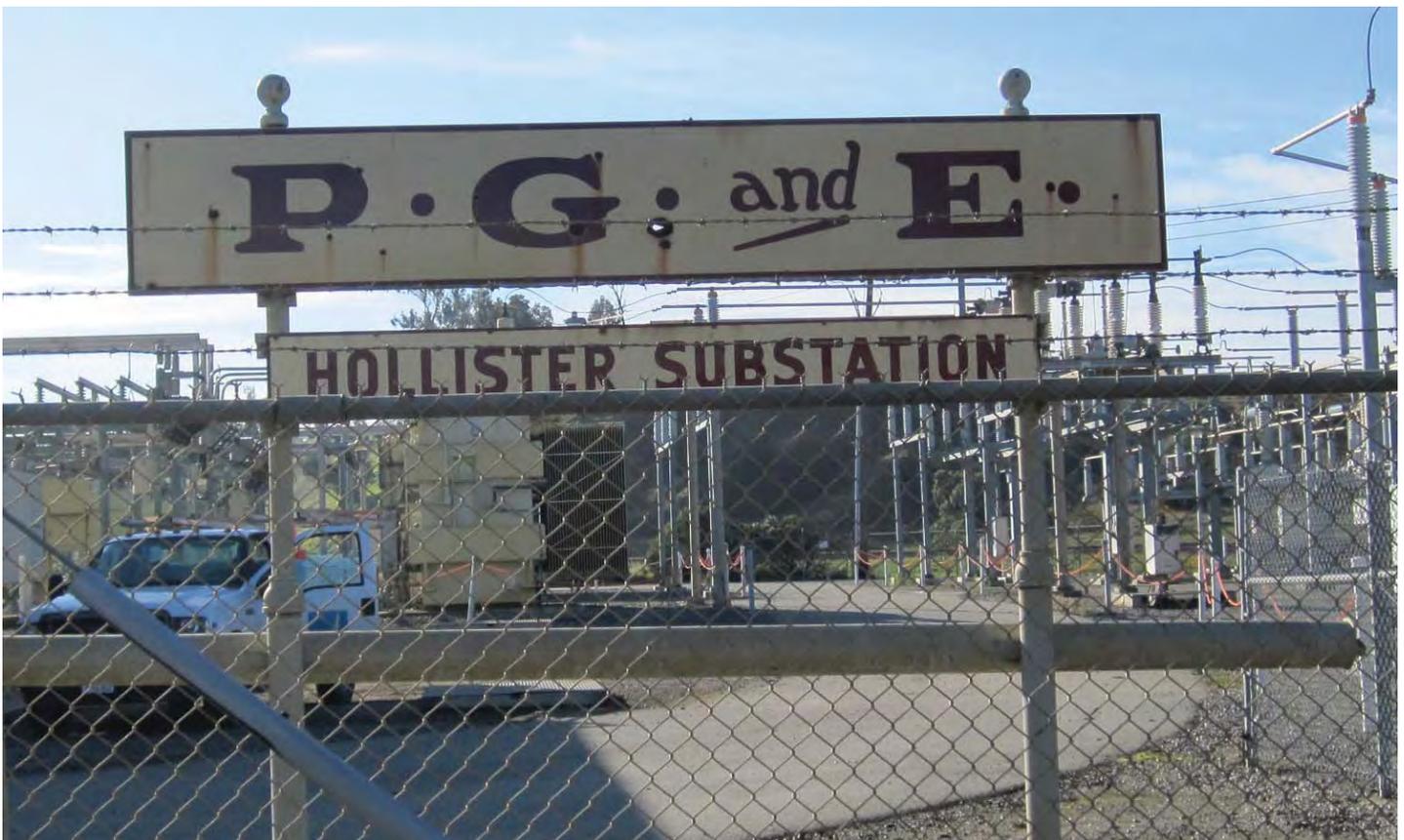
Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
CPUC A.09-11-016

Lead Agency

January 2011



California Public Utilities  
Commission



# PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT

Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
CPUC A.09-11-016

Lead Agency

January 2011



California Public Utilities  
Commission

Prepared by ESA

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# SECTION 1

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## Introduction

### 1.1 CEQA Process

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (GO) 131-D, the CPUC prepared an Initial Study to address the application from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) (A.09-11-016) for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the proposed Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (Proposed Project). The Initial Study determined that the Proposed Project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) was prepared by the CPUC.

On November 16, 2010, the CPUC filed a Notice of Completion (NOC) with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse), published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and released the Draft IS/MND for a 30-day public review period. The Draft IS/MND was distributed to federal, state, and local agency representatives, property owners within 300 feet of the Proposed Project, and other interested individuals as outlined in Appendix D of the Draft IS/MND. Additionally, a Public Notice was published twice in the general circulation newspaper announcing the availability of the Draft IS/MND for public review in compliance with CEQA. In accordance with Section 15105(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the public review and comment period began on November 16, 2010, and ended on December 17, 2010. A public information meeting was held on December 2, 2010, in Hollister, California to hear oral comments on the Draft IS/MND. No oral comments were received. Copies of all written comments received on the Draft IS/MND are contained in this Final IS/MND.<sup>2</sup>

This Final IS/MND has been prepared pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines,<sup>3</sup> which outlines all aspects of the preparation of the Draft IS/MND and its review, as well as the subsequent steps to preparing a Notice of Decision. This document incorporates comments received during the public review period, and contains responses by the Lead Agency (the CPUC) to those comments. The comments received resulted in minor changes to the Draft IS/MND and the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan (MMRCP). The sole intent and purpose of the Final IS/MND is to provide corrections and clarity to certain facts set forth in the Draft IS/MND,

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<sup>2</sup> The Final IS/MND is a combination of this Response to Comments Document and the Draft IS/MND included as Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Sections 15000 – 15387 and Appendices, accessible at [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/guidelines/](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/)

if necessary, to ensure accuracy. No new significant environmental impacts are identified in this Final IS/MND.

Additionally, no mitigation measures presented in the Draft IS/MND were deleted, but minor modifications were made to Mitigation Measures 3.4-1, 3.4-3, 3.4-5, and 3.11-1 in the MMRCP.

The Final IS/MND is an informational document prepared by the CPUC to be used by decision makers before approving or denying a proposed project. The Final IS/MND consists of the following:

- (a) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft IS/MND;
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft IS/MND either verbatim or in summary, including responses to same; and
- (c) The Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan (MMRCP).

## 1.2 Public Review Process

On November 16, 2010, the CPUC mailed a notice to relevant agencies, organizations and individuals residing in the Proposed Project area, announcing that the Draft IS/MND was available for public review. The CPUC established a comment fax line (415) 896-0332, e-mail address (hollister@esassoc.com), and web site (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/hollister/hollister.html>.) to enable the public to ask questions, provide comments, and obtain additional information on the Proposed Project analyzed in the Draft IS/MND.

Additionally, the CPUC held a public information meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at Gabilan Hills School, 921 Santa Ana Road, Suite 100, Hollister, California between 6:30 and 8:30pm. No comments were made during this public informational meeting.

In accordance with Section 15105(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the public review and comment period for the Draft IS/MND began on November 16, 2010, and ended on December 17, 2010. All comments received are presented and discussed in this document.

## 1.3 Comments on the Draft IS/MND

No oral comments were made at the public information meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2010.

The following agencies/organizations submitted written comments on the Draft IS/MND during the public review period. Dates of submittal are noted.

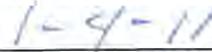
- California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region (December 7, 2010)
- California Department of Transportation, District 5 (December 14, 2010)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Field Office (December 16, 2010)
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (December 17, 2010)

## 1.4 Findings

Based on the analysis conducted in this Final IS/MND, the CPUC has found, on the basis of the whole record before it (including all project application materials, the Initial Study/Draft IS/MND, public comments received, and other materials), that there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project may have a potential significant environmental impact. Project features and mitigation measures identified in the Final IS/MND and required as a condition of certification of approval for the Proposed Project would avoid or reduce all of the impacts to a less-than-significant level.



Mary Jo Borak, CEQA Supervisor  
Energy Division  
California Public Utilities Commission



Date

# SECTION 2

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## Comments and Responses

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter includes copies of the comment letters received during the public review period on the Draft IS/MND and the responses to those comments. A total of four comment letters were received from public agencies/organizations in response to the Draft IS/MND for PG&E's Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring Project application (A.09-011-016). No letters were received from individuals.

### 2.2 List of Comment Letters Received

The comment letters received on the Draft IS/MND are listed below in Table 2-1 in order of date. Each comment letter has been assigned a corresponding alphabet letter designation.

**TABLE 2-1  
LIST OF WRITTEN COMMENTERS**

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Date</b>
A	California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region	December 7, 2010
B	California Department of Transportation, District 5	December 14, 2010
C	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office	December 16, 2010
D	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	December 17, 2010

### 2.3 Public Meeting Comments and Responses

A public meeting was held on December 2, 2010, at 6:30 pm at Gabilan Hills School, 921 Santa Ana Road, Suite 100, Hollister, California. Attendees were: Monisha Gangopadhyay (CPUC), Matthew Fagundes and Julie Holst (ESA), and Rod Parame and Andy Smith (PG&E). No members of the public attended the meeting and no public comments were made.

## 2.4 Responses to Comments

This section contains responses to all of the substantive comments received on the Draft IS/MND during the public review period from November 16, 2010 through December 17, 2010. Each comment letter or oral commenter was assigned a letter according to the system identified previously (e.g., A, B, etc.). Each substantive comment was assigned a comment number (e.g., A-1, A-2, etc.). On the following pages of this section, each comment letter is reproduced in its entirety followed by the responses to each comment within the letter. The comments received resulted in minor revisions to the Draft IS/MND, as addressed in this section.

### Comment Letter A



DEC-09-10 12:13 FROM-DFG  
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 Central Region  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue  
 Fresno, California 93710  
 (559) 243-4005  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

559 2433004 T-413 P-002/006 F-982

JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



December 7, 2010

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 505 Van Ness Avenue  
 San Francisco, California 94102

Subject: Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring Project SCH No. 2010111065

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) is in receipt of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the PG&E Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (Project). Project approval would allow for the replacement of power line structures, including 36 existing towers, reconductoring of approximately 16 mile long section of power line, and upgrades to the Hollister substation. An approximately 1.3 mile section will be relocated out of the San Benito River floodplain to a new river crossing. The Project is anticipated to take approximately 15 months to complete all phases.

A-1

The MND identifies that the Project has the potential to impact State- and Federally listed species including the State and Federally threatened California tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*, CTS), and State threatened and Federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*, SJKF), along with other California Species of Special Concern (CSSC). The Project as described identifies that it would have a significant effect on the environment and therefore has proposed mitigation measures to minimize impacts to biological resources. Please be advised that CTS, as of May 2010, has been listed as State threatened by the California Fish and Game Commission. The Department has regulatory authority over projects that could result in "take" of any species listed by the State as threatened or endangered. Due to the assumed presence of CTS on-site and the potential for "take" of the species, the Project would require an Incidental Take Permit from the Department.

A-2

**Department Jurisdiction**

**Trustee Agency Role:** The Department is a Trustee Agency with the responsibility under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for commenting on projects that could impact plant and wildlife resources. Pursuant to Fish and Game Code

A-3

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Comment Letter A

DEC-00-10 12103 FROM:DFG

ISS 2433004

T-411 P-003/006 F-981

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
December 7, 2010  
Page 2

Section 1802, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. As a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources, the Department is responsible for providing, as available, biological expertise to review and comment on environmental documents and impacts arising from project activities, as those terms are used under CEQA.

**Responsible Agency Role:** The Department is a Responsible Agency when a subsequent permit or other type of discretionary approval is required from the Department, such as an Incidental Take Permit (ITP), pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or a Lake and/or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) issued under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 et seq.

The Department has regulatory authority over projects that could result in the "take" of any species listed by the State as threatened or endangered, or designated as a candidate for listing, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081. If the Project could result in the "take" of any species pursuant to CESA, the Department may need to issue an ITP for the Project. CEQA requires a Mandatory Finding of Significance if a project is likely to substantially impact threatened or endangered species (Sections 21001(c), 21083, Guidelines Sections 15380, 15064, 15065). Significant impacts must be avoided or "fully mitigated" in order for "take" authorization to be issued by the Department, and while the CEQA Lead Agency may make a supported Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), the Department cannot issue a "take" authorization unless all impacts have been "minimized and fully mitigated" (Fish and Game Code Section 2081).

The CEQA Lead Agency's SOC does not eliminate the Project proponent's obligation to comply with CESA. In other words, compliance with CESA does not automatically occur based on local agency project approvals or CEQA compliance; consultation with the Department is warranted to ensure that Project implementation does not result in unauthorized "take" of a State-listed species.

Incidental "take" authority is required prior to engaging in "take" of any plant or animal species listed under CESA. Plants listed as threatened or endangered under CESA cannot be addressed by methods described in the Native Plant Protection Act. No direct or indirect disturbance, including translocation, may legally occur to State-listed species prior to the applicant obtaining incidental "take" authority in the form of an ITP.

↑  
A-3  
cont.

**Comment Letter A**

DEC-09-10 12:14 FROM:DFG

559 2459004

T-413 F 004/006 F-982

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
 December 7, 2010  
 Page 3

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 et seq., the Department has regulatory authority with regard to activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect any fish or wildlife resource. Given the Project description provided in the MND (river crossing realignment), this Project may require an LSAA. We recommend that the Project proponent submit a Streambed Alteration Notification to the Department for this Project. The Department will then determine whether an LSAA is necessary.

