

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

PacifiCorp, in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.07-07-018) filed on July 20, 2007, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) the proposed Morrison Creek Substation and remove the existing Simonson Substation (Proposed Project). The Morrison Creek Substation would be a 69 kilovolt (kV) to 12.5 kV distribution substation that would replace the existing Simonson Substation that is also a 69 kV to 12.5 kV distribution substation. The objective of the Proposed Project is to increase system reliability in order to continue safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area.

Document Organization

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is organized as follows:

- This Executive Summary introduces the Proposed Project, describes the method for reviewing and submittal of comments, describes the organization of the document, and provides a summary of the impacts and mitigation measures.
- The Project Description (Section 1) provides objectives and components of the Proposed Project and details of proposed construction activities.
- The Environmental Checklist and Discussion (Section 2) includes all required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) checklist items and a discussion of the impacts and their significance for the Proposed Project.
- The Environmental Determination (Section 3) includes a statement by the CPUC as to the type of environmental review that is required.
- The Report Preparers (Section 4) summarizes the names and affiliation of persons involved with development of this IS/MND.
- The Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program (MMRCP) (Section 5) summarize the program for ensuring effective implementation of the mitigation measures for the Proposed Project.

Public Review Period and Comments

CEQA and the CPUC encourage public participation in the planning and environmental review processes. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Project and

the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND during a public review and comment period. Written public comments may be submitted to the CPUC at any time during the 30-day public review and comment period, **November 20, 2007 through December 21, 2007**. Information regarding the IS/MND availability and process for submitting comments is as follows:

How to Get a Copy of the IS/MND Study	How to Submit Comments
<p>Review online or download from the website: www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/morrisoncreek/morrison.html</p> <p>Request by telephone at (415) 962-8468 or email at morrisoncreek@esassoc.com</p> <p>Review at the following library branches: Smith River Community Library 241 First Street Smith River, CA 95567 (707) 487-8048</p> <p>Crescent City Branch, Del Norte County Library District 190 Price Mall Crescent City, CA 95531 (707) 464-9793</p>	<p>Mail to: Mr. Michael Rosauer PacifiCorp Morrison Creek Project c/o Environmental Science Associates 225 Bush Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, CA 94104</p> <p>E-mail: morrisoncreek@esassoc.com</p> <p>Fax: (415) 896-0332 Phone: (415) 962-8468</p>

Project Description

PacifiCorp’s Proposed Project includes construction of the new Morrison Creek Substation and removal of the existing Simonson Substation. The new Morrison Creek Substation would be a low-profile design 69 kV/12.5 kV distribution substation with a capacity of 11.2/14 megavolt amperes (MVA). The 69 kV circuit tap would come from a new steel pole that would be installed adjacent to the southwest side of the proposed site. The Morrison Creek Substation would occupy an approximate 275-foot by 275-foot footprint approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the existing Simonson Substation site.

The existing Simonson Substation would be dismantled and completely removed. The existing transmission and distribution taps to the Simonson Substation would also be removed, and the site would be re-graded to generally match the surrounding site contours.

Under CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D, approval of the Proposed Project must comply with CEQA.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The attached Draft IS/MND presents and analyzes potential environmental impacts that would result from construction and operation of the Proposed Project, and proposes mitigation measures,

as appropriate. Based on the Draft IS/MND, approval of the application would have no impact or less than significant effects in the following areas:

- Agriculture Resources
- Air Quality
- Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use, Plans, and Policies
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation.

The Draft IS/MND indicates that approval of the application would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated in the areas of:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Public Services
- Utilities and Service Systems.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Each of the identified impacts can be mitigated to avoid the impact or reduce it to a less than significant level. The mitigation measures presented in the Draft IS/MND have been agreed to by PacifiCorp. Table ES-1 provides a complete, condensed presentation of the environmental impacts that require mitigation measures for the proposed Morrison Creek Substation Project. Full descriptions of the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan are included in Section 5 of this Draft IS/MND to specify how all mitigation measures would be implemented.

**TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Aesthetics		
<p>2.1-1: The Proposed Project would affect views from U.S. 101, an eligible State scenic highway.</p>	<p>2.1-1: Landscaping shall be installed outside the perimeter fence at the Morrison Creek Substation to partially screen views from Highway 101 and to integrate the Morrison Creek Substation's appearance with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Plant material shall be appropriate to the local/natural landscape setting and shall be consistent with Public Resources Code Section 4292 for vegetation located in proximity to transmission facilities. A landscape plan prepared by a licensed landscape architect or certified arborist shall be submitted to the CPUC. The landscape plan shall show the location, suggested species and size at planting for all proposed plant material. The plan shall also show proposed landscaping in relation to the final placement of the tap pole and substation perimeter fence. The plan shall be submitted to, reviewed and approved by the CPUC prior to commencement of construction.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>2.1-2: The Proposed Project could create a new source of substantial glare.</p>	<p>2.1-2: A non-reflective or weathered finish shall be applied to all new structures and equipment installed at the Morrison Creek Substation to reduce potential glare effects.</p>	Less than Significant
Agricultural Resources		
No impacts identified.		
Air Quality		
No impacts identified.		
Biological Resources		
<p>2.4-1: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could result in impacts to the northern red-legged frog, which is a California species of special concern.</p>	<p>2.4-1: To minimize or avoid impacts to the northern red-legged frog, preconstruction surveys for the species should occur throughout the Proposed Project site two weeks or less before removing vegetation or carrying out ground-disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall be carried out by a permitted biologist familiar with northern red-legged frog identification and ecology. These are not intended to be protocol-level surveys but designed to clear an area so that individual northern red-legged frogs are not present within the Proposed Project site prior to the initiation of construction. Once the site is cleared it shall be fenced in such a way as to exclude northern red-legged frog for the duration of proposed construction activities. Methods for pre-construction surveys and site fencing shall be developed prior to the start of construction.</p>	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>2.4-2: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could result in the direct loss of bird nests, death of young, or loss of reproductive potential at active nests of special status bird species located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site.</p>	<p>2.4-2: Direct disturbance, including tree and shrub removal or nest destruction by any other means, or indirect disturbance (e.g., noise, increased human activity in area, etc.) of active nests of raptors and other special-status bird species within or in the vicinity of the proposed Morrison Creek Substation site or in the vicinity of the existing Simonson Substation site shall be avoided in accordance with the following procedures for Pre-Construction Special-Status Avian Surveys and Subsequent Actions. No more than two weeks in advance of any tree or shrub removal or ground-disturbing activity that will commence during the breeding season (i.e., February 1 through July 31), a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys of all potential special-status bird nesting habitat in the vicinity of the planned activity. Pre-construction surveys are not required for construction activities scheduled to occur during the non-breeding season (i.e., August 1 through January 31). Depending on the survey findings, the following actions shall be taken to avoid potential adverse effects on nesting special-status nesting birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If pre-construction surveys indicate that no nests of special-status birds are present or that nests are inactive or potential habitat is unoccupied, no further mitigation shall be required. • If active nests of special-status birds are found during the surveys, the results of the surveys shall be forwarded to CDFG (as appropriate) and avoidance procedures shall be adopted, as determined necessary by CDFG, on a case-by-case basis. These can include construction buffer areas up to several hundred feet in the case of raptors, relocation of birds, or seasonal avoidance. If buffers are created, a no disturbance buffer zone shall be created around active nests during the breeding season or until a qualified biologist determines that all young have fledged. The size of the buffer zones and types of construction activities restricted within them shall be determined through consultation with the CDFG taking into account factors such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Noise and human disturbance levels at the Proposed Project site and the nesting site at the time of the survey and the noise and disturbance expected during the construction activity; b. Distance and amount of vegetation or other screening between the Proposed Project site and the nest; and c. Sensitivity of individual nesting species and behaviors of the nesting birds. 	<p>Less than Significant</p>

