

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

PacifiCorp, in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.05-12-011), filed on December 13, 2005, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 18.6 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Yreka and Weed Junction Substations pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. Also included in this CEQA review, although not included as part of PacifiCorp's original application, is a planned rebuilding of the Weed Substation and upgrade of approximately 1.5 miles of single-circuit 69kV transmission line to a double-circuit 115kV transmission line (collectively called the Weed Segment) which was added to the CEQA review by order of Commissioner Brown in his "Ruling Regarding Piecemealing and Substations," filed June 5, 2006.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to improve reliability by increasing transmission capacity in the Yreka-Weed area in order to continue safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area, and to meet contractual obligations. The objective of the Weed Segment is to handle increased load and to provide transmission capacity.

Document Organization

The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is organized as follows:

- This Executive Summary introduces the 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 Impacts Discussion (Section 2) includes all required 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 Summary of Preparers (Section 4) summarizes the names and affiliation of persons involved with development of this 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 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, *September 1, 2006 through October 2, 2006*. 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.yreka-weed.com</p> <p>Request by telephone at (415) 962-8421 or email at yreka-weed@essassoc.com</p> <p>Review at the following library branches:</p> <p>Yreka Branch Library 719 4th Street Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-4175</p> <p>Weed Branch Library 708 South Davis Weed, CA 96094 (530) 938-4769</p>	<p>Mail to: Mr. John Boccio Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project c/o Environmental Science Associates 225 Bush Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, CA 94104</p> <p>E-mail: yreka-weed@essassoc.com Fax: (415) 896-0332</p>

Project Description

PacifiCorp in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.05-12-011), filed on December 13, 2005, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 18.6 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Yreka and Weed Junction Substations pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. The application includes the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) (PacifiCorp, 2005) prepared pursuant to Rules 17.1 and 17.3 of CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

PacifiCorp, which currently owns a single-circuit 69 kV electric transmission system in the Yreka-Weed area of Siskiyou County, requests authorization to upgrade the existing 69 kV transmission line (Line 1) with a new 17 mile 115 kV transmission line within existing right-of-way and to install an additional 1.6 miles of 115 kV transmission line within a new right-of-way

from the existing Line 1, heading due east to the Weed Junction Substation. The upgraded and new line together would be called Line 75. The Proposed Project also would include modifications to two substations (Yreka and Weed Junction) as well as a rebuild of a third substation (Lucerne). Under GO 131-D, approval of this project must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), except that the modifications to the Yreka and Weed Junction Substations are exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section III.B of GO 131-D (i.e., the modifications would not increase the land area and would not increase the voltage rating of the existing substations).

Also included in this CEQA review is PacifiCorp's planned rebuilding of the Weed Substation and upgrade of approximately 1.5 miles of single-circuit 69 kV transmission line to a double-circuit 115 kV transmission line (collectively called the Weed Segment). The Weed Segment was not originally included in PacifiCorp's application for the Proposed Project, but subsequently was added to the CEQA review by order of Commissioner Brown in his "Ruling Regarding Piecemealing and Substations," filed June 5, 2006.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The attached Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration presents and analyzes potential environmental impacts that would result from construction and operation of the new transmission line and substation modifications, and proposes mitigation measures, as appropriate.

Based on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, approval of the application would have no impact or less than significant effects in the following areas:

- Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration indicates that approval of the application would result in potentially significant impacts in the areas of:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use, Plans, and Policies
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Services

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 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration have been agreed to by PacifiCorp. The Impact and Mitigation Measure Summary

Table ES-1 that follows is a complete, condensed presentation of the environmental impacts and mitigation measures for the proposed Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project, including the Weed Segment. Full descriptions of the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance Plan are included in Section 5 of this Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration to specify how all mitigation measures would be implemented.

**TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Aesthetics		
Impact 2.1-1: The Weed Segment could affect views from a limited portion of Highway 97, a County-designated Scenic Highway, an Eligible State Scenic Highway, and a segment of the Volcanic Legacy National Scenic Byway.	Mitigation Measure 2.1-1a: Landscaping shall be installed outside the perimeter fence at the Weed Substation to partially screen views from Highway 97 and to integrate the Weed Substation's appearance with the surrounding landscape. Additional landscaping shall also be installed along the roadside, north and east of the substation, to partially enclose roadway views and to partially screen views toward the transmission poles seen along the skyline. All plant material shall be appropriate to the local setting and shall be consistent with Public Resources Code Section 4292 for vegetation located in proximity to transmission facilities.	Less than Significant
	Mitigation Measure 2.1-1b: Where visible from Highway 97, perimeter fencing at the Weed Substation shall incorporate aesthetic treatment through use of attractive, non-reflective materials in order enhance its aesthetic appearance.	Less than Significant
	Impact 2.1-2: The Proposed Project (Poles 11 and 12) could affect views from a limited portion of Hoy Road.	Mitigation Measure 2.1-2a: Poles 11 and 12 shall be sited to minimize potential effects on views from Hoy Road. Siting criteria shall include the following: 1) where feasible, set back poles from the edge of the roadway so as to reduce their visibility; 2) locate poles to take advantage of available opportunities for screening provided by existing vegetation; and 3) locate poles to minimize the degree of skylining.
	Mitigation Measure 2.1-2b: In consultation with the Siskiyou County Public Works Department and/or private property owners, trees/shrubs shall be installed individually or in informal groupings to partially screen close range unobstructed views of the new poles as seen from Hoy Road. Planting shall be designed to substantially preserve views of the landscape features seen in the backdrop. 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. After Poles 11 and 12 are in place, the CPUC mitigation monitor shall review the effectiveness of Mitigation Measure 2.1-2a, to determine whether Mitigation Measure 2.1-2b is needed.	Less than Significant
Impact 2.1-3: The Proposed Project (Poles 13 and 14) could affect views from nearby private residential property.	Mitigation Measure 2.1-3a: Poles 12 through 14 shall be sited to minimize potential effects on views from the 5026 Hoy Road residential property. Siting criteria shall include the following: 1) where feasible, locate poles to take advantage of available opportunities for screening provided by nearby, foreground existing vegetation and 2) locate poles to minimize the degree of skylining.	Less than Significant

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.1-3b: In consultation with the 5026 Hoy Road property owner, trees/shrubs shall be installed individually or in informal groupings to partially screen unobstructed views of the new poles. Planting shall be designed to substantially preserve views of the landscape features seen in the backdrop. 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.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.1-4a: The Proposed Project transmission line could create new sources of glare.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.1-4a: Non-specular conductor shall be installed on the new 1.6 mile line to reduce the Proposed Project’s potential glare effects and the level of visual contrast between the transmission line and its landscape setting.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.1-4b: The Proposed Project and Weed Segment substation upgrades could create new sources of glare.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.1-4b: A non-reflective or weathered finish shall be applied to all new structures and equipment installed at the Lucerne and Weed Substations to reduce potential glare effects.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Agricultural Resources</p>		
<p>Impact 2.2-1: The Proposed Project and Weed Segment project would result in the temporary removal of farmland that is designated <i>Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance</i>. In total, the construction of a staging area, work areas, pull and tension sites, and new access roads would temporarily reduce the amount of designated Farmland available for agricultural purposes by about 27 acres.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.2-1: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.4-3b (see section 2.4, <i>Biological Resources</i>) to preserve and replace topsoil disturbed by project-related activities.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Air Quality</p>		
<p>Impact 2.3-1: Construction activities would generate emissions of criteria pollutants, including suspended and inhalable particulate matter and equipment exhaust emissions.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.3-1: During construction, PacifiCorp shall ensure that its employees and contractors implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all active construction areas, water as needed or apply soil stabilizers to control dust. • Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • If applicable, sweep daily (with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at or nearby construction sites. • Sweep streets daily (with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets. 	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.3-2: Construction activities would generate emissions of criteria pollutants, including suspended and inhalable particulate matter and equipment exhaust emissions. These activities could expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers to previously graded inactive (for more than 10 days) construction areas. • Enclose, cover, water twice daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil binders to exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.) • Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph. <p>Mitigation Measure 2.3-2: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.3-1.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Biological Resources</p> <p>Impact 2.4-1: Construction activities could potentially impact habitat elements such as dens and burrows and transient wildlife in the area of project disturbance. These resources may have special status (or support species with special status), which would be a significant impact. This impact would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-1.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-1: PacifiCorp shall apply the following general measures to avoid or minimize impacts to biological resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ongoing environmental education program for construction crews shall be conducted before beginning the site work and during construction activities. Sessions shall include information about the federal and State endangered species acts, the consequences of noncompliance with these acts, identification of special-status species and wetland habitats (including waterways), and review of mitigation requirements. • Vehicles shall be restricted to established roadways and identified access routes. • A biological monitor shall be on site during construction activity to provide preconstruction clearance wherever ground is disturbed, as well as to ensure implementation of, and compliance with, mitigation measures as described below. The monitor shall have the authority to stop activities and determine alternative work practices in consultation with construction personnel, if construction activities are likely to impact special-status species or other sensitive biological resources. 	Less than Significant