A-4

The Department is required to comply with CEQA in the issuance or the renewal of an LSAA; therefore, for efficiency in environmental compliance, we recommend that any stream disturbance be described and mitigation for the disturbance be developed as part of the environmental review process. This will reduce the need for the Department to require extensive additional environmental review for an LSAA for this Project in the future. For additional information on notification requirements, please contact our staff for the Lake and Stream Alteration Program in Fresno, at (559) 243-4593.

A-5

**Permit Streamlining:** Issuance of an LSAA and/or an ITP by the Department is considered a "project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) and is subject to CEQA. The Department typically relies on the Lead Agency's CEQA compliance to make our own findings. For the Lead Agency's CEQA document to suffice for permit/agreement issuance, it must commit to fully describing the potential Project-related impacts to stream/riparian resources and listed species, as well as measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to these resources. Impacts to State-listed species must be "fully mitigated" in order to comply with CESA (California Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b)(2)). If the CEQA document issued by the County for this Project does not contain this information, the Department may need to act as a Lead CEQA Agency and complete a subsequent CEQA document. This could significantly delay permit issuance and, subsequently, Project implementation. For that reason, it is very important that the MND reflect suitable avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation, such that we are able to meet our permit issuance criteria, and make findings per CEQA. In addition, CEQA grants Responsible Agencies authority to require changes in a Project to lessen or avoid effects of that part of the Project which the Responsible Agency will be called on to approve (CEQA Guidelines Section 15041).

A-6

**Bird Protection:** The Department has jurisdiction over actions that may result in the disturbance or destruction of active nest sites or the unauthorized "take" of birds. Sections of the Fish and Game Code that protect birds, their eggs and nests include Sections 3503 (regarding unlawful "take," possession or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird), 3503.5 (regarding the "take," possession or destruction of any birds-of-prey or their nests or eggs), and 3513 (regarding unlawful "take" of any migratory nongame bird).

A-7

## Comment Letter A

DEC-09-10 12:14 FROM-DFG

559 2493004

T-413 P.008/008 P-882

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
December 7, 2010  
Page 4

**California Tiger Salamander (CTS):** As identified in the MND and in the Biological Assessment, CTS are known to occur on and/or near the Project site. The MND also identified areas of the Project site as suitable upland habitat for CTS, and indicates that suitable breeding habitat exists in ponds off-site, adjacent to the Project. The Project is likely to result in permanent impacts to 0.98 acres and temporary impacts to 65.52 acres of suitable upland habitat. The Project is also likely to temporarily impact 0.20 acres of suitable aquatic habitat. Based on the potential for CTS to be present on the Project site, the Department recommends that authorization for "take" be acquired through an ITP. Included in the ITP would be measures required to avoid and/or minimize direct "take" of CTS on the Project site, as well as measures to fully mitigate the impact of the "take." Permit guidance can be found at:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/haboon/cesa/incidental/incid\\_perm\\_proced.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/haboon/cesa/incidental/incid_perm_proced.html)

The MND proposes to mitigate for impacts to CTS through an approved mitigation bank. Please be advised that currently there is not an approved conservation bank within the service area of the Project for CTS. Further, if a mitigation bank is used rather than Project-specific mitigation land acquisition, use of a State approved mitigation bank would be necessary to satisfy ITP requirements. The Department recommends that mitigation land be acquired that supports suitable habitat for CTS. The Department will consider the appropriateness of any proposed compensation in consideration of the total conservation strategy, including size and location of compensation lands and long-term management, to determine overall benefits to CTS.

**San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF):** The MND identifies SJKF as potentially occurring in the Project area and that it contains suitable habitat for denning and foraging. Due to the chance that SJKF could occur on the Project site, the Department recommends that the applicant request SJKF coverage in their application for an ITP from the Department. Coverage for SJKF can be combined with incidental "take" coverage for CTS. Mitigation land acquired for CTS that supports suitable habitat for SJKF can be utilized to meet mitigation requirements for the species. As with CTS, the Department will consider the appropriateness of any proposed compensation in consideration of the total conservation strategy, including size and location of compensation lands and long-term management, to determine overall benefits to SJKF.

**Avoidable Wildlife Impacts from Erosion Control Mesh Products:** Due to this Project site's extensive wildlife habitat interface, the Department requests that erosion control and landscaping specifications allow only natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes and coir rolls. "Photodegradable" and other plastic mesh products have been found to persist in the environment, ensnaring and killing terrestrial wildlife. Reptile and amphibian deaths resulting from the use of plastic mesh products are well-documented. We believe requiring the use of biodegradable products would be a feasible mitigation measure to reduce impacts to wildlife species.

A-8

A-9

A-10

A-11

## Comment Letter A

DEC-09-10 12:15 FROM-DFG

000 2493004

T-413 P 005/006 F-992

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
December 7, 2010  
Page 5

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the PG&E Hollister Power Line Reconductoring Project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Brandon Sanderson, Environmental Scientist, at 3196 Higuera Street, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, California 93401, by telephone at (805) 594-6141, or by email at [bsanderson@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bsanderson@dfg.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.  
Regional Manager

ec: Lena Chang  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
[Lena\\_Chang@fws.gov](mailto:Lena_Chang@fws.gov)

Danielle Wilson  
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Andy Smith  
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Deborah Hillyard  
Mike Hill  
Brandon Sanderson  
Department of Fish and Game

## Letter A – California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region

Response A-1 The comment is an introductory statement that acknowledges receipt of the Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and summarizes the Proposed Project. No response is necessary.

Response A-2 The commenter advises that the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has listed California tiger salamander as State threatened, and that an Incidental Take Permit would be required from CDFG. It is acknowledged that PG&E may be required to obtain an Incidental Take Permit for California tiger salamander. To reflect the change in status from candidate to threatened, the California tiger salamander row in Draft IS/MND Table 3.4-1 has been revised as follows.

**TABLE 3.4-1  
FOCUSED LIST OF SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED FOR THE  
HOLLISTER 115 kV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

<b>Common Name Scientific Name</b>	<b>Listing Status USFWS/CDFG/ CNPS</b>	<b>General Habitat Requirements</b>	<b>Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area</b>
<b>FEDERAL AND STATE LISTED SPECIES OR PROPOSED FOR LISTING</b>			
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Amphibians</b>			
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT/ <del>CC</del> CI	Wintering sites occur in grasslands; breed in fresh emergent and seasonal wetlands, and slow-moving or receding streams.	<b>Presumed present.</b> This species is presumed present based on USFWS guidance. At least 56 potential breeding locations are known within 1.2 miles of the project area. Small mammal burrows offer aestivation and foraging opportunities.

**STATUS CODES:**

FEDERAL: (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

FE = Listed as Endangered (in danger of extinction) by the Federal Government.

FT = Listed as Threatened (likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future) by the Federal Government.

FC = Candidate to become a *proposed* species.

FSC = Federal Species of Concern. May be Endangered or Threatened, but not enough biological information has been gathered to support listing at this time.

STATE: (California Department of Fish and Game)

CE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California

CT = Listed as Threatened by the State of California

CC= Candidate to become a proposed species

CSC = California Species of Special Concern

SOURCE: CDFG, 2010; USFWS, 2009; ICF, 2009

In addition, the first sentence of the fourth paragraph on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-16 has been revised to clearly indicate that California tiger salamander is State-listed as well as federally-listed.

California tiger salamander (a State-listed and federally-listed species) and California red-legged frog, ~~both~~ (a federally-listed species), are presumed present in the project area, with more than 45 potential breeding locations within 1.24 miles (ICF International, 2009).

- Response A-3 The commenter describes CDFG's jurisdiction over the Proposed Project, including its role as a Trustee Agency and Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CDFG's jurisdiction over the Proposed Project is acknowledged.
- Response A-4 The commenter points out that a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) may be required for the Proposed Project. As indicated in Draft IS/MND Section 2.11, *Required Permits and Approvals*, and the Draft IS/MND Biological Resources item c) discussion on pages 3.8-16 and 3.8-17, it is acknowledged that PG&E would be required to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.
- Response A-5 The commenter recommends that any stream disturbance be described and mitigated as part of the environmental review process. For descriptions of the short-term and long-term stream disturbances that would occur under the Proposed Project and the associated required Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and CPUC-identified Mitigation Measures, refer to Draft IS/MND Section 3.8, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, item c) discussion on pages 3.8-16 through 3.8-18.
- Response A-6 The commenter notes that in order for the CDFG to rely on the IS/MND for its permit/agreement issuance, the IS/MND must adequately describe the potential project-related impacts to stream/riparian resources and listed species and associated avoidance, minimization, and compensation mitigation; however, the commenter makes no indication that the IS/MND does not contain such analysis and requirements. For Proposed Project-related impacts to stream/riparian resources and listed species and associated avoidance, minimization, and compensation APMs and CPUC-identified Mitigation Measures, refer to Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, items a) and b) discussions on pages 3.4-15 through 3.4-24.
- Response A-7 The commenter notes CDFG's jurisdiction with regard to protecting birds. To acknowledge CDFG code section 3513 as it pertains to the protection of birds, their eggs, and nests, the first sentence of the *Protection of Nesting Birds* California Fish and Game Code regulatory discussion on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-9 has been revised as follows.

Nesting birds are protected under CDFG code sections 3503 ~~and~~, 3503.5, and 3513, which make it (1) unlawful to take, possess, or destroy the nests or eggs or any such bird of prey except as otherwise provided by the code; and (2) protect the active nests of all other birds (except house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)).

Response A-8 The commenter recommends that authorization for “take” associated with the California tiger salamander be acquired by PG&E through an incidental take permit. Comment noted.

Response A-9 The commenter notes that the IS/MND includes mitigation for the California tiger salamander through compensation secured at an approved mitigation bank; however, there is currently no approved conservation bank for the California tiger salamander within the service area of the project. Therefore, the seventh bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 identified on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-17 has been revised as follows to allow for USFWS and CDFG –approved options should there be no approved bank to service the needs of the Proposed Project.

- Temporary impacts to upland habitat will be compensated at a 0.5:1 ratio (i.e., restoration of temporarily disturbed areas, plus permanent conservation of an additional area at a 0.5:1 ratio) and permanent impacts to upland and aquatic habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio or at ratios as prescribed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. ~~Compensation will be secured at an approved, off-site mitigation bank, with documentation provided to the resource agencies (i.e., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game) at least 4 weeks before construction begins.~~ Mitigation shall be provided on-site through habitat enhancement and preservation, or through an alternative arrangement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). No agency-approved mitigation banks currently service the Proposed Project area; therefore, if an approved bank is not established prior to Proposed Project construction that can service mitigation needs for the Proposed Project, then at the discretion of the USFWS and CDFG funds may be (a) set aside in escrow toward the establishment of a regional California tiger salamander mitigation bank, or (b) paid to establish a California tiger salamander conservation program locally or in another region, for the purpose of acquiring suitable habitat.

Response A-10 The commenter notes that coverage for San Joaquin kit fox can be combined with incidental “take” coverage for the California tiger salamander and that CDFG will consider the appropriateness of any associated proposed compensation. For CPUC identified San Joaquin kit fox protection measures, including proposed compensation ratios, refer to Mitigation Measure 3.4-4 identified on Draft IS/MND pages 3.4-20 and 3.4-21.

Response A-11 The commenter requests that erosion control and landscaping specifications allow only natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes and coir rolls. Therefore, a new bullet has been added after the third bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 identified on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-17 as follows to require the use of natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes, and coir rolls for erosion control and landscaping specifications.

- All erosion control and landscaping specifications shall be restricted to natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes and coir rolls.

## Comment Letter B

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 FIGUERA STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415  
PHONE (805) 549-3101  
FAX (805) 549-3077  
TDD (805) 549-3259  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/>



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

December 14, 2010

SBt-156/25/156  
SCH# 2010111065

Monisha Gangopadhyay  
Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay:

#### COMMENTS TO HOLLISTER POWER LINE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 5, Development Review, has reviewed the above referenced project and offers the following comments.

- The powerline project appears to cross or impact locations of State right-of-way at Highway 156, 129, and 25. Any work within the State right-of-way will require an encroachment permit issued from Caltrans. Detailed information such as complete drawings, biological and cultural resource findings, hydraulic calculations, environmental reports, traffic study, etc., may need to be submitted as part of the encroachment permit process.

B-1

If you have any questions, or need further clarification on items discussed above, please don't hesitate to call me at (805) 542-4751.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. OLEJNIK  
Associate Transportation Planner  
District 5 Development Review Coordinator

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*

## Letter B – California Department of Transportation, District 5

Response B-1 As indicated on Draft IS/MND Section 3.15.2, the commenter notes that PG&E would be required to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans for any work that would occur within a State roadway and also notes the information that may need to be provided to Caltrans as part of the encroachment permit process. As indicated in Draft IS/MND Section 2.11, *Required Permits and Approvals*, and the Draft IS/MND Transportation and Traffic item a) discussion on pages 3.15-5 and 3.15-6, it is acknowledged that PG&E would be required to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans for any construction activities that would occur over a State roadway.

Comment Letter C



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
81440-2011-CPA-0029

December 16, 2010

Monisha Gangopadhyay
Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project
Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, California 94104-4207

Subject: Comments on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the
Pacific Gas and Electric Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay:

This letter provides the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) comments on the draft initial
study and mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) for the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
Hollister 115 kilovolt (kV) Power Line Reconductoring Project. An electronic copy of the
document was received by our office on November 19, 2010.

