

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**To: Interested Parties****From: Billie Blanchard, Environmental Project Manager****Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION – Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Richmond-to-Pittsburg Pipeline Divestiture (CPUC Application Numbers A.00-05-035 and****Date: March 11, 2005**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final MND) for consideration of Pacific Gas and Electric Company’ (PG&E) Application (A.00-05-035) and San Pablo Bay Pipeline Company’s (SPBPC) Application (A.00-12-008). The Final MND has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and incorporates changes resulting from comments submitted during the Draft MND comment period (November 24, 2004 through December 27, 2004).

Description of Proposed Project. PG&E’s Application (No. A.00-05-035) seeks authority, pursuant to Section 851 of the Public Utilities Code from the CPUC, to sell its heated Richmond-to-Pittsburg Fuel Oil Pipeline to a new owner, SPBPC, currently a subsidiary of ConocoPhillips Company. In a separate application (No. A.00-12-008) (also analyzed as part of this project), SPBPC seeks authority from the CPUC under Sections 216 and 228 of the Public Utilities Code to own and operate the Pipeline as a common carrier pipeline corporation and to amend the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to restrict the products that could be transported in the Pipeline to crude oil, black oils, and refined petroleum products.

The proposed sale would transfer ownership of PG&E’s Hercules Pump station and its 44.2 acres of property, located in the city of Hercules, and the Pipeline from its point of origin in Castro Street in the city of Richmond to the Mirant Pittsburg Power Plant in the city of Pittsburg. SPBPC would abandon the Pump Station and remove it from public utility service. Any demolition, remediation, and future uses of the Pump Station property will be subject to a separate environmental review by the City of Hercules.

Contents of the Final MND. The Final MND consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 contains a description of the proposed project. Chapter 2 contains the text of the Draft MND with revised inserted text shown in underline and deleted text is shown in ~~strikeout~~. Chapter 3 contains the environmental determination of the proposed project. Chapter 4 provides a list of report authors and public agency outreach meetings and consultations. Chapter 5 presents comment letters received on the Draft MND and responses to those comments.

CPUC Actions After Final MND Publication. There is no comment period following issuance of the Final MND. The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final MND, and, if adequate, will adopt the document as compliant with CEQA. The CPUC will issue a Decision on the applications, which will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. After the Commission makes the decision on the Application, a Notice of Determination will be mailed to the State Clearing House within 5 days of the Decision. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing. For further information on the CPUC’s decision-making process, call the CPUC Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074.

Availability of Final MND. Copies of the Final MND may be requested by phone at (415) 962-8446 or by email at pgedivest@esassoc.com. Further information about this document is available from Billie Blanchard, CPUC Project Manager, at (415) 703-2068. The document is available on the CPUC’s project website at: <http://www.pgedivest.com>.

The Final MND is also available at the repository locations below:

Richmond Public Library Main Branch 325 Civic Center Plaza Richmond, CA 94801 (510) 620-6561	Contra Costa County Library Martinez Branch 740 Court Street Martinez, CA 94553 (925) 646-2898	Contra Costa County Library Pinole Branch 2935 Pinole Valley Road Pinole, CA 94564 (510) 758-2741	Contra Costa County Library Pittsburg Branch 80 Power Avenue Pittsburg, CA 94565 (925) 427-8390
Contra Costa County Library San Pablo Branch 2300 El Portal Drive, Suite D San Pablo, CA 94806 (510) 374-3998	Hercules City Clerk 111 Civic Center Drive Hercules, CA 94547 (510) 799-8215	Contra Costa County Library Antioch Branch 501 W. 18th Street Antioch, CA 94509 (925) 757-9224	Contra Costa County Library Rodeo Branch 220 Pacific Avenue Rodeo, CA 94572 (510) 799-2606
Contra Costa County Library Bay Point Branch @ Riverview Middle School 205 Pacific Avenue Pittsburg, CA 94565 (925) 458-9597			