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.4-2: Construction activities could potentially impact populations of special-status plant species in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment area. Impacts to special-status plants (e.g., woolly balsamroot) may occur directly through root or seed damage or indirectly through changes in soil profile, and could be significant. This impact would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.4-2a and b.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biological monitor shall delineate and mark for avoidance in the field all known sensitive resource locations. In addition, areas considered suitable habitat for special-status plant species shall also be marked for avoidance, presuming they may be present but not visible at the time installation occurs. If special-status species are located prior to or during work activities, construction personnel shall contact the biological monitor. If the monitor determines that project activities may adversely affect the species, the monitor shall consult with USFWS, and/or CDFG regarding appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures • Photo documentation of preconstruction habitat conditions shall occur at all construction locations within sensitive habitat prior to the start of work, as well as immediately after construction activities. • Trash, dumping, firearms, open fires, hunting, and pets shall be prohibited in the project area. <p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-2a: PacifiCorp shall align the access road location from Slough Road to Pole 8/38 to avoid the identified population of woolly balsamroot.</p> <p>For known locations of woolly balsamroot, PacifiCorp shall establish an appropriate exclusion zone (at least 10 feet) around the perimeter of the habitat where feasible. The exclusion zone shall be staked and flagged in the field by a trained professional botanist prior to construction.</p> <p>Any changes in location or additions, outside of the survey corridor, in access roads, disturbance areas necessary for construction activities (e.g., staging areas, pull and tension sites, etc.), or the transmission line route that occur after the June 2006 survey was completed (see Appendix C) shall require an additional field survey prior to construction activities to identify locations of special status plant species and to establish additional exclusion zones as described above.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-2b: Ground surveys within the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas found no occupied or potential habitat for any federally-listed or State-listed threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate plant species. However, the plant survey (Appendix H) was performed too late in the season to be certain that populations of some special-status annual plants (e.g., <i>Cordylanthus tenuis ssp. pallescens</i>) were adequately surveyed, and avoidance or relocation of plants is thus infeasible. To reduce potential impacts to less than significant, for any project-related activity that disturbs soil below the root zone (e.g., pole installation, grading, etc.), PacifiCorp shall salvage the topsoil, store topsoil separately from subsoil, and spread the topsoil either at the disturbance site or during the restoration process.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-3: Construction activities could potentially spread noxious or invasive weeds into the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas and/or within the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas where weeds do not currently exist. Introduction of weeds can reduce productivity and diversity of both uplands and wetlands, a potentially significant impact which would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-3.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-3: PacifiCorp shall develop and implement a Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Control Plan, consistent with standard Best Management Practices (see for example: Department of Transportation, State of California (2003); Storm Water Quality Handbooks; and Project Planning and Design Guide Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual). The plan shall be reviewed and approved by Siskiyou County and by the CPUC and shall at a minimum address any required cleaning of construction vehicles to minimize spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-4: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, such as tree removal and trimming, grading and or blading of temporary work areas, improvement of access roads, operation of heavy equipment, installation and removal of poles, and conductor installation, could disturb nesting birds if said activities were to occur during the nesting period. For special-status species (e.g., Swainson's hawk and the greater sandhill crane) this would be a significant impact, which would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-4.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-4: PacifiCorp shall implement the Proposed Project and Weed Segment during the non-nesting season, which for purposes of this project shall be deemed to be September 15 through February 15. In the event that construction cannot be completed during this period, the work shall stop until such time as pre-construction nest surveys for greater sandhill cranes and Swainson's hawk are conducted by a qualified biologist. Pre-construction nest surveys must occur within 0.5 miles of the Project Area (transmission line corridors, pole sites, access roads and laydown areas) with all nests identified during these surveys to be located by GPS. No construction activities shall occur within 0.5 miles of active nests from February 15 through July 15.