Pacific Gas & Electric is proposing a 16-mile long power line reconductoring project, replacing
the conductors (wires) on the two segments (the Hollister Tower Segment and the Hollister Pole
Segment) of the 115 kV electric power line system. Additionally, the project includes a
proposed river crossing, and an upgrade to the Hollister Substation. The 7-mile long Hollister
Tower Segment follows a path from the Lagunitas Switching Station, located at the intersection
of Crazy Horse Canyon Road and San Juan Grade Road in Monterey County, extending
northeast to the Anzar Junction near the intersection of Highway 101 and State route 156, 1.5
miles northwest of the city of San Juan Bautista in San Benito County. The 9-mile long Hollister
Pole Segment begins near the Anzar Junction at the north end of the Hollister Tower Segment,
extending east to the Hollister Substation, located north of the city of Hollister, approximately
0.25 mile west of San Felipe Road. An approximately 1.3-mile section of the Hollister Pole
Segment is proposed to be relocated out of the San Benito River floodplain (the existing river
alignment) to approximately 0.57 mile north of the existing alignment, spanning the San Benito
River with structures located on dry banks above the river.

The Hollister Tower Segment would be constructed with new towers that are similar in design to
the existing lattice steel towers. Approximately 36 towers would be replaced along the existing
alignment, and approximately 2 towers would be retained. The span length between towers
would range from approximately 51 to 1,847 feet, with an average span of approximately 850
feet. The existing towers would be dismantled and removed. A crane or helicopter would be
used to take down the tower and remove it from the project area. Where removal could

C-1



## Comment Letter C

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Monisha Gangopadhyay

otherwise cause extensive environmental impacts, towers would be partially dismantled, with the bases left behind. Tower footings would be cut down to below ground level or left depending on the environmental sensitivity of the site. New towers would be approximately the same height (averaging 82 feet above ground) and would have approximately the same tower base dimensions as the existing towers.

The Hollister Pole Segment would be reconstructed using a combination of both tubular steel poles (TSP) and light-duty steel (LDS) poles. Approximately 154 existing poles would be replaced with a combination of 30 TSPs and 135 LDS poles (165 total) in the same alignment, except for the proposed river crossing. The poles would be rusted brown in appearance, ranging from approximately 70 to 95 feet in height and from approximately 2 to 7 feet in diameter at the base (existing wood poles are approximately 3 to 4 feet at the base). Span lengths between the poles would range from approximately 94 to 935 feet, with the average span being approximately 295 feet. A heavy crane would be necessary to install the TSPs, while LDS poles can be installed without the use of a heavy crane. Existing poles in this segment are 60 to 90 feet in height. New poles are proposed to be 70 to 95 feet in height. Both the Hollister Pole Segment and Hollister Tower Segment would involve reconstruction of the existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission line as a double-circuit 115 kV subtransmission line, utilizing 0.846-inch (diameter) conductors for each circuit. Each circuit would have three conductors with a minimum ground to conductor clearance of 30 feet.

Approximately 12 wood poles are located in the floodplain of the San Benito River (the existing river alignment). These existing wood poles in the floodplain would be "topped" (shortened by removing the existing power line and cutting down the excess length to the level of the lower distribution line), allowing the existing distribution line to continue to serve nearby customers. Approximately five additional wood poles that are located in the agricultural field west of the river would be topped in a similar manner. Approximately 8 poles would be removed from this segment, and approximately 21 new steel poles (4 TSPs and 17 LDS poles) would be installed to accommodate the proposed river crossing. To span the river and keep the new power line out of the floodplain, 4 TSPs, approximately 92 feet in height are proposed to be installed outside of each bank of the river channel.

PG&E also proposes an upgrade to the Hollister Substation has been proposed. The proposed upgrade includes relocating two existing poles on the substation property, updating relay settings, and changing the 115 kV bus conductors.

The Service's responsibilities include administering the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), including sections 7, 9, and 10. Section 9 of the Act prohibits the taking of any federally listed endangered or threatened species. Section 3(18) of the Act defines "take" to mean "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Harm is further defined by the Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Harass is

C-1  
cont.

C-2

## Comment Letter C

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Monisha Gangopadhyay

defined by the Service as intentional or negligent actions that create the likelihood of injury to a listed species by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. The Act provides for civil and criminal penalties for the unlawful taking of listed species. Exemptions to the prohibitions against take may be obtained through coordination with the Service in two ways. If a project is to be funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency, and may affect a listed species, the Federal agency must consult with the Service pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Act. If a proposed project does not involve a Federal agency but may result in the take of a listed animal species, the project proponent should apply to the Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act.

↑  
C-2  
cont.

As it is not our primary responsibility to comment on documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), our comments on the draft IS/MND for the Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project will not constitute a full review of project impacts. Rather, they will focus on those sections that address impacts to migratory birds.

Applicant proposed measures BIO-20 through BIO-22 require tree trimming and vegetation removal to occur during the non-breeding season, along with tower removal if possible; preconstruction surveys during the breeding season, development of a project-specific avian protection plan, and helicopter avoidance of active nests. However, the draft IS/MND states that even with these measures, the proposed project could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on nesting birds.

PG&E proposes measures to protect of nesting birds and raptors, including an avian protection plan. An active golden eagle nest is believed to be located along the Hollister Tower Segment on a hill near towers 4/25 and 4/26. Tower 4/25 has been identified as a "helicopter access only" area proposed for vegetation clearing and/or trimming and a tower replacement, and a proposed crane pad is in located at tower 4/26.

C-3

Although the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagle are not federally listed species, they are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). On September 11, 2009, the Service announced a final rule on two new permit regulations that would allow for the take of eagles and eagle nests under the Eagle Act (Service 2009). Bald eagles were removed from the endangered species list in June 2007 because their populations recovered sufficiently; however, the protections under the Eagle Act continue to apply. When the bald eagle was delisted, the Service proposed regulations to create a permit program to authorize limited take of bald eagles and golden eagles where take is associated with otherwise lawful activities. The permits will authorize limited, non-purposeful take of bald eagles and golden eagles, authorizing individuals, companies, government agencies (including tribal governments), and other organizations to disturb or otherwise take eagles in the course of conducting lawful activities such as operating utilities and airports. More information is available on the internet at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm>.

## Comment Letter C

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Monisha Gangopadhyay

We have concerns regarding potential project-related impacts, including helicopter and crane use and vegetation clearance and management, on both federally listed and non-listed migratory birds, particularly if work is to be conducted during the breeding season. With the recently developed permit regulations for bald and golden eagles, and the potential for nesting birds and/or federally listed birds to occur in the project area, coordination with the CDFG and observance of CDFG guidelines, as described in mitigation measure 3.4-5, is necessary but not sufficient. We recommend seeking further coordination with the Service's division of Migratory Birds to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to avoid project related impacts to migratory birds. This may include obtaining permits, if necessary, and receiving guidance on the development of the project-specific avian protection plan. Please contact Dr. Eric Kershner with the office of Migratory Birds at (760) 431-9440 for more information.

C-4

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the draft IS/MND for the PG&E Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project. If you have any questions, please contact Lena Chang of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 302.

Sincerely,

Douglass M. Cooper  
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor

## Comment Letter C

### LITERATURE CITED

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Eagle permits; take necessary to protect interests in particular localities; final rules. Federal Register 74:46836-46879, September 11,2009.

## Letter C – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office

- Response C-1 The comment is an introductory statement that acknowledges receipt of the Draft IS/MND and summarizes the Proposed Project. No response is necessary.
- Response C-2 The commenter describes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)'s responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and amended (Act). The USFWS's responsibilities under the Act are acknowledged.
- Response C-3 The commenter indicates that the USFWS review of the draft IS/MND focused on sections that address migratory birds. The comment also summarizes the Draft IS/MND's analysis on nesting birds and raptures, including PG&E's associated Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs), and concludes with a summary of the Bald and Golden Eagle Act (Eagle Act) and the current federal listing status of the bald eagle. The comment is acknowledged.
- Response C-4 The commenter indicates that Mitigation Measure 3.4-5 is not sufficient because it does not require observance of USFWS avoidance guidelines and coordination with the USFWS's Division of Migratory Birds. Therefore, the first measure of the fifth bullet in Mitigation Measure 3.4-5 has been revised as follows to require observance of USFWS guidelines.

- For golden eagle, construction contractors shall observe CDFG and USFWS avoidance guidelines, which stipulate a minimum 500-foot buffer zone around active golden eagle nests. Buffer zones of 50 feet for passerine birds and 250 feet for raptors other than golden eagles will be established or closer as needed with resources agency permission. Buffer zones shall remain until young have fledged.

In addition, the fourth measure of the fifth bullet in Mitigation Measure 3.4-5 has been revised as follows to require coordination with the USFWS's Division of Migratory Birds and to clarify that golden eagles are protected under the Eagle Act.

- For activities conducted with agency approval within a raptor-nesting buffer zone, a qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities and the nest(s) to monitor reactions to activities. If activities are deemed to have a negative effect on nesting raptors, the biologist shall immediately inform the construction manager that work should be halted, and CDFG and USFWS's Division of Migratory Birds shall ~~will~~ be consulted. While the USFWS issues limited take permits for golden eagle, this species and certain other raptors are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and fully-protected under California law.

# Comment Letter D



**Andrew Smith**  
Senior Land Planner  
Environmental Planning and  
Permitting

850 'O' Street, Eng 23  
Fresno, CA 93850-0001  
(559) 263-5237  
ajs4@pg&e.com

December 17, 2010

Ms. Monisha Gangopadhyay  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207

**RE: Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Supporting Initial Study for the Proposed Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (A.09-11-016)**

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (IS/MND) for the proposed Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (Project).

PG&E recommends the following clarifications and errata to the IS/MND:

On **Figure 2-1 (initially shown on page 2-2, along with similar map, Figure 3.17-1, page 3.17-5)**, the "Project Location" on the small inset map is incorrect. The "Project Location" should be shown in the vicinity of the northwesterly portion of San Benito County.

D-1

On **Figures 2-2b and 2-2f (pages 2-8 and 2-12, respectively)**, there are no proposed culverts as depicted on these figures. Please remove the "Proposed Culvert" symbols from these figures.

D-2

Under **3.4.4 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Special Status Bats**, 5<sup>th</sup> sentence beginning with "As part...", delete: "a culvert will be installed at this crossing." There is no proposed culvert installation at this location.

D-3

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.1-1**, PG&E feels this proposed measure is not applicable as PG&E proposes to work only during daylight hours, unless for emergency, or for worker safety reasons, or for minimal switching efforts which require no construction-related activities. In addition, PG&E does not intend to light proposed storage yards or staging areas in the vicinity of the project.

D-4

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.4-1, 3rd bullet item**, PG&E requests the following language, or similar language, be used in place of the existing language: "If construction activities must occur during the wet season in sensitive habitat(s) or adjacent to sensitive plant or wildlife resources, the perimeter of pull sites, staging areas, landing zones and other significant active construction areas shall be fenced by October 15<sup>th</sup> with amphibian exclusion fencing. Exclusion

D-5

## Comment Letter D

December 17, 2010

2

fencing condition will be monitored by the on-site environmental monitor or designated construction personnel daily to ensure that it is (1) functional; and (2) that wildlife, particularly amphibians or reptiles, are not congregating along the fence perimeter."

↑  
D-5  
cont.

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.4-1, 7<sup>th</sup> bullet item**, PG&E has a significant issue with this requirement. Mitigation opportunities in this region are not readily available. PG&E will ensure that it will secure a commitment/agreement to provide compensation that is approved by the Resource Agencies, and that this agreement will be in place 4 weeks prior to initiation of construction.

D-6

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.4-3**, PG&E requests that the following language, or similar language, be added to this measure: "PG&E will use the same methods for determining vacated badger burrows as implemented for the kit fox". This will ensure that both occupancy and vacancy are detected.

D-7

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.8-2**, it is unclear whether the drainage studies are required to be submitted to the CPUC prior to culvert installation OR prior to the initial start of construction for the overall project. PG&E requests that the drainage studies submittal be required prior to start of culvert installation, not overall project construction start.

D-8

Regarding the mitigation measure in **Table 5-1, Mitigation Measure 3.11-1**, PG&E requests that the following language "except with CPUC approval **and**" be replaced with "except with CPUC approval **or**". PG&E does not anticipate the need to work outside of the stated hours, but prior CPUC approval may not be feasible if work must continue due to ensure worker safety or to conduct certain work during electrical line clearances or during procedures that cannot be interrupted.

D-9

Under **Section 5, General Monitoring Procedures (page 5-7), Public Access to Records**, PG&E will provide monitoring reports, but respectfully submits that it is not its obligation to be involved in the development of a filing and tracking system. Moreover, this would be an onerous and unnecessary cost burden on the project that is not justified by any project impact such a system would address. PG&E requests that the sentence that pertains to this be removed.

D-10

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions regarding this information you may contact me at (559) 263-5237 or my email address [AJS4@pge.com](mailto:AJS4@pge.com).

Sincerely,



Andrew Smith  
Senior Land Planner

## Letter D – Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Response D-1 The commenter identifies an error in the location of Proposed Project that is illustrated in the inset maps on Figures 2-1 and 3.17-1. Therefore, Draft IS/MND Figures 2-1 and 3.17-1 on Draft IS/MND pages 2-2 and 3.17-5, respectively, have been revised as indicated in the subsequent pages to correctly illustrate the project location on the insert maps.

Response D-2 The commenter indicates that the portions of the Proposed Project illustrated on Draft IS/MND Figures 2-2b and 2-2f would not include installation of a culvert. Therefore, Draft IS/MND Figures 2-2b and 2-2f on Draft IS/MND pages 2-8 and 2-12, respectively, have been revised as indicated in subsequent pages to correctly indicate that no culverts would be associated with the portions of the Proposed Project illustrated in the those figures.