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>2.4-3: Activities associated with the construction of the proposed Morrison Creek Substation could detrimentally affect special status species utilizing the site, through the temporary and permanent removal of existing vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction activities commencing during the non-breeding season and continuing into the breeding season do not require surveys because it is assumed that any breeding birds taking up nests would be acclimated to Proposed Project-related activities already under way. However, if trees and shrubs are to be removed during the breeding season, the trees and shrubs shall be surveyed for nests prior to their removal, according to the survey and protective action guidelines described in a through c, in the bullet above. • Nests initiated during construction activities would be presumed to be unaffected by the construction activity, and a buffer zone around such nests would not be necessary. • Destruction of active nests of special-status birds and overt interference with nesting activities of special-status birds shall be prohibited. 	Less than Significant
<p>2.4-4: The proposed tap line and substation may result in the inadvertent electrocution and collision of raptors and other special status bird species.</p>	<p>2.4-3: Areas outside the fenced area of Morrison Creek Substation that will be disturbed by Proposed Project construction activities shall be re-vegetated with native shrubs, trees, and/or grasses. Removal of native trees and shrubs shall be minimized.</p> <p>2.4-4: The Morrison Creek substation as well as any associated transmission and distribution line configurations should be designed as recommended in the PacifiCorp Bird Management Program Guidelines (PacifiCorp, 2006), or along recommendations provided by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee. This shall minimize the chance for electrocution of protected raptors and other protected bird species and provide for a reporting system of any incidental bird mortalities resulting from the Morrison Creek Substation and its associated structures.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>2.5-1: In the event that any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 50 feet of the resources shall be halted and PacifiCorp and/or the CPUC shall consult with a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives of PacifiCorp and/or the CPUC and the qualified archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation, with the ultimate determination to be made by the CPUC. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, as necessary, and a report prepared by a Specialist according to current professional standards.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>2.5-1: If construction activities associated with the Proposed Project encounter currently unknown cultural resources, either prehistoric or historic, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or CEQA Section 21083.2(g), this could cause substantial adverse changes to the significance of the resource.</p>		

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>2.5-2: The Proposed Project could adversely affect unidentified paleontologic resources at the proposed pole site or the substation locations.</p>	<p>In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist in order to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the CPUC shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, Proposed Project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) shall be instituted. Work may proceed on other parts of the Proposed Project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is carried out.</p> <p>If the CPUC, in consultation with the qualified archaeologist, determines that a significant archeological resource is present and that the resource could be adversely affected by the Proposed Project, the CPUC shall require PacifiCorp to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-design the Proposed Project to avoid any adverse effect on the significant archeological resource; or • Implement an archeological data recovery program (ADRP) unless the qualified archaeologist determines that the archeological resource is of greater interpretive use than research significance, and that interpretive use of the resource is feasible. If the circumstances warrant an ADRP, such a program shall be conducted. The project archaeologist and the CPUC shall meet and consult to determine the scope of the ADRP. The archaeologist shall prepare a draft ADRP that shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval. The ADRP shall identify how the proposed ADRP would preserve the significant information the archeological resource is expected to contain. That is, the ADRP shall identify the scientific/historical research questions that are applicable to the expected resource, the data classes the resource is expected to possess, and how the expected data classes would address the applicable research questions. Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by the Proposed Project. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. <p>2.5-2: In the event of an unanticipated paleontological discovery during construction, excavations within 50 feet of the find shall be temporarily halted or diverted until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist per up to date Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards. The discovery shall be documented as needed, the potential resource evaluated, and the significance of the find shall be assessed under the criteria set forth in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.</p>	Less than Significant

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>2.5-3: Proposed Project construction could result in damage to previously unidentified human remains.</p>	<p>The paleontologist shall notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the CPUC determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the Proposed Project on the qualities that make the resource important, and such plan shall be implemented. The plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval.</p> <p>2.5-3: In the event that human skeletal remains are uncovered during Proposed Project construction or demolition activities, PacifiCorp shall immediately halt all work, contact the Del Norte County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols pursuant to Section 15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, PacifiCorp shall contact the California Native American Heritage Commission, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and all excavation and site preparation activities shall cease until appropriate arrangements are made. The Native American Heritage Commission shall assign a Most Likely Descendant, who shall have the right to access the find and provide a recommendation for treatment of the remains to the property owner, PacifiCorp, and the CPUC.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>
<p>Geology, Soils, and Seismicity No impacts identified.</p>		
<p>Hazards and Hazardous Materials 2.7-1: Construction would require the use of certain materials such as fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemical products that, in large quantities, could pose a potential hazard to the public or the environment if improperly used or inadvertently released.</p>	<p>2.7-1a: PacifiCorp and/or its contractor(s) shall implement construction best management practices including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow manufacturer’s recommendations on use, storage, and disposal of chemical products used in construction; • Avoid overtopping construction equipment fuel gas tanks; • Use tarps and adsorbent pads under vehicles when refueling to contain and capture any spilled fuel; • During routine maintenance of construction equipment, properly contain and remove grease and oils; and • Properly dispose of discarded containers of fuels and other chemicals. 	<p>Less than Significant</p>

