



CPUC Informational Meeting for the PG&E Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project

August 24, 2016





Purpose of the Meeting

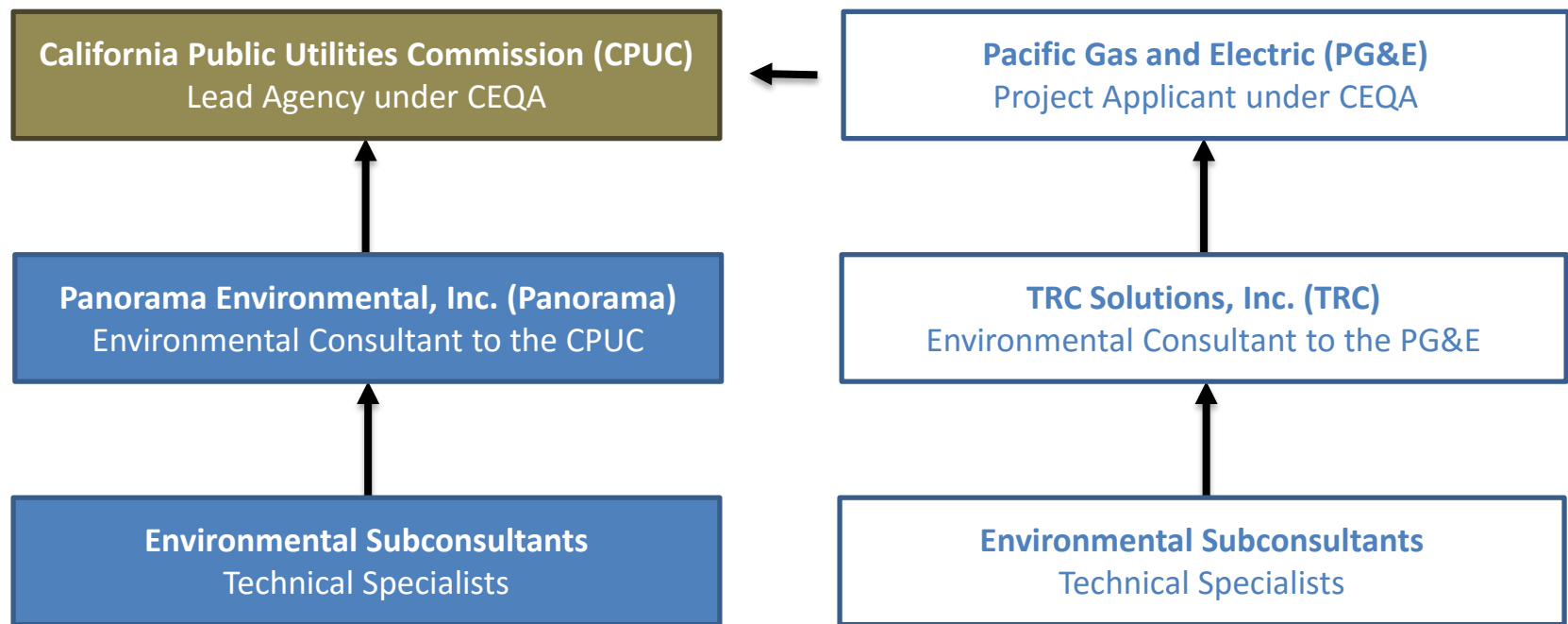
- Describe roles and responsibilities of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
- Provide a summary of PG&E's proposed project
- Describe the environmental review process required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and public participation