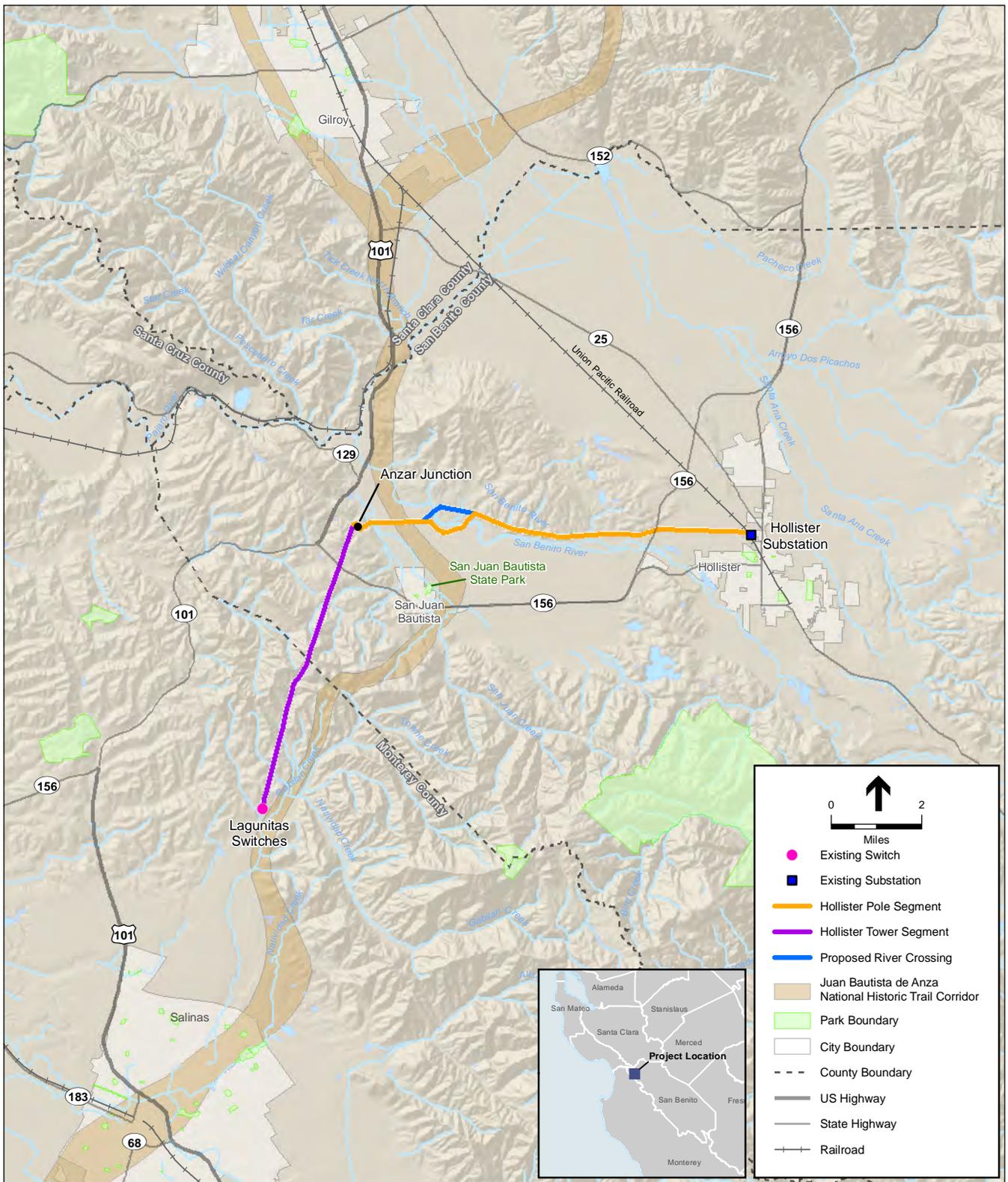
Response D-3 The commenter requests that reference to a culvert near Tower 1/11 be deleted from the *Special-status Bats* discussion because there is no culvert proposed for that location. Therefore, the fourth sentence in the *Special-status Bats* discussion on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-21 has been revised as follows to delete reference to the subject culvert.

As part of the Proposed Project, ~~a culvert will be installed at this crossing,~~  
~~and~~ the bridge is likely to be widened and/or reinforced to accommodate construction equipment.

Response D-4 The commenter alludes that Mitigation Measure 3.3-1 should be removed from the IS/MND because PG&E proposes to work only during daylight hours, except for specific situations that would be related to safety and/or switching efforts. However, the CPUC sees no reason to remove the requirements of Mitigation Measure 3.3-1 because it merely requires PG&E to develop a lighting plan to be implemented in the event that nighttime construction lighting is required.

Response D-5 The commenter requests specific language to replace the existing text of the third bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-1. The CPUC concurs with the suggested language and has revised the third bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 as follows.

- If construction activities must occur during the wet season in sensitive habitat(s) or adjacent to sensitive plant or wildlife resources, the perimeter of pull sites, staging areas, landing zones, shoo-fly lines, and other active construction areas shall be fenced by October 15 with amphibian exclusion fencing. All amphibian exclusion fencing shall be monitored by the on-site environmental monitor or designated construction personnel daily to ensure that it is (1) functional; and (2) that wildlife, particularly amphibians or reptiles, are not congregating along the fence perimeter.

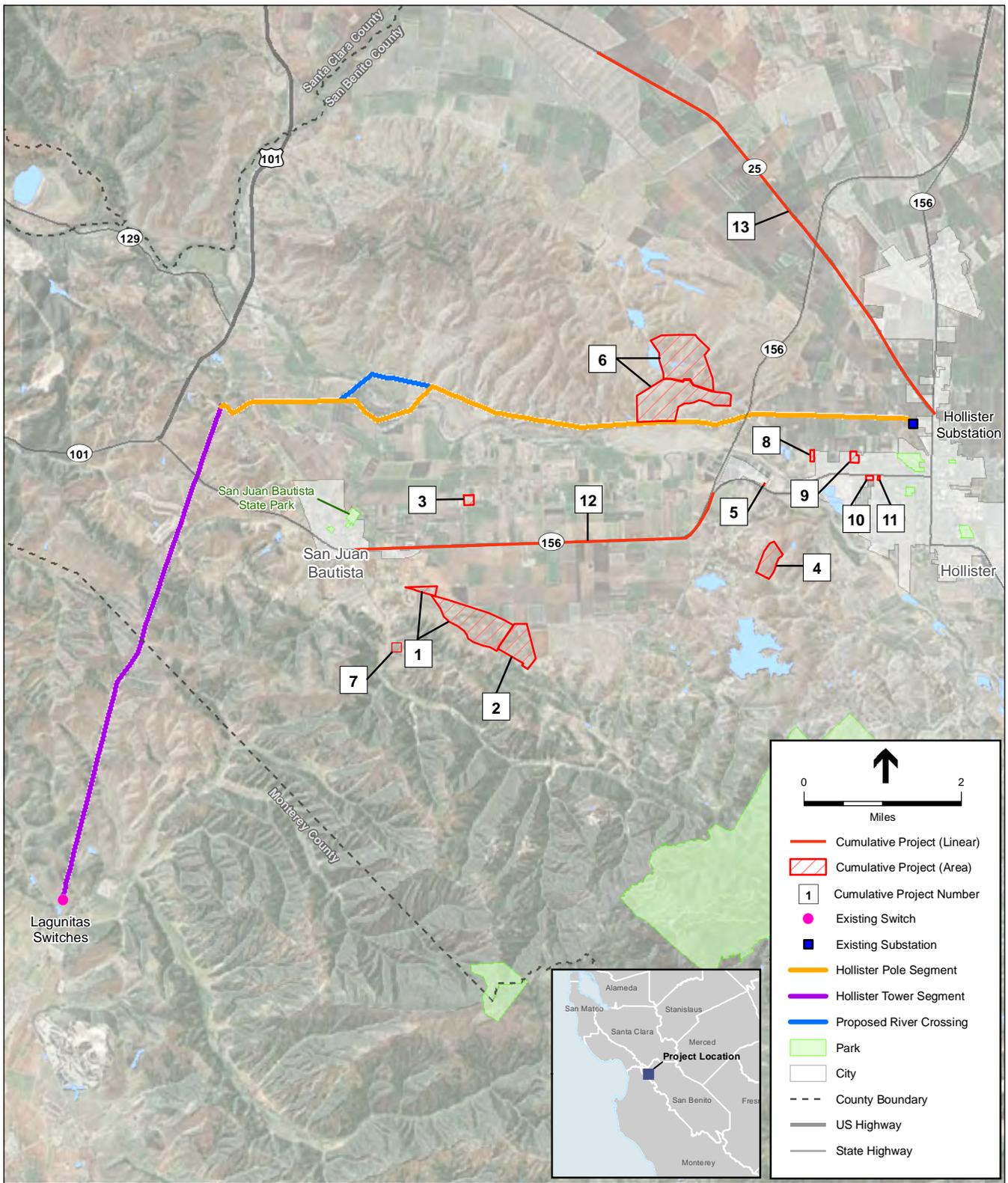


PG&E, 2010; ESRI, 2010; NPS, 2010

Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconducting Project . 207584.03

**Figure 2-1**

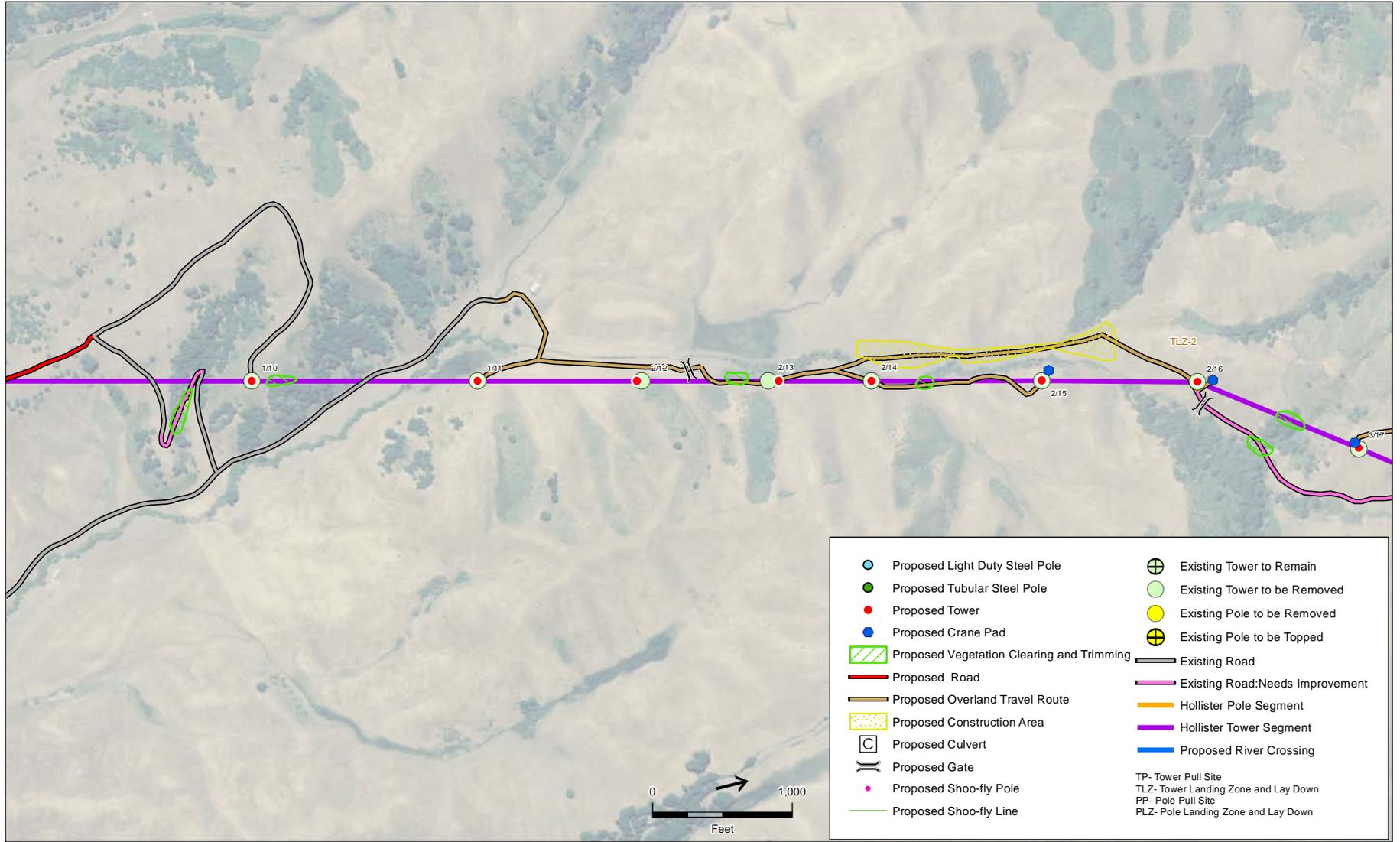
Proposed Project Location



PG&E, 2010; ESRI, 2010; Microsoft Virtual Earth, 2010  
 City of Hollister, 2010; San Benito County, 2010; Caltrans, 2010

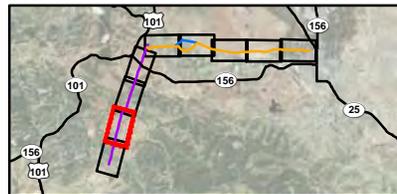
Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project . 207584.03