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
	<p>2.7-1b: PacifiCorp shall prepare a <i>Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan</i> (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> <p>2.7-1c: PacifiCorp shall prepare and implement a <i>Health and Safety Plan</i> 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. In addition, the Plan shall address emergency medical services in the case of an emergency. The Plan shall list procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. PacifiCorp shall prepare the Plan and distribute it to all construction crew members involved in the project prior to construction and operation of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>2.7-1d: PacifiCorp shall establish and implement a <i>Workers Environmental Awareness Plan</i> (WEAP) 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 <i>Health and Safety Plan</i> and the <i>Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan</i>. PacifiCorp shall submit documentation to the CPUC mitigation monitor prior to the commencement of construction activities that each worker on the Proposed Project has undergone this training program.</p> <p>2.7-1e: PacifiCorp 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 Proposed 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 <i>Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan</i> (see Mitigation Measure 2.7-1b), which shall be implemented during construction.</p>	

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>2.7-2: Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment.</p>	<p>2.7-2: PacifiCorp's <i>Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan</i> shall include provisions that would be implemented if any subsurface hazardous materials are encountered during construction. Provisions outlined in the plan shall include immediately stopping work in the contaminated area and contacting appropriate resource agencies, including the CPUC designated monitor, upon discovery of subsurface hazardous materials. The plan shall include the phone numbers of local, regional, and State agencies and primary, secondary, and final cleanup procedures. The <i>Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan</i> shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the commencement of construction activities.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>2.7-3: Proposed Project construction activities could ignite dry vegetation and start a fire.</p>	<p>2.7-3: Water storage containers or water trucks shall be sited/constantly on-site in the Proposed Project area and be available for fire protection. All construction vehicles and work areas shall have fire suppression equipment and construction personnel shall be required to park vehicles away from dry vegetation. PacifiCorp shall contact and coordinate with the Smith River Fire Protection District (SRFPD) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire) to determine the minimum amounts of fire equipment to be located at the construction site and appropriate locations for the water tanks. PacifiCorp shall submit verification of its consultation with SRFPD and Cal-Fire to the CPUC.</p>	Less than Significant
Hydrology and Water Quality		
No impacts identified.		
Land Use, Plans, and Policies		
No impacts identified.		
Mineral Resources		
No impacts identified.		
Noise		
<p>2.11-1: The Proposed Project could generate adverse noise levels during project construction.</p>	<p>2.11-1: Construction activity shall be limited to the least noise-sensitive daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., with some exceptions (as approved by the CPUC) as required for safety considerations or certain construction procedures that cannot be interrupted.</p>	Less than Significant
Population and Housing		
No impacts identified.		

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PACIFICORP MORRISON CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Public Services		
2.13-1: Proposed Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection services.	2.13-1a: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-1c. 2.13-1b: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-3.	Less than Significant
Recreation		
No impacts identified.		
Transportation / Traffic		
No impacts identified.		
Utilities and Service Systems		
2.16-1: Proposed Project construction activities could inadvertently contact underground utility lines and/or facilities during excavation and other ground disturbance, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions.	2.16-1: PacifiCorp shall ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least two working days prior to initiation of construction activities that require subsurface ground disturbance so that Underground Service Alert can verify the location of all existing underground facilities and alert the other utilities to mark their facilities in the area of anticipated construction activities.	Less than Significant
Mandatory Findings of Significance		
No additional impacts identified.		