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-5: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could potentially affect Chinook (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>), steelhead (<i>O. mykiss</i>), and possibly coho (<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>) which spawn in Parks Creek during years of adequate flow. For Parks Creek, therefore, this could be a significant impact. It would be reduced to a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-5.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-5: In order to minimize the potential effects to salmonids, soil disturbance shall be minimized and erosion control measures shall be implemented to prevent sediment from entering Parks Creek. Erosion control measures could include tacked straw, erosion control fabrics, silt fencing, and graded bedding on roads (see Section 2.8, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>). After construction is complete, follow-up monitoring shall be conducted to ensure that installations made during construction to control erosion and sedimentation remain in place.</p>	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.4-6: Construction activities, including pole installation and conductor stringing associated with the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment could potentially disturb bald eagles due to increased vehicular traffic, human activity, and noise. This would be significant if winter foraging is disturbed over a wide enough area. This impact would be reduced to a less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-6.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-6: Construction crews shall halt activities whenever an eagle is observed within 100 yards of the construction area. Construction activities shall not be permitted to resume until the bald eagle leaves the area.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-7: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment, from Pole 4/44 south could result in loss of habitat within the mule deer winter range. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-7.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-7: Construction activities within mule deer winter range (i.e., south of Pole 4/44 and including the Weed Segment) shall not be permitted between November 15 and March 15 to minimize the potential for mule deer disturbance and/or displacement.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-8: Operation of the Proposed Project could pose a collision or electrocution risk to birds, particularly larger species such as greater sandhill cranes and raptors. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-8.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-8: PacifiCorp shall survey for nesting cranes north of the Shasta River crossing for a period of three years after construction. The surveys shall be conducted weekly within 0.5 miles of the line in May and June, by helicopter if landowner access is denied. As an additional component of the crane mitigation, behavioral observations of flights between known nests and feeding areas shall be conducted to determine areas where cranes cross the line. The surveys shall be done in consultation with CDFG, and the results used to determine areas where the powerline shall be marked to increase visibility. Power line markers (orange plastic globes) placed at key locations were successful in eliminating collisions and mortality at Modoc National Wildlife Refuge (CDFG, 1994); yellow aviation balls with black vertical stripes were similarly successful in Nebraska (Moorkill and Anderson, 1991). Marker type and location where they would be installed shall be coordinated with CDFG.</p>	Less than Significant
<p>Impact 2.4-9: Several poles of the existing transmission line are located within potential wetland areas (see Appendix F), and the Proposed Project and Weed Segment as a whole crosses multiple small wetland polygons. Construction activities have the potential to impact the existing wetlands, primarily from vehicle access and construction work areas. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.4-9.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.4-9: In order to avoid impacts to wetland areas, final design of the transmission line and access roads shall incorporate the results of the wetland delineation (Appendix F), and the Proposed Project and Weed Segment shall be designed to avoid disturbance of any wetland. Impact from temporary access across wetlands shall be avoided by the use of driving mats (e.g., 8' x 14' high density polyethylene mats).</p> <p>Where complete avoidance is not feasible due to engineering constraints, the area of wetland disturbance shall be minimized by altering specific locations of poles and access roads. Prior to any wetland disturbance, all appropriate permits shall be obtained in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 1600-1607 of the California Fish and Game Code.</p>	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Cultural Resources		
<p>Impact 2.5-1: If construction of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment encounters 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>	<p>Mitigation Measure 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 a Cultural Resources Specialist 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, as necessary, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report prepared by a Specialist according to current professional standards.</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, 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 project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is carried out.</p> <p>If the CPUC, in consultation with the Specialist, 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 project to avoid any adverse effect on the significant archeological resource; or 	<p>Less than Significant</p>