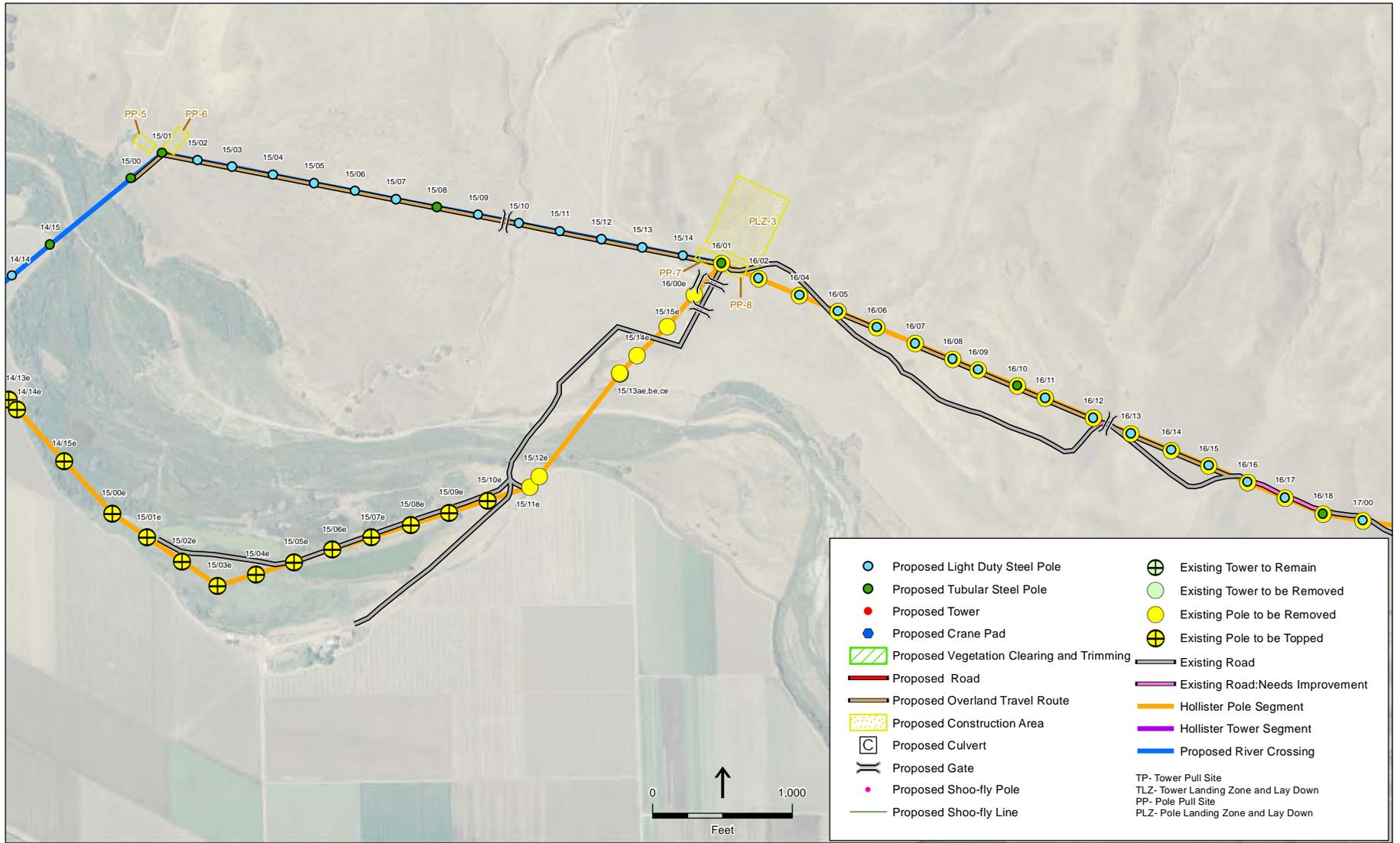
**Figure 3.17-1**  
 Cumulative Projects



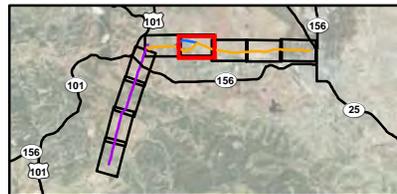
Source: PG&E, 2010; Microsoft Virtual Earth, 2010

Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconstructing Project . 207584.03  
**Figure 2-2 b**  
 Proposed Project





Source: PG&E, 2010; Microsoft Virtual Earth, 2010



Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconstructing Project . 207584.03  
**Figure 2-2 f**  
 Proposed Project

Response D-6 The commenter indicates that PG&E has a significant issue with implementation of the seventh bullet of Draft IS/MND Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 because mitigation opportunities in the region are not readily available. The seventh bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 identified on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-17 has been revised as indicated in Response A-9 to allow for USFWS and CDFG – approved options should there be no approved bank to service the needs of the Proposed Project.

Response D-7 The commenter requests that language be added to Mitigation Measure 3.4-3 to ensure that both occupancy and vacancy are detected. Therefore, the second bullet of Mitigation Measure 3.4-3 on Draft IS/MND page 3.4-19 has been revised as follows.

Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted within 200 feet of work areas to identify potential maternal badger dens or other refugia in and surrounding work areas. A qualified biologist shall conduct the survey 14 to 30 days before construction begins. PG&E shall use the same methods for determining vacated badger burrows as implemented for San Joaquin kit fox (see Mitigation Measure 3.4-4). If no evidence of badger presence is detected, no further mitigation is required.

Response D-8 The commenter requests that the drainage study submittal pursuant to Mitigation Measure 3.8-2 be required to be submitted prior to the start of culvert installation, as opposed to the start of overall project construction. Therefore, the timing requirement identified for Mitigation Measure 3.8-2 in Table 5-1 of the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program (see Draft IS/MND page 5-31) has been revised as follows.

Submit study to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities associated with culvert installation.

Response D-9 The commenter requests that Mitigation Measure 3.11-1 be modified to allow for continued work into nighttime hours without CPUC notification for certain situations including to ensure worker safety or to conduct certain work during electrical line clearances or during procedures that that cannot be interrupted. The CPUC concurs that there could be a situation that would require nighttime construction without prior notice to CPUC to ensure worker safety; however, it anticipated that work that would be conducted during electrical line clearances or during procedures that cannot be interrupted would be planned so that there would be sufficient time to notify the CPUC prior to such work being conducting during nighttime hours. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 3.11-1 on Draft IS/MND page 3.11-1 has been revised as follows.

**Mitigation Measure 3.11-1:** Construction activity shall be limited to between the hours of seven a.m. and seven p.m., Monday through

Saturday, except with CPUC approval ~~and~~ or where necessary to ensure worker safety ~~or to conduct certain work during electrical line clearances or during procedures that cannot be interrupted.~~

Response D-10 The commenter indicates that it is not PG&E's responsibility to develop a filing and tracking system for mitigation monitoring and that such a system is not warranted. It is CPUC policy to develop a filing and tracking system for each project undergoing mitigation monitoring; however, the CPUC concurs that this would not be the responsibility of PG&E. Therefore, the last sentence of Draft IS/MND page 5-7 has been revised as follows.

The CPUC ~~and PG&E~~ will develop a filing and tracking system.

## SECTION 3

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# Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program

### 3.1 Summary

For informational purposes, this chapter includes a revised list of Applicant Proposed Measures and Table 3-1, Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program for the Hollister 115kV Power Line Reconductoring Project. This table has been reproduced from Table 5-1 in the Draft IS/MND, with modifications to Mitigation Measures 3.4-1, 3.4-3, 3.4-5, and 3.11-1, to summarize the impacts and mitigations for the Proposed Project. Comment Responses A-9, A-11, C-4, and D-5 through D-10 describe the only changes to the MMRCP.

### Applicant Proposed Measures

**APM AES-1: Limit construction hours to daylight hours as feasible.** Construction activities that are visible to the public and scheduled to occur after 6:00 p.m. or on weekends should not continue past daylight hours (which vary according to season) unless required because of project safety concerns or clearance requirements. This will reduce the amount of construction activities visible to viewer groups because most construction activities will occur during business hours (when most viewer groups are likely at work), and daylight construction will eliminate the need to introduce high-wattage lighting sources to be able to operate in the dark.

**APM AG-1: Compensate for reduced agricultural production and loss of use.** PG&E will offer appropriate compensation for land held in private ownership as part of the acquisition of temporary construction easements or permanent utility easements. PG&E will compensate property owners for removal of any structures, crops, or agriculture-related improvements required to construct the project. PG&E will negotiate easements with private landowners for the temporary or permanent use of agricultural areas. Upon completion of the project, the areas will be left as specified in the individual agreements. In addition, PG&E will prepare a SWPPP (see APM HYDRO 1 [Prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan] in Section 2.8, *Hydrology and Water Quality*) to ensure that areas affected by construction are restored to pre-construction conditions.

**APM AIR-1: Implement Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) mitigation measures for construction fugitive dust.** PG&E will implement all applicable and feasible fugitive dust control measures required by MBUAPCD. This requirement will be incorporated into the construction contract. These measures include:

- Water all active construction sites at least twice daily. Frequency of watering should be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
- Prohibit all grading activities during periods of high wind (over 15 mph).
- Haul trucks will maintain at least 2'0" of freeboard.
- On-site vehicles will be limited to a speed on unpaved roads that minimizes dust emissions.
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Install wheel washers at the entrance to construction sites for all exiting trucks.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person will respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The phone number of the MBUAPCD also will be visible to ensure compliance with Rule 402 (Nuisance).
- Limit the area under construction at any one time as feasible.

**APM AIR-2: Implement BMPs to reduce construction tailpipe emissions.** PG&E will implement all applicable and feasible measures to reduce tailpipe emissions from diesel-powered construction equipment. This requirement will be incorporated into the construction contract. These measures include:

- Maximize use of diesel construction equipment meeting CARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines.
- Use emission control devices at least as effective as the original factory-installed equipment.
- Maintain all diesel-powered equipment in a manner to minimize visible soot emissions.
- Locate stationary diesel-powered equipment and haul truck staging areas as far as practicable from sensitive receptors.
- Minimize unnecessary idling time through application of a "common sense" approach to vehicle use, so that idling is reduced as far as possible below the maximum of 5 consecutive minutes required by California law—if a vehicle is not required immediately or continuously for construction activities, its engines will be shut off. Construction foremen will include briefings to crews on vehicle use as part of pre-construction conferences. Those briefings will include discussion of a "common sense" approach to vehicle use.
- Use ground equipment in place of helicopters where practicable.

**APM AIR-3: Minimize greenhouse gas emissions during construction.** PG&E or its contractors will implement the following measures during construction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Encourage construction workers carpooling to the job site to the extent feasible.
- Encourage recycling of construction waste where feasible.
- Minimize welding and cutting by using compression of mechanical applications where practical and within standards.
- Encourage use of natural gas-powered vehicles for passenger cars and light-duty trucks where feasible and available.
- Minimize construction equipment exhaust by using low-emission or electric construction equipment where feasible.

**APM BIO-1: Conduct an environmental training and monitoring program for construction crews before beginning construction.** An Environmental Training and Monitoring Program for construction crews will be conducted before beginning construction and will be ongoing during construction activities for new crew members. The education program will include information about the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, the consequences for noncompliance with environmental laws, identification of special-status plant and wildlife species and wetland habitats, and review of mitigation measures. (Also see APM HYDRO-2 [Develop and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan], which requires communicating environmental concerns and appropriate work practices, including spill prevention, emergency response measures, and applicable BMPs, to all construction personnel in an Environmental Training and Monitoring Program.)

**APM BIO-2: Restrict vehicles to established roadways and approved access routes and staging areas.**

**APM BIO-3: Retain an environmental monitor onsite during construction activities near sensitive habitat.** An environmental monitor will be onsite during any construction activity near sensitive habitat to ensure implementation of, and compliance with, APMs. The monitor will have authority to stop construction activities and develop alternative work practices, in consultation with construction personnel and resources agencies, if construction activities are likely to impact special-status species or other sensitive biological resources.

**APM BIO-4: Set back staging areas from waterbodies to avoid impacts on riparian habitat.** Staging areas will be set back at least 50 feet from streams, creeks, or other water bodies to avoid impacts on riparian habitat.

**APM BIO-5: Contact the environmental monitor if special-status species are located.** If construction personnel observe special-status species within the work area prior to, or during construction activities, construction personnel will contact the environmental monitor. The monitor will notify PG&E contacts via an established communication protocol that will be developed prior to the start of construction. The USFWS Biological

Opinion will state agency notification protocols should a federally-listed species be observed within the work area.

**APM BIO-6: Complete photodocumentation of sensitive habitat conditions before beginning and immediately after completing construction activities.**

Photodocumentation of preconstruction habitat conditions will occur at all construction locations within sensitive habitats prior to the start of construction and immediately after completing construction activities.

**APM BIO-7: Prohibit trash, firearms, and pets in the project area during construction.** Additional APMs (identified below) to avoid and minimize specific potential impacts to biological resources will be implemented as necessary to reduce potentially significant impacts. In some cases, conducting preconstruction surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant and wildlife species within the project area and subsequent avoidance of identified resources will avoid significant impacts. Due to the extent of the project, however, specific project components—such as grading new access roads and digging new tower footings—will affect areas where the presence of special-status species is presumed based on occurrence of suitable habitat, CNDDDB occurrences in relation to the project area, or results of prior biological resource assessment surveys.

**APM BIO-8: Restore upland and riparian habitat types temporarily disturbed during construction.** Following construction, PG&E will restore upland and riparian habitat types temporarily disturbed during construction. As part of a Habitat Mitigation Plan (HMP) developed for the project, a list of specific actions necessary to restore habitats disturbed onsite will be prepared by a qualified biologist prior to construction. While some habitats in the project area may require minimal restoration actions, such as restoration of the topography and topsoil following construction, the HMP will detail the specific measures necessary for each habitat and area disturbed to ensure that the functions and values of the disturbed habitat are restored.

**APM BIO-9: Implement sudden oak death preventative measures when trimming or removing oak trees.** PG&E will implement BMPs to control the potential introduction or spread of sudden oak death when trimming or removing trees as part of the project. At a minimum, the BMPs will include the following measures:

- All debris from host species (wood, branches, and chips) shall be left onsite following trimming.
- All tools used to perform the work shall be disinfected before leaving infested areas.