Roles, Responsibilities, and Process



Roles and Responsibilities



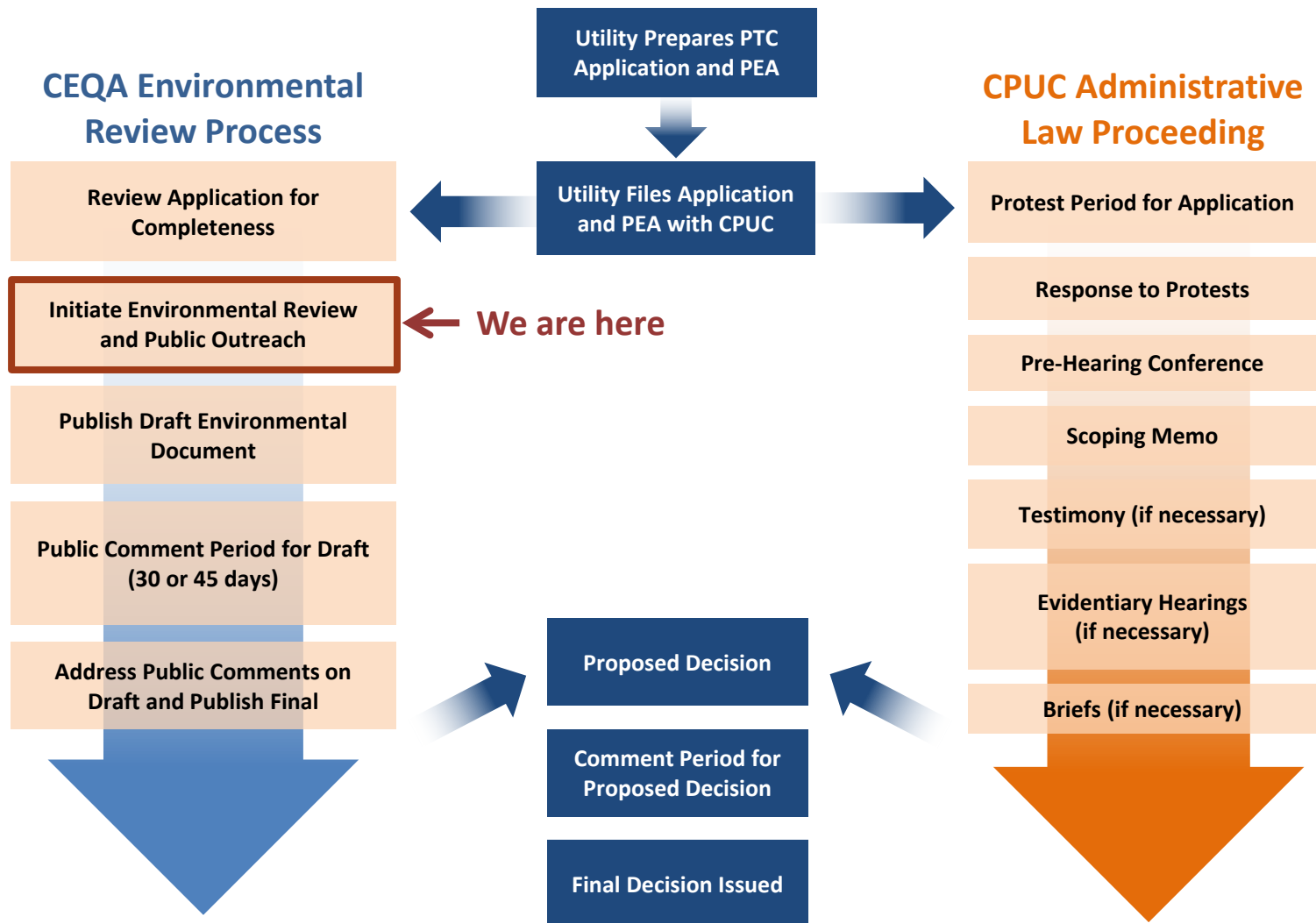


Application Review Process

- CPUC's application review and decision making process involves two parallel processes
 - CEQA Environmental Review (CPUC Project Manager/Panorama)
 - CPUC Administrative Law Proceeding (CPUC Administrative Law Judge)
- PG&E filed Application A.15-12-005 on December 3, 2015 for a Permit to Construct (PTC)
 - Deemed Complete on April 29, 2016 (sufficient info to begin environmental analysis)
 - Continue requests for additional information, as needed
- PG&E's application included their Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)