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.5-2: The Proposed Project could adversely affect unidentified paleontologic resources at the pole sites or the substations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an archeological data recovery program (ADRP) (unless the 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 data recovery program would preserve the significant information the archaeological 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 archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. <p>Mitigation Measure 2.5-2: In the event of unanticipated paleontologic discoveries, PacifiCorp shall notify a Specialist who shall document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. 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 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards (SVP, 1995 and SVP, 1996). 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 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>Less than Significant</p>

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.5-3: Project construction could result in damage to previously unidentified human remains.</p> <p>Geology, Soils, and Seismicity</p> <p>No mitigation required</p> <p>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</p> <p>Impact 2.7-1: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment 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>Mitigation Measure 2.5-3: In the event that human skeletal remains are uncovered during construction activities for the project, PacifiCorp shall immediately halt all work, contact the Siskiyou 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.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 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; • 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>Mitigation Measure 2.7-1b: Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan – PacifiCorp shall prepare a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (the Plan) for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment 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>Less than Significant</p> <p>Less than Significant</p> <p>Less than Significant</p>

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.7-2: Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.7-1c: <i>Health and Safety Plan</i> – PacifiCorp 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.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.7-1d: <i>Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP)</i> – PacifiCorp shall ensure that an environmental training program is established and delivered 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. PacifiCorp shall submit documentation to the CPUC mitigation monitor prior to the commencement of construction activities that each worker on the project has undergone this training program.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.7-1e: <i>Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment</i> – 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 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 2.7-1b), which shall be implemented during construction.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.7-2: PacifiCorp’s Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan 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 county and state agencies and primary, secondary, and final cleanup procedures. The Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the commencement of construction activities.</p>	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Hydrology and Water Quality		
<p>Impact 2.8.1: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment could impact water quality by exacerbating the processes of soil erosion and entrainment of sediment in stormwater runoff.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.8-1: PacifiCorp shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the NCRWQCB to comply with the NPDES General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit requirements. PacifiCorp, or its contractor(s), shall prepare a SWPPP prior to construction of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment, and shall implement the SWPPP during Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction.</p> <p>The SWPPP shall incorporate, but not be limited to, the construction BMPs listed below. Even with a relatively structured list of BMPs (below), there is still considerable flexibility inherent in the design and implementation of such measures. The BMP list is as follows:</p> <p>Measures applicable to all sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unreported contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during excavation, carry out appropriate remediation of soils or groundwater in contained or covered areas or remediate through treatment prior to initiating excavation. • Dewatering: if necessary in an area requiring storm sewer discharge obtain a discharge permit from the local Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW); otherwise, if discharging to a stream or open ground, implement standard BMPs as outlined in the SWPPP and below, as necessary. • Retain, protect and supplement native vegetation wherever possible. Exposure of soil areas shall be limited to the immediate area designated for construction operations. • Silt fencing, straw wattles, and/or hay bales shall be placed, as appropriate (to contain runoff), at all construction site boundaries (work areas, the staging area, pull and tension sites, and substation construction). • Permanent access roads shall be sloped to provide effective overland flow pathways (i.e., convex in cross section) and avoid formation of erosive gullies caused by concentrated runoff. Where necessary, all-weather roads shall be covered with gravel base material. • Grading activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Grading areas shall be clearly marked and no equipment or vehicles shall disturb slopes or drainages outside of the grading area. 	Less than Significant

**TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For grading related to the staging area and pull and tension sites: Surfaces of these areas shall be graveled during the wet season (October through April). Upon completion of construction activities, these areas shall be returned to pre-project conditions and re-vegetated (i.e., re-seeded using a native seed mix). • General stockpiling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil excavated from boreholes or for substation modifications/upgrades shall not be left at work areas where slopes exceed 10 percent or where the work area is within 100 feet of a natural stream or water body (receiving water). In these situations: Loose soil shall be loaded and used elsewhere or stockpiled at the staging area. Soil stockpiled at the staging area shall be managed as required in the SWPPP and be appropriately covered, vegetated, or protected by berms during the wet season (October through April) and as appropriate during spring and summer thunderstorms. - No stockpiling or spreading of excavated soil or other materials shall occur within stream channels. • Waste management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NPDES requires that the SWPPP show BMPs for control of discharges from waste handling and disposal areas and methods of on-site storage and disposal of construction materials and waste. The SWPPP also must describe the BMPs designed to minimize or eliminate the exposure of stormwater to construction materials, equipment, vehicles, waste storage or service areas. The SWPPP would require PacifiCorp to identify equipment storage, cleaning and maintenance areas. - Changing of oil or other fluids for equipment and heavy machinery shall not be performed in the vicinity of natural stream channels. <p>Measures applicable to the 11 hillside sites and the new road installation on the erosive soil type(s) (as identified in Section 2.8):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all instances where runoff is altered by a BMP design (i.e., concentrated, re-directed, etc.): filter runoff on-site using silt fences, desiltation ponds, baker tanks, and/or other appropriate control measures prior to off-site discharge. 	