**APM BIO-10: Avoid impacts to protected trees, track protected trees removed during construction, and mitigate for impacts to protected trees.**

- PG&E will avoid impacts to protected trees to the extent feasible. If avoidance is not feasible, PG&E will track the trees removed, including their species and size, and will replace protected trees as stipulated in applicable local regulations. To avoid removal of active nests, tree trimming, vegetation removal, and removal of towers should be conducted during the non-breeding season (August 16–March 1).

**APM BIO-11: Implement general protection measures for waters of the United States.**

During construction, PG&E will implement the following measures to minimize or avoid impacts on waters of the United States:

- Establish exclusion zones and minimize the amount of area disturbed to the minimum amount necessary to complete the work. Align work areas to avoid wetland areas and margins as much as feasible.
- Delineate wetland areas, and restrict construction personnel and equipment from entering fenced protected areas.
- Conduct all fueling of vehicles, equipment, and helicopters at least 100 feet from wetlands and other waterbodies.
- To the extent feasible, complete road construction adjacent or within waters of the United States during the dry season. If it is not feasible to complete road construction work during the dry season, PG&E will use appropriate erosion control measures for the site that will be identified in the SWPPP (see APM HYDRO-1 in Section 4.8).

**APM BIO-12: Develop a wetlands mitigation plan.** PG&E will develop a wetlands mitigation plan to offset effects to waters of the United States, including wetlands. The plan will be developed in consultation with the Corps and will include, at a minimum, plans for restoration of any temporarily disturbed wetlands and other waters of the United States and methods to achieve mitigation for permanent impacts at a minimum ratio of 1:1. Mitigation may include onsite restoration and improvement of existing wetlands or other offsite compensation.

**APM BIO-13: Complete spring surveys for special-status plants in all unsurveyed disturbance areas.** Prior to construction, a qualified botanist will complete spring surveys for special-status plants at all unsurveyed staging areas, helicopter landing areas, and new access roads to determine the presence or absence of special-status plants. The surveys should be completed by qualified botanists and should be conducted during the appropriate period(s) necessary to observe special-status plants known to occur in the region.

**APM BIO-14: Avoid impacts on special-status plants.** PG&E will, under the direction of a qualified botanist and to the extent possible, adjust the location of staging areas, pull sites, helicopter landing areas, access roads, and other project components to completely avoid impacts on Pajaro manzanita and other special-status plants that are discovered prior to or during construction. If this avoidance measure is not feasible, PG&E will implement APM BIO-15 (Minimize impacts on special-status plants) and APM BIO-16 (Restore habitat for special status plants disturbed during construction).

**APM BIO-15: Minimize impacts on special-status plants.** Avoidance areas will be clearly staked and flagged in the field by a qualified botanist prior to construction. If Pajaro manzanita and other special-status plants cannot be avoided during construction, PG&E will minimize impacts by reducing the work area to the smallest area necessary to complete the work. Where temporary disturbance is necessary, PG&E will conduct project activities and necessary ground disturbance in a manner that is consistent with the successful reestablishment of the species to the extent feasible. The specific actions necessary will depend on the biology of the species in question; however, the actions will be designed to ensure successful reestablishment of the species following temporary disturbance. As part of

an HMP, a list of specific actions will be prepared by a qualified botanist prior to construction that will include onsite restoration actions, or reseedling plans specific to any impacted construction areas (described below in APM BIO-16).

To minimize impacts to Pajaro manzanita, which is already known to occur in the project area, PG&E will implement the following measures:

- Vegetation clearing in occupied Pajaro manzanita habitat should be conducted after Pajaro manzanita has set seed and before flowering begins (typically between May and November).
- If mechanical brushing is conducted in occupied Pajaro manzanita habitat, mastication implements should not come within 6 inches of the ground surface to avoid disturbing the seed bank.
- Where feasible, removal of entire Pajaro manzanita plants from the ground should be avoided.

The Environmental Training and Monitoring Program (see APM BIO-1) will also include information on the location of special-status plants in the project area and the measures that will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on the plants.

**APM BIO-16: Restore habitat for special-status plants disturbed during construction.**

If impacts on special status plants are unavoidable, PG&E will develop a special-status plant restoration plan as part of the HMP and in consultation with CDFG. The specific actions necessary will depend on the biology of the species in question and the type of impact (i.e., temporary or permanent); however, the actions will be designed to ensure successful reestablishment of the species following disturbance. The plan will be prepared by a qualified botanist prior to construction and will indicate when and where the actions will be implemented during construction.

**APM BIO-17: Implement management practices to control the introduction and spread of invasive plants.**

Prior to construction, PG&E will identify the location of noxious weed species of concern within areas that will be disturbed as part of the project. Appropriate management practices will be designed by a botanist and implemented during construction to reduce the likelihood of spreading already established weeds into new areas or increasing their abundance, and of introducing new weed species to the project area. Actions to prevent noxious weed establishment will be described within the HMP and will be consistent with PG&E's draft Invasive Plant Management Strategy. The project SWPPP will include BMPs such as using construction equipment that has been cleaned of soil and plant parts, including seeds, before entering the project area and using weed-free straw for erosion control. Disturbed areas will be revegetated with appropriate locally based native seed mixes. Implementing the management practices described above will reduce potentially significant impacts related to non-native invasive plants to a less-than-significant level.

**APM BIO-18: Implement avoidance and mitigation measures outlined in the USFWS biological opinion for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander.**

USFWS will specify avoidance and mitigation measures to minimize impacts to California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders in the biological opinion they will draft for the project. PG&E will follow and implement the measures that are outlined in the biological opinion.

**APM BIO-19: Compensate for permanent impacts on California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander upland habitat.** It was determined that the project would result in permanent impacts to suitable upland habitat for California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders. To compensate for anticipated permanent impacts to suitable upland habitat for California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders, PG&E may preserve additional upland habitat within a USFWS-approved conservation area; specific actions will be determined in coordination with USFWS. The ratio of compensation, specific mitigation acreages, and location of the conservation area will be determined through formal consultation with USFWS.

**APM BIO-20: Conduct tree trimming, vegetation removal, and, if possible, tower removal during the non-breeding season.** To avoid removal of active nests, tree trimming, vegetation removal, and removal of towers should be conducted during the non-breeding season (August 16–March 1). If this is not possible, APM BIO-21 will be implemented.

**APM BIO-21: Conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting migratory birds and raptors, and develop an Avian Protection Plan.** Construction activities are anticipated to occur mainly during the nesting season for migratory birds and raptors (generally early February through early August) (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and USFWS, 2005). PG&E will retain a qualified wildlife biologist to conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting birds, for all construction activities that occur within or near suitable breeding habitat. The surveys will be staggered so that they are conducted no more than 1 week prior to the start of construction activities in any one area. Surveys will include the power line route, staging areas, pull sites, and areas of access road improvements where ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is required, at a frequency and timing appropriate for nest detection. If no active nests are detected, no additional mitigation measures are required.

PG&E will develop a project-specific Avian Protection Plan that will outline protection measures for nesting migratory birds and raptors, in the event that nesting migratory birds or raptors are identified in areas where construction activities will occur during preconstruction surveys.

**APM BIO-22: Avoid disturbance of active nests by helicopter use.** Use of helicopters will be restricted to necessary trips to install and remove towers and poles, install power lines, and deliver and remove equipment to areas lacking vehicle access. Helicopter flight paths will be designed to minimize impacts to nests, and buffers of active nests may be greater than those stated above to avoid helicopter disturbance of active nests identified in preconstruction surveys of the project sites. If active nests occur under planned helicopter flight paths, especially those near landing areas, coordination with CDFG will be required to determine whether modification of the flight path is necessary to avoid disturbance of active nests.

**APM BIO-23: Conduct preconstruction surveys for active burrowing owl burrows.** CDFG (1995) recommends that preconstruction surveys be conducted in suitable habitat in the project study area (Exhibit 1) and in a 250 foot-wide buffer zone around the construction site to locate active burrowing owl burrows. PG&E will retain a qualified biologist to conduct preconstruction surveys for active burrows according to the CDFG guidelines. The surveys will include a nesting season survey and a wintering season survey, which is the season

immediately preceding construction. The surveys will cover all affected areas, including the power line route, staging areas, pull sites, and areas of access road improvements where ground disturbance is required. If no burrowing owls are detected, no further mitigation is required. If active burrowing owl burrows are detected, PG&E will implement APM BIO-24 (Implement CDFG guidelines for burrowing owl mitigation, if necessary).

**APM BIO-24: Implement CDFG (1995) guidelines for burrowing owl mitigation, if necessary.** Disturbance of occupied burrows will be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Disturbance is generally defined as activities occurring within 250 feet of active burrowing owl nesting pairs during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), or within 160 feet of occupied burrows in the non-breeding season (September 1–January 31).

During the non-breeding season, if direct impacts to an occupied burrow are unavoidable, passive relocation techniques may be considered after all other alternatives have been exhausted. Relocation may involve installing one-way doors at occupied burrow entrances and ensuring that alternative suitable burrows are available. Any relocation effort will be implemented in coordination with CDFG and in accordance with standard burrowing owl guidelines. Any burrowing owl exclusion process will be coordinated by a biologist with prior burrowing owl relocation experience.

PG&E will support site-specific mitigation measures for any burrowing owls with potential to be impacted by construction activities. Measures may include onsite burrow enhancement or artificial burrow installation, in coordination with CDFG. In the event that a site-specific burrowing owl relocation is implemented, PG&E will consult with CDFG regarding suitable replacement of foraging and burrow habitat.

**APM BIO-25: Implement avoidance and mitigation measures outlined in the USFWS biological opinion for San Joaquin kit fox.** USFWS will specify avoidance and mitigation measures to minimize impacts on San Joaquin kit foxes in the biological opinion they will draft for the project. PG&E will follow and implement the measures outlined in the biological opinion.

**APM CR-1: Implement construction monitoring.** An archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for professional archaeologists will monitor ground-disturbing activities in areas that were documented as having high archaeological sensitivity on Figures 2a through 2d of the Historic Properties Inventory Report (ICF 2010). The monitor will be empowered to temporarily halt construction in the immediate vicinity of a discovery while it is evaluated for significance. With the archaeologist's approval, work may continue on other portions of the site. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional measures will be implemented; these may include avoidance, capping beneath a layer of sterile soil, or data recovery through archaeological excavation (PRC 21083).

**APM CR-2: Stop work if previously unknown cultural resources are discovered.** If buried cultural resources such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, or building foundations are inadvertently discovered during site preparation or construction activities, work will stop in that area and within 100 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with PG&E and other appropriate agencies. With the archaeologist's

approval, work may continue on other portions of the site. PG&E will be responsible for ensuring that the archaeologist's recommendations for treatment are implemented.

**APM CR-3: Stop work if human remains are discovered.** If human remains are encountered during any phase of construction, work within a 100-foot radius of the remains will be suspended immediately and PG&E and/or their representative will immediately notify the respective county coroner, as required by state law (California Health and Safety Code 7050.5) and County Ordinance No. B6-18. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) will be notified within 24 hours, and the NAHC will in turn immediately notify the Most Likely Descendent, pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the State Resources Code. Upon notification, the MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations as to the treatment or disposition of the remains. PG&E or its appointed representative will implement any mitigation before the resumption of activities at the site where the remains were discovered.

**APM GEO-1: Perform Site-Specific Geologic Studies at Active Fault Crossings and Modify Siting/Design as Feasible to Reduce Damage.** For all pole or tower replacements proposed within a State-designated Earthquake Fault Zone or within 500 feet on either side of a fault considered likely to be active but not zoned by the State, PG&E will perform site-specific geologic investigations with the purpose of locating any active fault trace(s) and ensuring that project facilities are sited and designed to avoid and reduce damage due to surface fault rupture. Studies may include any appropriate combination of literature research, air photo evaluation, reconnaissance field survey, and/or subsurface investigation (fault trenching), based on the professional judgment of licensed supervising personnel (California Professional Geologist or Certified Engineering Geologist). Where significant potential for damage due to surface fault rupture is identified, facilities siting and design will be modified to the extent feasible to avoid or reduce damage.

**APM HAZ-1: Stop work if hazardous substances are encountered during construction.** If hazardous substances are unexpectedly encountered during trenching, grading, or excavating work, work will be stopped until the material is properly characterized and appropriate measures are taken to protect human health and the environment. If excavation of hazardous materials is required, the materials will be handled, transported, and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

**APM HAZ-2: Conduct groundwater sampling and testing if suspected contaminated groundwater is encountered during construction.** If suspected contaminated groundwater is encountered in the proposed project construction areas, samples will be collected and submitted for analysis of petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, volatile organic compounds, and semi-volatile organic compounds. If necessary, groundwater will be collected during construction, contained, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulations.

**APM HAZ-3: Develop and implement a Helicopter Lift Plan.** PG&E will require the helicopter vendor to prepare a Helicopter Lift Plan for approval by the FAA prior to any construction helicopter operations. Any specific transportation needs (e.g., temporary road closures) will be identified in the plan and will be coordinated with the appropriate jurisdictions.

**APM HAZ-4: Develop and implement a Fire Risk Management Plan.** PG&E follows a standard practice of developing and implementing a Fire Risk Management Plan that addresses fire-suppression equipment and procedures to be used during construction and training of construction and maintenance crews. Additionally, fire suppression equipment and materials will be kept adjacent to all areas of work and in staging areas, and will be clearly marked. Detailed information for responding to fires will be provided in the project's Fire Risk Management Plan. Information contained in the plan and the locations of fire-suppression materials and equipment will be included in the employee environmental training discussed in APM BIO-1.