Application Review Process





Proposed Project



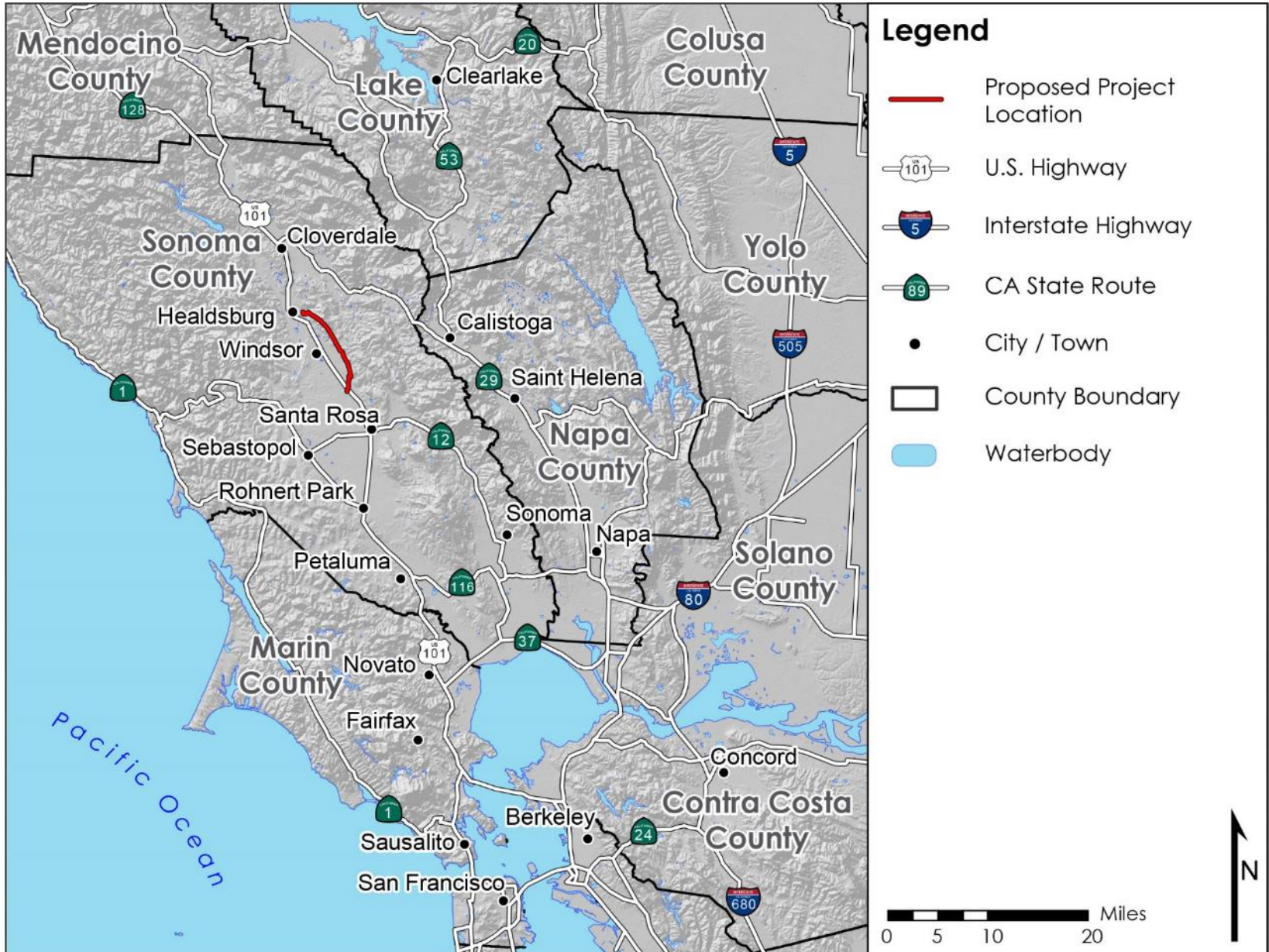
Project Location

- Central Sonoma County
- 9.9-mile-long linear alignment in between the Fulton and Fitch Mountain Substations
 - 9.3 miles in unincorporated Sonoma County
 - 0.6 mile in the Town of Windsor (within Foothill Regional Park)
- Project Segments
 - Southern Segment/Fulton-Shiloh Segment (1.8 miles)
 - Northern Segment/Shiloh-Fitch Segment (8.1 miles)

