



## Fact Sheet

### PG&E Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project

Sonoma County, California

August 2016

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#### Introduction

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) filed an Application (A.15-12-005) and Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on December 3, 2015, for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project (project). The project is subject to environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and as the lead CEQA agency, the CPUC is responsible for preparing an environmental document for the project and ensuring it meets applicable federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

#### Project Overview

PG&E proposes to reinforce the electric transmission system in central Sonoma County by replacing the conductor on a 9.9-mile-long section of the Fulton-Hopland 60 kV Power Line (Fulton-Hopland line) between the Fulton Substation and Fitch Mountain Substation. The project would include replacing poles along 8.1 miles of the Fulton-Hopland line, replacing conductor on 1.3 miles of the Geysers #12-Fulton 230 kV Transmission Line (Geysers #12-Fulton line), and making modifications to Fitch Mountain Substation.

The 9.9-mile-long project alignment is comprised of the Southern Segment (1.8 miles), Northern Segment (8.1 miles), and Fitch Mountain Substation as shown on Figure 1 (attached). Proposed project components at each location are summarized as follows:

- **Southern Segment/Fulton-Shiloh Segment<sup>1</sup>.** Replace 1.8 miles of 60 kV conductor and 1.3 miles of 230 kV conductor collocated on existing tubular steel poles (TSPs). Insulators on the TSPs would be replaced, but the poles would remain in place.
- **Northern Segment/Shiloh-Fitch Segment.** Replace 8.1 miles of 60 kV conductor located on primarily wood poles. Approximately 70 existing poles would be replaced at a roughly 1-to-1 ratio with approximately 59 light duty steel poles (LDSPs) and 7 TSPs. New poles would be between approximately 3 to 30 feet taller than existing poles, depending on the pole location.
- **Fitch Mountain Substation Modifications.** Modify the existing substation by replacing motor switches, control building, conductor, and conductor support structures, to accommodate the higher rated conductor that would be installed for the Fulton-Hopland line.

#### Project Objectives

The California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) has determined that an outage of the Fulton No. 1 Line could potentially overload the Fulton-Hopland line above its emergency rating during peak loading conditions. PG&E proposes to reconductor the Fulton-Hopland line to increase rating of the conductor to address the reliability issue. The project objectives defined by PG&E are as follows:

- Mitigate the identified system reliability issues in accordance with CAISO and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements by alleviating a potential overload condition,
- Increase the capacity of the Fulton-Hopland line to help meet increasing demand, and
- Design and build the project in a safe, cost-effective manner that will also minimize environmental impacts.

#### Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects

The CPUC is required to analyze potential environmental effects the project may have and present the analysis in accordance with CEQA. CPUC is in the process of preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the project pursuant to CEQA. The analyses in the IS will address impacts during construction and operation & maintenance of the project. Specific parameters that will be addressed in the IS include the following:

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<sup>1</sup> PG&E's PEA refers to the Southern Segment as the Fulton-Shiloh Segment, and the Northern Segment as the Shiloh-Fitch Segment.

# PG&E Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project will also be addressed, when considered in context with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

## **Applicant Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures**

PG&E has included application proposed measures (APMs) in their PEA that may reduce or eliminate potential impacts from the project. Environmental review of the project will include an evaluation of PG&E's APMs and their effectiveness. If necessary, the CPUC will also develop additional mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts. PG&E would be required to implement these APMs and mitigation measures, should CPUC approve the project and grant PG&E's PTC application.

## **Questions, Comments, and Mailing List**

Questions about the scope of the project or environmental review process may be submitted to the CPUC's environmental team through the email address or fax number provided below. A formal comment period will commence once the CPUC releases the Draft IS to the public. Comments submitted during the formal comment period, will be addressed in the Final IS, as required by CEQA. To receive updates on the progress of the project, please send a request to be added to the project mailing list using the following email address or fax number.