**APM HYDRO-1: Prepare and Implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.** PG&E or its contractor will prepare and implement a SWPPP to prevent construction-related erosion and sediments from entering nearby waterways. The SWPPP will include a list of BMPs to be implemented in areas with potential to drain to tributaries of the Salinas River in Monterey County or to the San Benito River in San Benito County. These BMPs will be selected to achieve maximum sediment removal and represent the best available technology that is economically achievable. BMPs to be implemented as part of the project-specific SWPPP may include, but are not limited to, the following control measures:

- Temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, grass buffer strips, high infiltration substrates, grassy swales, and temporary revegetation or other ground cover) will be employed to control erosion from disturbed areas.
- Drainage facilities in downstream offsite areas will be protected from sediment using BMPs consistent with CCRWQCB requirements.
- Vegetative cover will be established on the disturbed areas as soon as possible after disturbance.

**APM HYDRO-2: Develop and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan.** PG&E or its contractor will develop and implement an SPCCP to minimize the potential for, and effects of, spills of hazardous, toxic, or petroleum substances during all construction activities. The SPCCP will be completed and included in the SWPPP before any construction activities begin. PG&E will routinely inspect the construction areas to verify that the control measures specified in the SPCCP are properly implemented and maintained. PG&E will notify its contractors immediately if there is a noncompliance issue and will require compliance.

If an appreciable spill has occurred, a detailed analysis will be performed by a Registered Environmental Assessor to identify the likely cause of contamination. This analysis will conform to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and will include recommendations for reducing or eliminating the source or mechanisms of contamination. Based on this analysis, PG&E and its contractors will select and implement additional measures to control contamination, with a performance standard that groundwater quality and surface water quality must be returned to baseline conditions.

**APM HYDRO-3: Perform a drainage study and implement a drainage plan.** A drainage study will be performed for any area that crosses a waterway and requires a conveyance structure (culvert) for grading of new construction maintenance roads. The study will include calculations for the potential increases in stormwater runoff from related

construction activities. The study also will identify critical drainage paths, and PG&E will implement drainage improvements to minimize the risk of flooding to downstream areas. The drainage plan will require that PG&E or its contractor will be responsible for proper maintenance of the drainages and any BMP associated with each drainage. Implementation of these measures will ensure that altered drainage patterns from project-related construction activities do not significantly affect erosion or sedimentation.

**APM NOI-1: Implement noise control measures.** PG&E will implement the following noise abatement measures during project construction to minimize the impact of temporary construction-related noise on nearby residences:

- Notify residents near future construction zones regarding the forecast schedule for nearby construction and provide project contact information.
- Comply with manufacturers' muffler requirements on all construction equipment engines.
- Turn off construction equipment when not in use, where applicable.
- Minimize equipment use.
- Use equipment fitted with factory-installed muffling devices during construction when readily available.
- Route truck traffic away from residential areas where feasible.

**APM NOI-2: Implement noise control measures for helicopter noise.** PG&E will implement the following BMPs during project construction to minimize the impact of temporary construction-related noise generated by helicopters:

- Notify residents near future construction zones and along helicopter flight paths regarding the schedule and reasons for upcoming construction and flight operations.
- Provide project contact information to facilitate response to noise complaints during the construction activity.
- To the extent feasible, plan helicopter flight paths between construction zones and the helicopter staging areas to avoid noise-sensitive receivers. Note: All flight operations including takeoff, landing, and flight paths must comply with FAA regulations and all applicable safety concerns.

**APM PUB-1: Maintain Secured Facilities during construction activities.** PG&E will implement the following measures during construction activities:

- All equipment will be locked and secured when left unattended at the most secure locations available;
- Contract security will be used at active pull/tension sites, laydown, and storage areas outside work hours;
- All open holes will be covered and secured once activity at that location stops (after hours);

- Anchor bolts on foundations without structures will be capped; and
- Safety structures will be placed at road crossings during overhead wire installation activity to protect traffic and pedestrians.

**APM REC-1: Avoid Disruption of Recreational Facilities along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail during Peak Use.** PG&E will limit construction activities that occur in the immediate vicinity of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to weekdays or as otherwise permitted by the National Park Service. PG&E will ensure that the trail is fully accessible on the weekends, as well as any holidays observed by the National Park Service.

**APM PU-1: Conduct a pre-construction records search/field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields.** To ensure minimal disturbance or alteration of water wells or well fields within the project alignment, PG&E will conduct a pre-construction records search and field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields.

**APM PU-2: Notify Underground Service Alert at least two days prior to initiation of construction activities in the underground portion of the power line.** PG&E will ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least two days prior to initiation of construction activities of the underground portion of the power line. Underground Service Alert verifies and physically marks the location of all existing underground utilities in the area of anticipated construction activities to prevent accidental disturbance.

**TABLE 3-1  
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Aesthetics</b>				
<b>Light and Glare</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.1-1:</b> Reduce construction night lighting impacts. PG&amp;E shall design and install all lighting at construction and storage yards and staging areas such that light bulbs and reflectors are not visible from public viewing areas; lighting does not cause reflected glare; and illumination of the project facilities, vicinity, and nighttime sky is minimized. PG&amp;E shall submit a <i>Construction Lighting Mitigation Plan</i> to the CPUC for review and approval at least 90 days prior to the start of construction or the ordering of any exterior lighting fixtures or components, whichever comes first. PG&amp;E shall not install or operate any exterior lighting fixtures or lighting components for the Proposed Project until the <i>Construction Lighting Mitigation Plan</i> is approved by the CPUC. The Plan shall include but is not limited to the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting shall be designed so exterior lighting is hooded, with lights directed downward or toward the area to be illuminated and so that backscatter to the nighttime sky is minimized. The design of the lighting shall be such that the luminescence or light sources are shielded to prevent light trespass outside the project boundary.</li> <li>• All lighting shall be of minimum necessary brightness consistent with worker safety.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	<p>PG&amp;E to submit Construction Lighting Mitigation Plan to CPUC for review.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.</p>	<p>Submit plan to CPUC at least 90 days prior to commencement of construction activities or the ordering of any exterior lighting fixtures or components, whichever comes first.</p> <p>During all phases of construction activities.</p>
<b>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>				
No mitigation required.				

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources</b>				
<p><b>Special-Status Species: California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog</b></p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-1:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following measures for construction areas and maintenance areas located in suitable habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will avoid direct impacts to sensitive wetlands areas and minimize disturbances to wetland and riparian corridors, wherever possible. Ground disturbance and construction footprints shall be minimized to the greatest degree feasible.</li> <li>• Work activities within or adjacent to suitable habitat will be completed between April 15 and October 31, when possible.</li> <li>• If construction activities must occur during the wet season <u>in sensitive habitat(s) or adjacent to sensitive plant or wildlife resources</u>, the perimeter of pull sites, staging areas, landing zones, shoo-fly lines, and other active construction areas shall be fenced by October 15 with amphibian exclusion fencing. <u>All amphibian exclusion fencing shall be monitored by the on-site environmental monitor or designated construction personnel daily to ensure that it is (1) functional; and (2) that wildlife, particularly amphibians or reptiles, are not congregating along the fence perimeter.</u></li> <li>• <u>All erosion control and landscaping specifications shall be restricted to natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes and coir rolls.</u></li> <li>• A qualified biological resource monitor will conduct worker awareness training for construction personnel, addressing the species' basic biology and identifying characteristics, legal status, job-specific protection measures, and penalties for non compliance.</li> <li>• A preconstruction survey will be conducted each day by an onsite monitor immediately preceding construction activity that occurs within or adjacent to suitable habitat.</li> <li>• Suitable habitat that is temporarily impacted by project-related activities will be restored to pre-project conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>PG&amp;E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.</p>	<p>PG&amp;E to submit to the CPUC for review survey results and, if applicable, documentation showing CDFG consultation.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.</p>	<p>Submit documentation to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.</p> <p>During all phases of construction activities.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Special-Status Species: California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary impacts to upland habitat will be compensated at a 0.5:1 ratio (i.e., restoration of temporarily disturbed areas, plus permanent conservation of an additional area at a 0.5:1 ratio) and permanent impacts to upland and aquatic habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio or at ratios as prescribed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. <del>Compensation will be secured at an approved, off-site mitigation bank, with documentation provided to the resource agencies (i.e., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game) at least 4 weeks before construction begins. Mitigation shall be provided on-site through habitat enhancement and preservation, or through an alternative arrangement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). No agency-approved mitigation banks currently service the Proposed Project area; therefore, if an approved bank is not established prior to Proposed Project construction that can service mitigation needs for the Proposed Project, then at the discretion of the USFWS and CDFG funds may be (a) set aside in escrow toward the establishment of a regional California tiger salamander mitigation bank, or (b) paid to establish a California tiger salamander conservation program locally or in another region, for the purpose of acquiring suitable habitat.</del></li> </ul>			
<b>Special-Status Species: Western pond turtle</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-2:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following measures for construction areas located in suitable habitat within 0.3 mile of aquatic features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include western pond turtle in the Environmental Training and Monitoring Program.</li> <li>Before daily activities begin near areas of suitable habitat, the onsite monitor shall perform pond turtle surveys within suitable aquatic and upland habitat. Any pond turtles located within the construction area would be relocated to the nearest safe location.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to survey daily and conduct relocation of turtle, if necessary.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
<b>Special-Status Species:</b> <b>Western pond turtle</b> (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimize the likelihood of encountering turtles in upland areas near stream crossings, construction footprints shall be restricted to the smallest area possible.</li> </ul>			
<b>Special-Status Species:</b> <b>American badger</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-3:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following measures for construction areas located in grasslands that provide potential habitat for American badger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include American badger in the Environmental Training and Monitoring Program.</li> <li>Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted within 200 feet of work areas to identify potential maternal badger dens or other refugia in and surrounding work areas. A qualified biologist shall conduct the survey 14 to 30 days before construction begins. <u>PG&amp;E shall use the same methods for determining vacated badger burrows as implemented for San Joaquin kit fox (see Mitigation Measure 3.4-4).</u> If no evidence of badger presence is detected, no further mitigation is required.</li> <li>Suitable, as determined by the Environmental Monitor, vacated burrows that are located within the work area and that will not be destroyed by construction activities will be temporarily covered using plywood sheets or other similar material to prevent badgers from occupying the burrows within the work areas.</li> <li>If active, non-maternal dens are located, badgers will be passively relocated via installation of one-way doors.</li> <li>If active maternal dens are located, the den will be avoided during construction by establishment of a 100-foot buffer. Smaller buffers, if required for construction, would be established in coordination with CDFG.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit to the CPUC for review survey results and, if applicable, documentation showing CDFG consultation.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Submit documentation to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
<b>Special-Status Species:</b> <b>San Joaquin kit fox</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-4:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following San Joaquin kit fox protection measures for construction areas located in grasslands and agricultural lands that provide potential habitat for San Joaquin kit fox.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted within 200 feet of work areas to identify potential San Joaquin kit fox dens or other refugia in and surrounding work areas. A qualified biologist shall conduct the survey 14 to 30 days before construction begins. All potential dens shall be monitored for evidence of kit fox use by placing an inert tracking medium at den entrances and monitoring for at least three consecutive nights. If no activity is detected at these sites, they may be closed following guidance established in the 1999 USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox.</li> <li>• If kit fox occupancy is determined at a given site, den closure activities shall immediately be halted and the USFWS contacted. Depending on the den type, reasonable and prudent measures to avoid effects to kit fox could include seasonal limitations on project construction at the site (i.e., restricting the construction period to avoid spring-summer pupping season), and/or establishing a construction exclusion zone around the identified site, or resurveying the den a week later to determine species presence or absence.</li> <li>• To minimize the possibility of inadvertent kit fox mortality, project-related vehicles shall observe a maximum 20 miles per hour speed limit on private roads in kit fox habitat. Nighttime vehicle traffic shall be kept to a minimum on nonmaintained roads. Off-road traffic outside the designated project area shall be prohibited in areas of kit fox habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>PG&amp;E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.</p>	<p>PG&amp;E to submit to CPUC for review survey results and, if applicable, documentation showing USFWS consultation.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.</p>	<p>Submit documentation to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
<p><b>Special-Status Species: San Joaquin kit fox</b> (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent accidental entrapment of kit fox or other animals during construction, all excavated holes or trenches greater than two feet deep shall be covered at the end of each work day by suitable materials, or escape routes constructed of earthen materials or wooden planks shall be provided. Before filling, such holes shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. All pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater must be capped at both ends while not in use, and otherwise inspected for kit fox presence prior to relocation or use.</li>   <li>• All food-related trash items (such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps) shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed daily from the project area.</li>   <li>• To prevent harassment and mortality of kit foxes or destruction of their dens, no pets shall be allowed in the project area.</li>   <li>• Suitable habitat that is temporarily impacted by project-related activities will be restored to pre-project conditions.</li>   <li>• Temporary impacts will be compensated at a minimum of 0.5:1 ratio (i.e., restoration of temporarily disturbed areas, plus permanent conservation of an additional area at a 0.5:1 ratio) and permanent impacts will be compensated at a minimum 3:1 ratio or at ratios as prescribed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. Compensation will be implemented by participating in the San Joaquin Kit Fox Conservation Fund, which is administered via trust by the Center for Natural Lands Management.</li> </ul>			

