

2.17 Mandatory Findings of Significance

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulative considerable? ("Cumulative considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion

- a) **Potential to degrade the quality of the environment: *less than significant impact with incorporated mitigation.***

As discussed in the *Agriculture Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities and Services Systems* sections of this MND, the Proposed Project would result in potentially significant temporary impacts as a result of construction of the transmission line and substation modifications that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. However, adoption and implementation of mitigation measures described in this MND would reduce these individual impacts to less than significant levels.

As described in Section 2.4 *Biological Resources*, the Proposed Project would have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife species population to drop below self sustaining levels, nor does it restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal community, or reduce the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 2.4-1a and 1b, 2.4-2, 2.4-3a through 2.4-3c, 2.4-4 and 2.4-5** contained in Section 2.4 would ensure that these impacts would be less than significant.

Section 2.5 *Cultural Resources*, concludes that the Proposed Project would have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history; however, **Mitigation Measures 2.5-1a, 1b and 2.5-2** identified in this section would reduce such impacts to a less than significant level. Additionally, the project would not result in any direct impacts to known cultural resources during construction of the project. There are no known areas of cultural significance located within the Proposed Project area.

b) Impacts that are individually limited, but cumulative considerable: *less than significant impact with incorporated mitigation.*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 requires a discussion of the cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable," meaning that the project's incremental effects are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. The cumulative impacts discussion does not need to provide as much detail as is provided in the analysis of project-only impacts and should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b) identifies the following three elements are necessary for an adequate cumulative analysis:

- A list of past, present, and reasonably anticipated future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including those projects outside the control of the Lead Agency; or a summary of projections contained in an adopted General Plan or related planning document designed to evaluate regional or area-wide conditions. This information is provided in **Table 2.17-1**.
- A summary of expected environmental effects to be produced by those projects. The summary shall include specific reference to additional information stating where that information is available.
- A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects, and an examination of reasonable options for mitigating or avoiding any significant cumulative effects of a Proposed Project.

The cumulative projects considered in this analysis are provided in **Table 2.17-1**. These projects range from residential and commercial developments to other utility infrastructure projects. The projects listed in **Table 2.17-1** are considered reasonably likely to be constructed and/or operated during a similar timeframe as the Proposed Project. The projects are examined in light of their potential to contribute to short-term, construction-related effects as well as long-term operational effects in conjunction with the Proposed Project.

**TABLE 2.17-1
CUMULATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

APN or Project Name	Description	Address / Location	Agency / Organization	Details	Distance from Project
Fulton 230 kV Transmission Line	230 kV line	From Lakeville Substation to Fulton Substation	PG&E	Reconfiguring existing lines (no new lines).	Variable
Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project	Utility Improvements for the Sonoma County Water Agency	Many streets within the City of Sonoma area	Sonoma County Water Agency	N/A	Variable
127-111-043	Single Family Residential	19220 7th St. East	Sonoma County	1 unit	Over 1 mile
127-231-010	Single Family Residential	912 East Napa St.	Sonoma County	1 unit	Over 1 mile
128-291-008	Detached Barn	20450 5th St. East	Sonoma County	1 unit	Over 1 mile
128-322-009	Private School	20872 Highway 12	Sonoma County	1 unit	Over 1 mile
135-022-025	Single Family Residential	22752 Burndale Rd.	Sonoma County	1 unit	Over 1 mile
Cheese Factory addition	Commercial	2 West Spain Street	City of Sonoma	8,480 sq. ft.	Over 1 mile
Dan Miller PUD	Multi-Family Residential	317 Second Street East	City of Sonoma	3 units	Over 1 mile
Detert Apartments	Multi-Family Residential	117 East Napa St.	City of Sonoma	2 units	Over 1 mile
Fulton Capacitor Bank	Install capacitor banks	Inside Fulton Substation	PG&E	To provide reactive support to the area.	Over 1 mile
Giannis Mixed Use	Multi-Family Residential	19315 Sonoma Highway	City of Sonoma	8 units / 4,020 sq. ft.	Over 1 mile
Haydn Miller PUD	Single Family Residential	604 Curtin Lane	City of Sonoma	6 units	Over 1 mile
Litchfield Second Unit	Second Unit	360 Fifth Street West	City of Sonoma	1 unit	Over 1 mile
Martinez	Single Family Residential	475 Denmark St.	City of Sonoma	35 units	Over 1 mile
More Subdivision	Single Family Residential	498 East Napa Street	City of Sonoma	2 units	Over 1 mile
Norrbom	Multi-Family Residential	590 West Napa Street	City of Sonoma	23 units	Over 1 mile
Pendergast Subdivision	Single Family Residential	685 Fano Lane	City of Sonoma	1 unit	Over 1 mile
Peterson	Multi-Family Residential	254 First Street East	City of Sonoma	39 units	Over 1 mile
Pueblo Voltage Support	Install STATCOM device	Inside Pueblo Substation	PG&E	To prevent voltage drops.	Over 1 mile
Sonoma Village West	Multi-Family Residential	19370 Sonoma Hy	City of Sonoma	15 units	Over 1 mile
Starr Ranch	Single Family Residential	Fifth Street East	City of Sonoma	20 units	Over 1 mile
Wagner Office Bldg	Building	19310 Sonoma Highway	City of Sonoma	18,000 sq. ft.	Over 1 mile
Weiler B&B	Hotel Units	156,168 East Napa Street	City of Sonoma	6 units / 1,900 sq. ft.	Over 1 mile
Whiteley Condominiums	Multi-Family Residential	136 West Napa St.	City of Sonoma	7 units	Over 1 mile
Willows Wild	Multi-Family Residential	310 Fifth Street West	City of Sonoma	15 units	Over 1 mile
Pipgras Alzheimer's Facility	Cong. Care Units	91 Napa Road	City of Sonoma	87 units	Less than ¼ mile
McKenna Mixed Use	Multi-Family Res./Commercial	1254 Broadway	City of Sonoma	10 units / 4,400 sq. ft.	Less than ¼ mile
Albertson Subdivision	Single Family Residential	254 West MacArthur St.	City of Sonoma	2 units	¼ to 1 mile