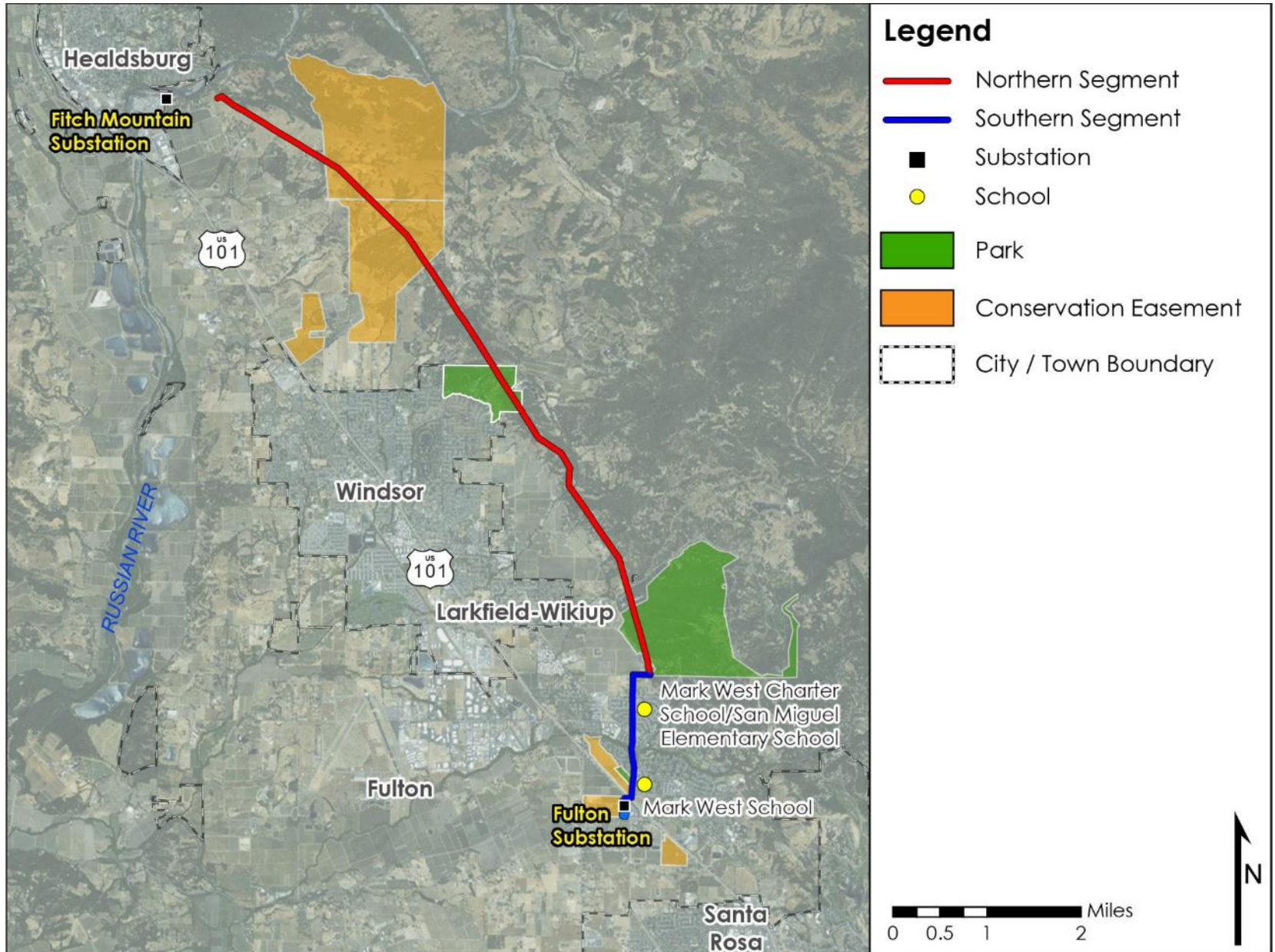


Junction of the Southern and Northern Segments at Shiloh Ranch Regional Park

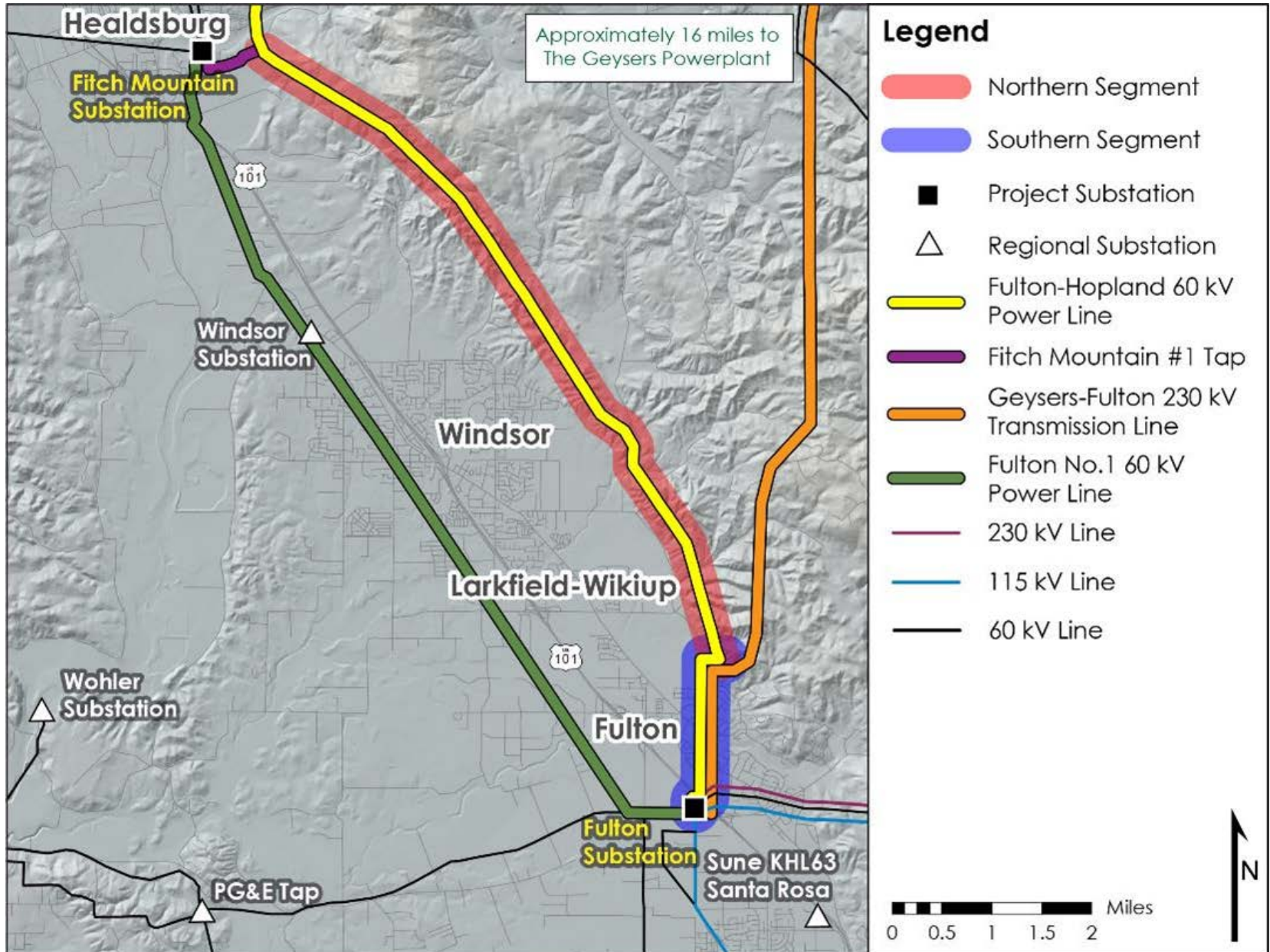
Regional Location Map



Project Area Map



Existing Power System Map





Project Objectives

- Project objectives defined by PG&E are to:
 - Address identified system reliability issues by alleviating a potential overload condition
 - Increase the capacity of the Fulton-Hopland 60 kV Power Line to help meet increasing demand in the region
 - Design and build the project in a safe and cost-effective manner that will also minimize environmental impacts