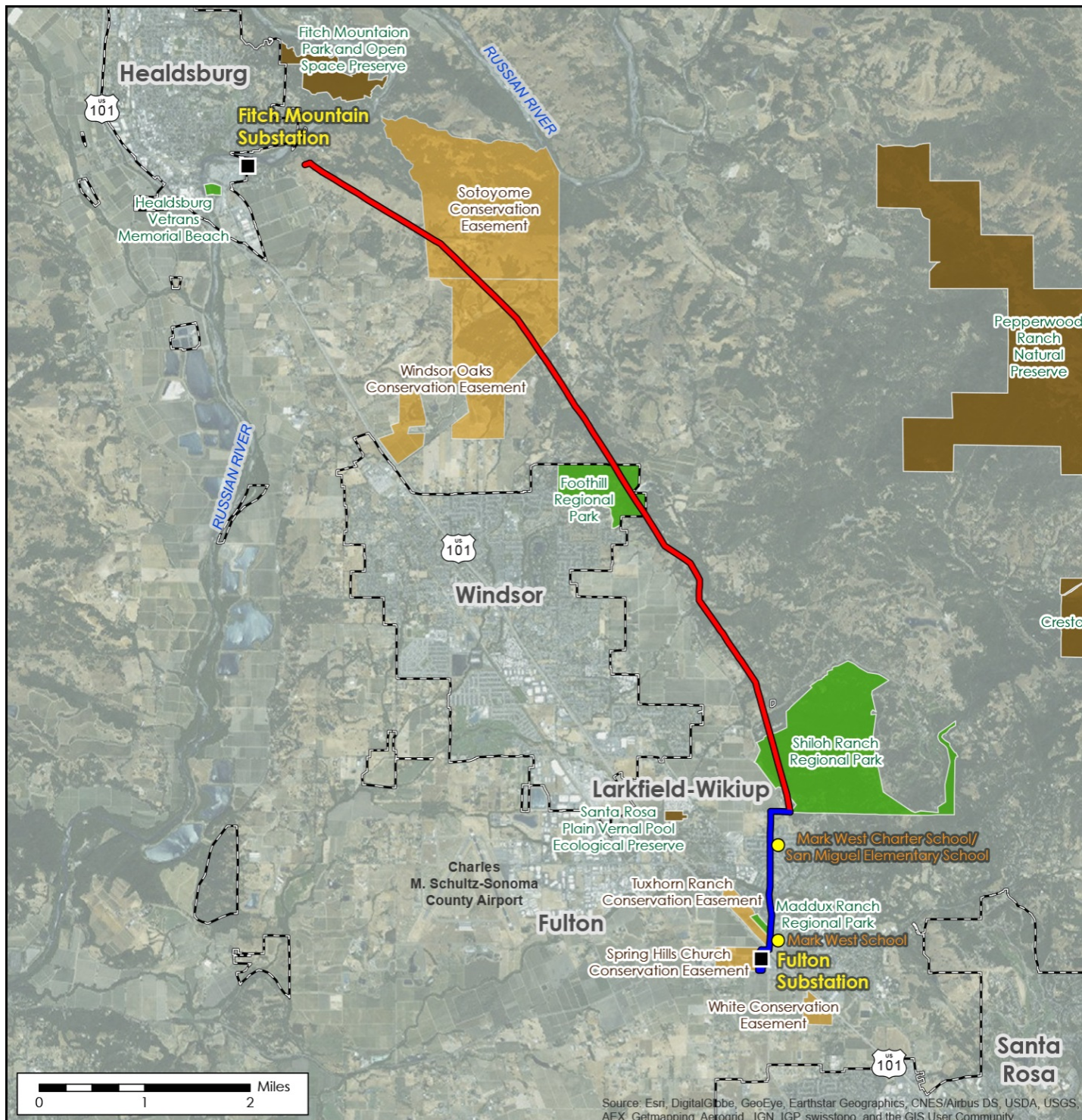
Email: fulton2fitch@panoramaenv.com

Fax: 650-373-1211

## **Additional Information**

For more information about the project, to view project maps and documents, and to learn how to submit comments or questions, please visit: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Fulton-Fitch/Fulton-Fitch.html>

Figure 1 Proposed Project Overview Map



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

**Legend**

Scale = 1:100,000

**Proposed Alignment**

- Northern Segment
- Southern Segment

- Substation
- School

- Park
- Open Space Preserve
- Conservation Easement
- City / Town Boundary



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