TABLE 2.17-1 (continued)
CUMULATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

APN or Project Name	Description	Address / Location	Agency / Organization	Details	Distance from Project
Burbank Housing	Multi-Family Residential	404 Napa Road	City of Sonoma	34 units	¼ to 1 mile
Carneros Parks Lofts	Live-work units	649 First Street West	City of Sonoma	30 units	¼ to 1 mile
Carneros Village	Multi-Family Residential	623 First Street West	City of Sonoma	14 units / 4,200 sq. ft.	¼ to 1 mile
Chiapallone Duplex	Multi-Family Residential	1141-1143 Broadway	City of Sonoma	2 units	¼ to 1 mile
Chiapallone Fourplex	Multi-Family Residential	1141-1143 Broadway	City of Sonoma	4 units	¼ to 1 mile
Conforti Mixed Use	Multi-Family Res./Commercial	966 Broadway	City of Sonoma	8 units / 4,800 sq. ft.	¼ to 1 mile
Curusis Subdivision	Single Family Residential	20095 Fifth Street West	City of Sonoma	3 units	¼ to 1 mile
Ledson/Merlo	Multi-Family Residential	165-179 West MacArthur St.	City of Sonoma	30 units	¼ to 1 mile
McTaggart/Pinnacle	Single Family Residential	432 East Napa Street	City of Sonoma	13 units	¼ to 1 mile
Mehew Mixed Use	Single Family Residential, Second Units	720 Broadway	City of Sonoma	1 single-family unit, 1 second unit / 1,350 sq. ft.	¼ to 1 mile
Montini/O'Brien	Single Family Residential	Fifth Street West	City of Sonoma	26 units	¼ to 1 mile
Moore Subdivision	Single Family Residential	370 Napa Road	City of Sonoma	2 units	¼ to 1 mile
Sanders Mixed Use	Multi-Family Res./Commercial	19957 Broadway	City of Sonoma	6 units / 1,760 sq. ft.	¼ to 1 mile
West MacArthur Village PUD	Multi-Family Residential	333 West MacArthur	City of Sonoma	13 units	¼ to 1 mile

SOURCES: Sonoma County PRMD (2005); City of Sonoma (2005); and PG&E PEA (2004)

It is anticipated that project construction would extend through a 19-month period. Projects within a mile of the transmission line alignment and substations were evaluated in this analysis of cumulative impacts. The County of Sonoma, City of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Water Agency and PG&E were contacted for information on projects within their jurisdiction. Development, utility improvement, and capital investment projects that could combine with the Proposed Project to result in a cumulative impact are shown in **Table 2.17-1**.

Short-Term Construction-Related Effects

In conjunction with the Proposed Project, several short-term construction-related cumulative impacts may occur. These potential impacts include cumulative impacts to air quality, noise and traffic.

Air Quality

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project, as described in Section 2.3 *Air Quality*, could have a temporary impact on local air quality through temporary increases in NOx and PM10 emissions which could be cumulatively significant when combined with other projects described in **Table 2.17-1**. **Mitigation Measures 2.3-1a through 2.3-1c** would ensure that the project's temporary air quality construction impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable (i.e., because the project would be required to mitigate its contribution to the significant cumulative impact). As a result, the project would not have a significant cumulative air quality impact.