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
<p>Impact 2.8-2: Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment could impact local drainage patterns or the course of a given stream, resulting in erosion or siltation on- or off-site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of slope-grading activities, erosion protection shall be provided and must include slope revegetation, if appropriate (i.e., where vegetation was cleared or removed). Revegetation shall be facilitated by mulching, hydroseeding, or other methods, and shall be initiated as soon as possible after completion of grading and prior to October 15th. Selection of plant materials shall consider native plantings and shall encourage shrubs and trees as a long-term erosion control feature. • For construction activities (i.e., work areas and pull and tension sites) and access road installation on slopes between 10 and 30 percent, within 100 feet of a natural stream or waterbody (receiving water), or for access road installation between poles 8/35 to 15/35, poles 13/38 to 19/38, and poles 2/42 to 8/42: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Waterbars shall be installed on all temporary and permanent access roads. – Diversion swales and/or roadside ditches shall be constructed to convey and filter runoff (i.e., cross-slope diversions steep hillsides) away from a natural stream or waterbody (receiving water). Swales shall be vegetated (i.e., grass) or lined with rock; roadside ditches shall be lined with rock. • For construction activities (i.e., work areas and pull and tension sites) and temporary access road installation on slopes exceeding 30 percent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Same as above (for 10 to 30 percent slopes); and – Implement terracing or other, similar slope-roughening techniques. • No permanent road installation shall occur on slopes exceeding 30 percent. <p>The SWPPP shall be kept onsite during construction activity and made available upon request to a representative of the NCRWQCB. PacifiCorp or its contractor shall conform to the contract specifications addressing stormwater pollution prevention and shall follow all BMPs identified in the project SWPPP at all times during construction.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.8-2: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.8-1</p>	

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Land Use, Plans, and Policies		
Impact 2.9-1: The Proposed Project could conflict with constraints identified in the Siskiyou County General Plan.	Mitigation Measure 2.9-1: Implement Mitigation Measures 2.4-2, 2.4-7, 2.8-1 and 2.8-2.	Less than Significant
Mineral Resources		
No mitigation required		
Noise		
Impact 2.11-1: The Proposed Project and Weed Segment could generate adverse noise levels during project construction.	Mitigation Measure 2.11-1a: Construction activity within 2,000 feet of residences shall be limited to the least noise-sensitive daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with some exceptions (as approved by the CPUC) as required for safety considerations or certain construction procedures that cannot be interrupted.	Less than Significant
	Mitigation Measure 2.11-1b: The following noise reduction and suppression techniques shall be employed during project construction to minimize the impact of temporary construction-related noise on nearby sensitive receptors:	Less than Significant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with manufacturers' muffler requirements. • Notify residences in advance of the construction schedule and how many days they may be affected. Provide a phone number for a construction supervisor who would handle construction noise questions and complaints. • Minimize idling of engines; turn off engines when not in use, where applicable. • Shield compressors and other small stationary equipment with portable barriers when within 100 feet of residences. • Route truck traffic away from noise-sensitive areas where feasible. 	
Population and Housing		
No mitigation required		