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
<b>Special-Status Species: Raptors and Nesting Birds</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-5:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following measures for the protection of nesting birds and raptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design, construction, and maintenance will conform with PG&amp;E's corporate Avian Protection Plan and Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) Guidelines.</li> <li>• A project-specific Avian Protection Plan would be developed and would include routine ground surveys by a qualified avian biologist, ground surveys staggered over time in concert with project implementation, additional ground surveys by a qualified environmental monitor, species-specific buffers, and a minimum 1,000-foot helicopter buffer for active eagle nests.</li> <li>• During the permitting process, the USFWS may identify the need for protocol surveys for least Bell's vireo.</li> <li>• If active nests are not identified during the preconstruction survey, no further action is required for breeding birds.</li> <li>• If active nests are identified during the preconstruction survey, the following measures, which shall be included in the project-specific Avian Protection Plan, will be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– For golden eagle, construction contractors shall observe CDFG and USFWS avoidance guidelines, which stipulate a minimum 500-foot buffer zone around active golden eagle nests. Buffer zones of 50 feet for passerine birds and 250 feet for raptors other than golden eagles will be established or closer as needed with resources agency permission. Buffer zones shall remain until young have fledged.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>PG&amp;E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.</p>	<p>PG&amp;E to submit to the CPUC for review documentation demonstrating conformance with APLIC Guidelines and, if applicable, documentation showing USFWS and CDFG consultation.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.</p>	<p>Submit documentation to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
<b>Special-Status Species: Raptors and Nesting Birds (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist may be required if the project-related activity has potential to adversely impact the nest.</li> <li>– CDFG may, on a case-by-case basis, allow construction activities to continue even if raptors and passerine birds nest within the buffers of the work activities during the nesting season.</li> <li>– For activities conducted with agency approval within a raptor-nesting buffer zone, a qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities and the nest(s) to monitor reactions to activities. If activities are deemed to have a negative effect on nesting raptors, the biologist shall immediately inform the construction manager that work should be halted, and CDFG and <u>USFWS’s Division of Migratory Birds shall</u> <del>will</del> be consulted. While the USFWS issues limited take permits for golden eagle, this species and certain other raptors are <u>protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> and fully-protected under California law.</li> <li>– Following construction, PG&amp;E will comply with the PG&amp;E company-wide Avian Protection Plan.</li> </ul>			
<b>Riparian and Upland Habitat</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-6:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following measures for the protection and restoration of riparian and upland habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG&amp;E shall complete a Habitat Management Plan to be approved by the resource agencies at least 4 weeks prior to construction in potential restoration areas.</li> <li>• The Habitat Management Plan will include, at a minimum, quantifiable success criteria, contingency provisions, and follow-up monitoring responsibilities and schedules.</li> <li>• Affected riparian and upland habitat shall be restored to pre-project conditions.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit Habitat Management Plan to CPUC and resource agencies for review.  CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC at least 4 weeks prior to construction in potential restoration areas.

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Native Trees</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.4-7:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement the following additional measures for the protection and restoration of impacted native trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The record of protected trees removed during construction and the associated plans for native tree replacement will be included in the Habitat Management Plan required under Mitigation Measure 3.4-6, above.</li> <li>For replacement trees, the Habitat Management Plan shall include, at a minimum, quantifiable success criteria, contingency provisions, and follow-up monitoring responsibilities and schedules.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	<p>PG&amp;E to submit Habitat Management Plan to CPUC and resource agencies for review.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.</p>	Submit plan to CPUC at least 4 weeks prior to construction in potential restoration areas.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>				
<b>Paleontological Resources</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.5-1:</b> Stop work if previously unknown paleontological resources are discovered. Prior to the start of any subsurface excavations (excluding pole and tower holes) that would extend into Pleistocene to Oligocene sedimentary rock units, all construction forepersons and field supervisors shall receive training by a qualified professional paleontologist, as defined by the SVP (1995), who is experienced in teaching non-specialists, to ensure they can recognize fossil materials and will follow proper notification procedures in the event any are uncovered during construction. Procedures to be conveyed to workers include halting construction within 50 feet of any potential fossil find and notifying a qualified paleontologist, who will evaluate its significance. Training on paleontological resources will also be provided to all other construction workers, but may involve using a videotape of the initial training and/or written materials rather than in-person training by a paleontologist. If a fossil is determined to be significant and avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist will develop and implement an excavation and salvage plan in accordance with SVP standards (SVP, 1995; SVP, 1996).</p>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	<p>PG&amp;E to suspend all work and contact CPUC if paleontological resources are discovered.</p> <p>If resource is significant, submit excavation and salvage plan to CPUC.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.</p>	During all phases of construction activities.
<b>Geology, Soils, and Seismicity</b>				
No mitigation required.				

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>				
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-1:</b> PG&amp;E and/or its contractors shall implement construction best management practices, including but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow manufacturer's recommendations on use, storage, and disposal of chemical products used in construction;</li> <li>• Avoid overtopping construction equipment fuel gas tanks;</li> <li>• Use tarps and adsorbent pads under vehicles when refueling to contain and capture any spilled fuel;</li> <li>• During routine maintenance of construction equipment, properly contain and remove grease and oils;</li> <li>• Properly dispose of discarded containers of fuels and other chemicals; and</li> <li>• If wood poles removed from the Hollister Pole Segment are not recycled or reused, they shall be disposed of at a landfill facility that is authorized to accept treated wood pole waste in accordance with HSC 25143.1.4(b).</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-2:</b> PG&amp;E shall prepare a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (Plan) and implement it during construction to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws and guidelines regarding the handling of hazardous materials. The Plan shall prescribe hazardous material handling procedures to reduce the potential for a spill during construction, or exposure of the workers or public to hazardous materials. The Plan shall also include a discussion of appropriate response actions in the event that hazardous materials are released or encountered during excavation activities. The Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the commencement of construction activities.</p>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	<p>PG&amp;E to submit Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan to CPUC for review and approval.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.</p>	<p>Submit plan to CPUC at prior to commencement of construction activities.</p> <p>During all phases of construction activities.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b>				
<b>Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-3:</b> PG&E shall prepare and implement a Health and Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of construction workers and the public during construction. The plan shall include information on the appropriate personal protective equipment to be used during construction.	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit Health and Safety Plan to CPUC for review and approval.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.  During all phases of construction activities.
	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-4:</b> PG&E shall ensure that a Workers Environmental Awareness Program is established and implemented to communicate environmental concerns and appropriate work practices to all construction field personnel. The training program shall emphasize site-specific physical conditions to improve hazard prevention, and shall include a review of the Health and Safety Plan and the Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan. The CPUC mitigation monitor shall attend the first training session. PG&E shall submit documentation to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities that each worker on the project has undergone this training program.	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to attend the first program.  PG&E to submit copies of sign in sheets from training sessions.	Training to be completed prior to commencement of construction activities.  Submit sign-in sheets to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.
	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-5:</b> PG&E shall ensure that oil-absorbent material, tarps, and storage drums shall be used to contain and control any minor releases. Emergency spill supplies and equipment shall be kept at the project staging area and adjacent to all areas of work, and shall be clearly marked. Detailed information for responding to accidental spills and for handling any resulting hazardous materials shall be provided in the project's Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (see Mitigation Measure 3.7-2), which shall be implemented during construction.	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
<b>Protected Air Space</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-6:</b> PG&E shall incorporate the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) conditions outlined in FAA Aeronautical Studies 2009-AWP-1446-OE (FAA, 2009a) and 2009-AWP-1447-OE (FAA, 2009b), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poles 22/00 and 22/01 shall be marked or lighted in accordance with FAA Advisory circular 70/7460-1 K Change 2, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, red lights.</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit evidence of compliance with FAA regulations to CPUC.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Submit compliance documentation to FAA within five days after construction of the Hollister Pole Segment reaches its greatest height.  During all phases of construction activities.

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b>				
<b>Protected Air Space (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notices of Actual Construction or Alternative, shall be completed and returned to the FAA within five days after the construction reaches its greatest height.</li> <li>Poles 22/00 and 22/01 shall not exceed 82 feet above ground level (i.e., 381 feet above mean sea level).</li> </ul>			
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>				
<b>Water Quality</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.8-1:</b> For all segments of new access roads that would be within 300 feet of an existing surface water channel and traverse a ground slope greater than two percent, the following protective measures shall be installed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent access roads shall be in-sloped with a rock-lined ditch on the inboard side;</li> <li>Water bars, or a similar drainage feature, shall be installed at 150 foot intervals (so as to reduce the effective, connected length of the access road to 150 feet).</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all construction of all new access roads within 300 feet of an existing surface water channel and that traverse a ground slope greater than two percent.
<b>Drainage</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.8-2:</b> The drainage study, as proposed by PG&amp;E in APM-HYDRO-3, shall provide sizing recommendations to ensure each culvert can pass a 10-year storm event without being submerged, and design recommendations to ensure that culvert installation would result in no net increase in erosion and sedimentation during peak flows. Sizing and design recommendations for each culvert shall consider the individual drainage characteristics of the stream (e.g., slope, watershed area, and substrate) and may include any combination of features necessary to achieve no net increase in erosion and sediment transport. Such features may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Downstream armoring with gravel or gabions, coupled with appropriate roughness features or characteristics, so as to dissipate and slow flows exiting the culvert and leaving the modified stream segment;</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	<p>PG&amp;E to submit the drainage study to CPUC for review and approval.</p> <p>CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.</p>	<p>Submit study to CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities <u>associated with culvert installation</u>.</p> <p>During all culvert-related construction activities.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)</b>				
<b>Drainage (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide culvert that retains the natural stream bed and roughness elements without notably increasing flow depth;</li> <li>Design length and slope of culvert to maintain existing topography</li> </ul>			
<b>Land Use and Planning</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Mineral Resources</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Noise</b>				
<b>Construction Noise</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.11-1:</b> Construction activity shall be limited to between the hours of seven a.m. and seven p.m., Monday through Saturday, except with CPUC approval <del>and or</del> where necessary to ensure worker safety <del>or to conduct certain work during electrical line clearances or during procedures that cannot be interrupted.</del>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.11-2:</b> PG&E and/or its contractors shall shield compressors and other small stationary construction equipment with portable barriers when operating within 100 feet of residences.	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.11-3:</b> In the event that nighttime (i.e., between seven p.m. and seven a.m.) construction activity is determined to be necessary within 500 feet of an occupied residential dwelling unit, a nighttime noise reduction plan shall be developed by PG&E and submitted to the CPUC for review and approval. The noise reduction plan shall include a set of site-specific noise attenuation measures that apply state of the art noise reduction technology to ensure that nighttime construction noise and levels and associated nuisance are reduced to the most extent feasible. The attenuation measures may include, but not be limited to, the control strategies and methods for implementation that are listed below. If any of the following strategies are found by PG&E to not be feasible, an	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	If applicable, PG&E to submit nighttime noise reduction plan to CPUC for review and approval.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC prior to commencing any nighttime construction activities.  During all phases of construction that include nighttime construction activities.

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Noise (cont.)</b>				
<b>Construction Noise (cont.)</b>	<p>explanation as to why the specific strategy is not feasible shall be included in the nighttime noise reduction plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan construction activities to minimize the amount of nighttime construction.</li> <li>Offer temporary relocation of residents within 200 feet of nighttime construction areas.</li> <li>Temporary noise barriers, such as shields and/or blankets, shall be installed immediately adjacent to all nighttime stationary noise sources (e.g., drilling rigs, generators, pumps, etc.) that block the line of sight between nighttime activities and the closest residences.</li> </ul>			
<b>Population and Housing</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Public Services</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Recreation</b>				
No mitigation required.				
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>				
<b>Construction Traffic</b>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.15-1:</b> Traffic Management and Control Plan. PG&amp;E shall prepare a Traffic Management and Control Plan that shall include, at a minimum, the measures listed below. The Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for approval and shall be distributed to all construction crew members prior to commencement of construction activities. The Plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include descriptions of work hours, haul routes, work area delineation, any traffic detour routes, bicyclists and pedestrian detour routes, traffic control, and flagging;</li> <li>Identify all access and parking restriction and signage requirements;</li> </ul>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit Traffic Management to CPUC for review and approval.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	<p>Prior to commencement of construction activities.</p> <p>During all phases of construction.</p>

**TABLE 3-1 (Continued)**  
**MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PG&E HOLLISTER 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this IS/MND	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Transportation and Traffic (cont.)</b>				
<b>Construction Traffic (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require workers to park personal vehicles at the approved staging areas and take only necessary project vehicles to the work sites;</li> <li>Lay out plans for notifications of all lane and road closures and a process for communication with affected road users, including truckers, residents, and landowners prior to the start of construction. Advance public notification shall include posting of notices and appropriate signage of construction activities. The written notification shall include the construction schedule, the exact location and duration of activities within each street (i.e., which road/lanes and access point/driveways/parking areas would be blocked on which days and for how long), and a toll-free telephone number for receiving questions or complaints;</li> <li>Include plans to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers in the area. Emergency service providers would be notified of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities. All roads would remain passable to emergency service vehicles at all times; and</li> <li>Identify all roadway locations where special construction techniques (e.g., night construction) would be used to minimize impacts to traffic flow.</li> </ul>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.15-2:</b> Coordination with Union Pacific Railroad. PG&amp;E shall coordinate all construction activities with Union Pacific Railroad to avoid delays in freight train service along the Hollister Branch Line. PG&amp;E shall implement, at a minimum, the Union Pacific Railroad safety and engineering guidelines when installing power lines over the railroad right-of-way (ROW). The Workers Environmental Awareness Program required under Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 shall require construction crews and project personnel to be trained on Union Pacific Railroad safety guidelines prior to commencing work within or over the railroad ROW.</p>	PG&E and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	PG&E to submit documentation to CPUC showing proof of coordination with Union Pacific Railroad.  CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction involving wire installation within or over the railroad ROW.
<b>Utilities and Service Systems</b>				
No mitigation required.				