Noise

Equipment used during project construction activities would temporarily increase short-term noise levels in the project area. The Proposed Project, in conjunction with the other projects listed in **Table 2.17-1** would have the potential to contribute to a cumulative impact of noise levels in the project area. With one exception, the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project (SVRWP), it is unlikely that all cumulative projects listed in **Table 2.17-1** would occur in the same area at the same time and therefore, cumulative noise increases would be dispersed and a significant cumulative noise impact would not occur. However, the SVRWP combined with the Proposed Project could have the potential to result in a temporary cumulative noise impact. This impact could result if construction of the segment of the SVRWP along Leveroni Road were to occur at the same time as the Proposed Project. At this time, the exact construction schedule of the SVRWP has not yet been determined; however, it is tentatively anticipated to occur in late 2006 (Nunes, 2005) at which time, the construction of the portion of the transmission line along Leveroni Road would be complete. However, even if construction of the Proposed Project were to occur simultaneously with the SVRWP, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 2.11-1a** and **2.11-1b** identified in Section 2.11 *Noise*, would ensure that the project's construction- and operation-related noise impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable (i.e., because the project would mitigate its contribution

to the significant cumulative impact). As a result, the project would not have a significant cumulative noise impact.

Transportation/Traffic

Project construction activities, as described in Section 2.15 *Transportation and Traffic*, could have a temporary construction-related impact on local traffic flow in the project area as street, lane, and sidewalk closures may be required. In conjunction with other construction on projects identified in **Table 2.17-1** in the area, potential cumulative impacts could occur. As specified in Section 2.15 *Traffic and Transportation*, **Mitigation Measure 2.15-1b** requires PG&E to prepare of a Traffic Management Plan prior to construction. This Plan would be subject to the approval of the City of Sonoma and Sonoma County and would consider other cumulative projects along the construction corridor, including the SVRWP along Leveroni Road. Implementation of this Plan (required by **Mitigation Measure 2.14-1b**) along with **Mitigation Measure 2.17-1** (below) would ensure that the project's contribution to significant cumulative impacts related to transportation and traffic would be less than significant.

Impact 2.17-1: Project construction activities along Leveroni Road could adversely affect local noise and traffic conditions if the Proposed Project is constructed at the same time as the SVRWP segment along Leveroni Road. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.17-1.

Mitigation Measure 2.17-1: At least two weeks prior to commencement of project construction activities, PG&E shall contact the Sonoma County Water Agency to determine if construction of the Proposed Project and construction of the SVRWP would occur at the same time along Leveroni Road. If construction of both projects (the Proposed Project and SVRWP) would occur along Leveroni Road at the same time, then PG&E shall incorporate consideration of the SVRWP into its Traffic Management Plan required by Mitigation Measure 2.15-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

- c) **Environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly: *less than significant impact with incorporated mitigation.***

Project impacts include the potential for an accidental release of hazardous materials stored in staging areas and used during the construction of the transmission line that could enter nearby waterways, adjacent lands, or public roadways. With implementation of **Mitigation Measures 2.7-1a through 2.7-1e**, provided in Section 2.7 *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the Proposed Project would not result in environmental effects that could cause adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Temporary impacts to human beings through degradation of local air quality and noise could occur during project construction from the operation of construction equipment. However, with

implementation of **Mitigation Measures 2.3-1a through 2.3-1c, 2.11-1a and 2.11-1b** provided in Sections 2.3 *Air Quality* and 2.11 *Noise*, these temporary impacts would have less than significant adverse effects on human beings.

Electricity transmission or use can generate electric and magnetic fields (EMF), which are caused by the presence and motion of electric charges. Over the past decade, media reports on potential EMF exposure from power lines have generated much public interest and concern. Incorporation of EMF reduction measures in accordance with CPUC Decision 93-11-013, which are part of the Proposed Project, would ensure that these impacts would be less than significant (see **Appendix B** for additional information related to EMF).

References – Mandatory Findings of Significance

City of Sonoma, 2005. *Development and Construction Report*, May 2005.

Nunes, Lisa, Project Contact for the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project, ESA, personal communication, June 17, 2005.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), 2004. *Proponent's Environmental Assessment, Lakeville-Sonoma 115 kV Transmission Line Project*, November 2004. Prepared by EDAW.

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (Sonoma County PRMD), 2005. *Construction and Planning Applications Reports*, through May 2005.