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Public Services		
<p>Impact 2.13-1: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection services.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-1a: PacifiCorp shall implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-1c (see Section 2.7, <i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i>) which requires preparation of a Health and Safety Plan. In addition, this 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 this Plan and distribute it to all construction crew members involved in the project prior to construction and operation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-1b: Water tanks shall be sited in Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas and be available for fire protection. All construction vehicles shall carry fire suppression equipment. PacifiCorp shall contact and coordinate with the CDF and City of Weed Fire Department to determine minimum amounts of fire equipment to be carried on the vehicles and appropriate locations for the water tanks. PacifiCorp shall submit verification of its consultation with the local fire departments to the CPUC.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Impact 2.13-2: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction work in proximity to public roadways could potentially affect vehicle access and fire department response times.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-2: PacifiCorp shall coordinate with the Siskiyou County and the City of Weed emergency service providers prior to construction to ensure that construction activities and associated lane closures would not significantly affect emergency response vehicles. PacifiCorp shall submit verification of its consultation with emergency service providers to the CPUC.</p>
<p>Impact 2.13-3: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for police services.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-3a: PacifiCorp shall implement standard precautionary measures, such as securing equipment when left unattended to minimize theft and vandalism.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-3b: PacifiCorp shall provide traffic control, if necessary, in coordination with the appropriate police agency.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.13-3c: PacifiCorp shall implement public safety measures, including the covering and securing all open holes once activity at that location is stopped (after hours), and the placement of safety structures adjacent to roadways during overhead wire installation activity to protect vehicles and pedestrians.</p>	Less than Significant
Recreation		
No mitigation required		

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
Transportation / Traffic		
<p>Impact 2.15-1: Project construction activities could adversely affect traffic and transportation conditions in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.15-1a: PacifiCorp shall obtain and comply with local road encroachment permits for public roads that are crossed by the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. PacifiCorp shall also coordinate short-term construction activities at private road crossings with the applicable private property owners. Copies of all encroachment permits and evidence of private property coordination shall be provided to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities.</p>	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.15-1b: PacifiCorp shall prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan subject to approval by the appropriate jurisdiction (i.e., Caltrans, Siskiyou County, or City of Weed). The approved Traffic Management Plan and documentation of agency approvals shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities. The plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a discussion of work hours, haul routes, work area delineation, traffic control and flagging; • Identify all access and parking restriction and signage requirements; • Lay out plans for notifications and a process for communication with affected 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 would be blocked on which days and for how long), and a toll-free telephone number for receiving questions or complaints; and • Include plans to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers in the area, consistent with Mitigation Measure 2.13-2a (see Section 2.13, Public Services). 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. 	Less than Significant
	<p>Mitigation Measure 2.15-1c: PacifiCorp shall identify within the Traffic Management Plan all roadway locations where special construction techniques (e.g., night construction) would be used to minimize impacts to traffic flow.</p>	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR YREKA-WEED TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this MND	Significance after Mitigation
	Mitigation Measure 2.15-1d: PacifiCorp shall coordinate with Caltrans, Siskiyou County, City of Weed, and any other appropriate entity, regarding measures to minimize the cumulative effect of simultaneous construction activities in overlapping areas.	Less than Significant
	Mitigation Measure 2.15-1e: PacifiCorp shall encourage construction crews to park at the staging area, Lucerne Substation, or the Weed Substation to avoid reducing the public parking capacity in the area.	Less than Significant
	Mitigation Measure 2.15-1f: PacifiCorp shall consult with STAGE and any other appropriate transit district prior to construction to coordinate bus stop relocations (if necessary) and to reduce potential interruption of transit service.	Less than Significant
Impact 2.15-2: Project construction activities could increase potential traffic safety hazards for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians on public roadways.	Mitigation Measure 2.15-2: Implement Mitigation Measures 2.15-1b through 2.15-1d.	Less than Significant
Impact 2.15-3: Project construction activities could result in delays for emergency vehicles on project area roadways.	Mitigation Measure 2.15-3: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.15-1b.	Less than Significant
Impact 2.15-4: Project construction activities could disrupt railroad operations along the Union Pacific Right of Way.	Mitigation Measure 2.15-4: PacifiCorp shall coordinate all construction activities within the railroad ROW with Union Pacific in order to schedule transmission line stringing activities so that railroad traffic would not be impacted. PacifiCorp shall provide documentation to the CPUC indicating Union Pacific Railroad concurrence with scheduled transmission line crossings prior to conducting any construction activities within the railroad ROW.	Less than Significant
Utilities and Services		
Impact 2.16-1: 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.	Mitigation Measure 2.16-1: PacifiCorp shall ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities with ground disturbance. Underground Service Alert verifies the location of all existing underground facilities and alerts the other utilities to mark their facilities in the area of anticipated construction activities.	Less than Significant
Mandatory Findings of Significance		
No mitigation required		