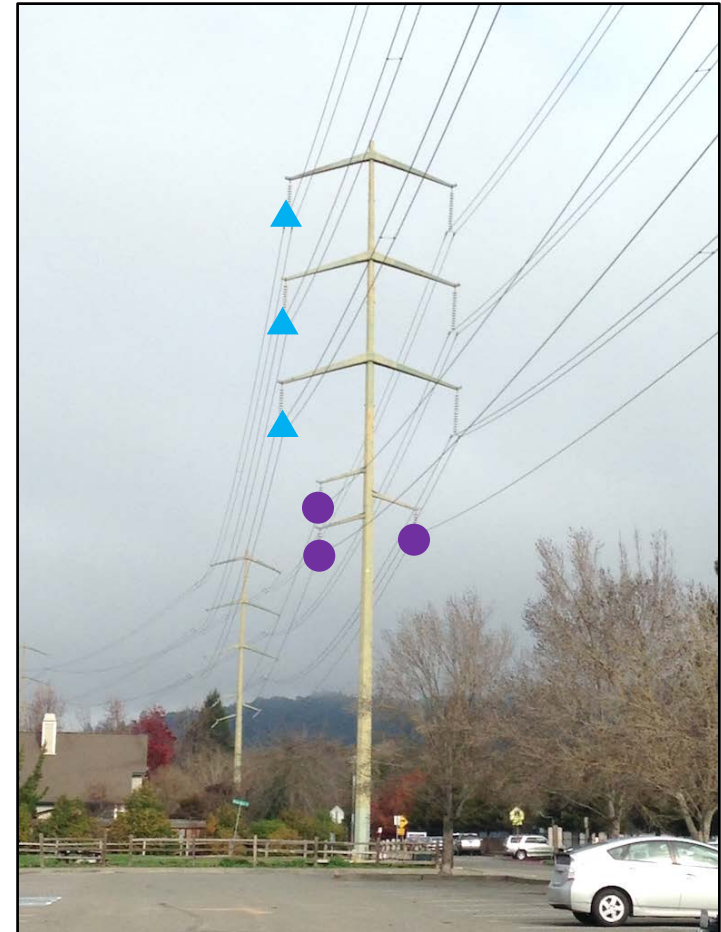
Project Description

- Terminology
 - Electrical Conductor
 - The “wires” or “lines” part of the transmission system
 - Made of aluminum and/or aluminum and steel strands and transmit the electrical current
 - Reconductoring
 - The process of replacing old conductor with new conductor, often of a larger size
 - Poles
 - Wood poles
 - Light duty steel poles (LDSPs)
 - Tubular steel poles (TSPs)
 - Insulators
 - Hardware that suspend electrical conductor from poles



Project Components – Southern Segment

- Reconductoring
 - 1.8 miles of the single-circuit Fulton-Hopland 60 kV Power Line between the Fulton Substation and Shiloh Ranch Regional Park
 - 1.3 miles of the Geysers #12-Fulton 230 kV Transmission Line between US-101 and Shiloh Ranch Regional Park to provide adequate clearance
 - Replacing insulators on existing tubular steel poles (TSPs)



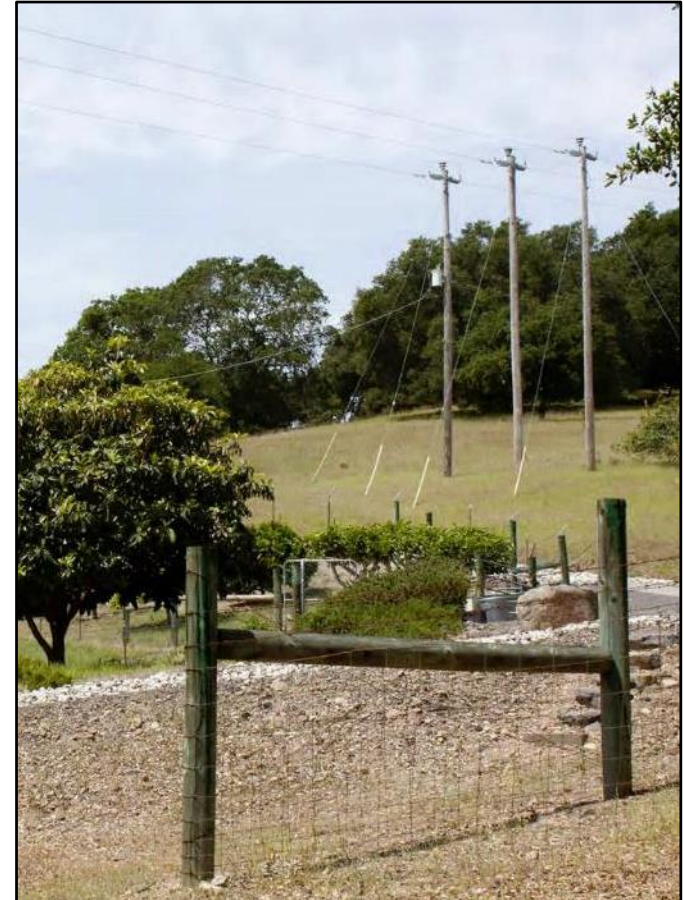
Existing TSP in the Southern Segment

- ▲ 230 kV conductor replacement
- 60 kV conductor replacement



Project Components – Northern Segment

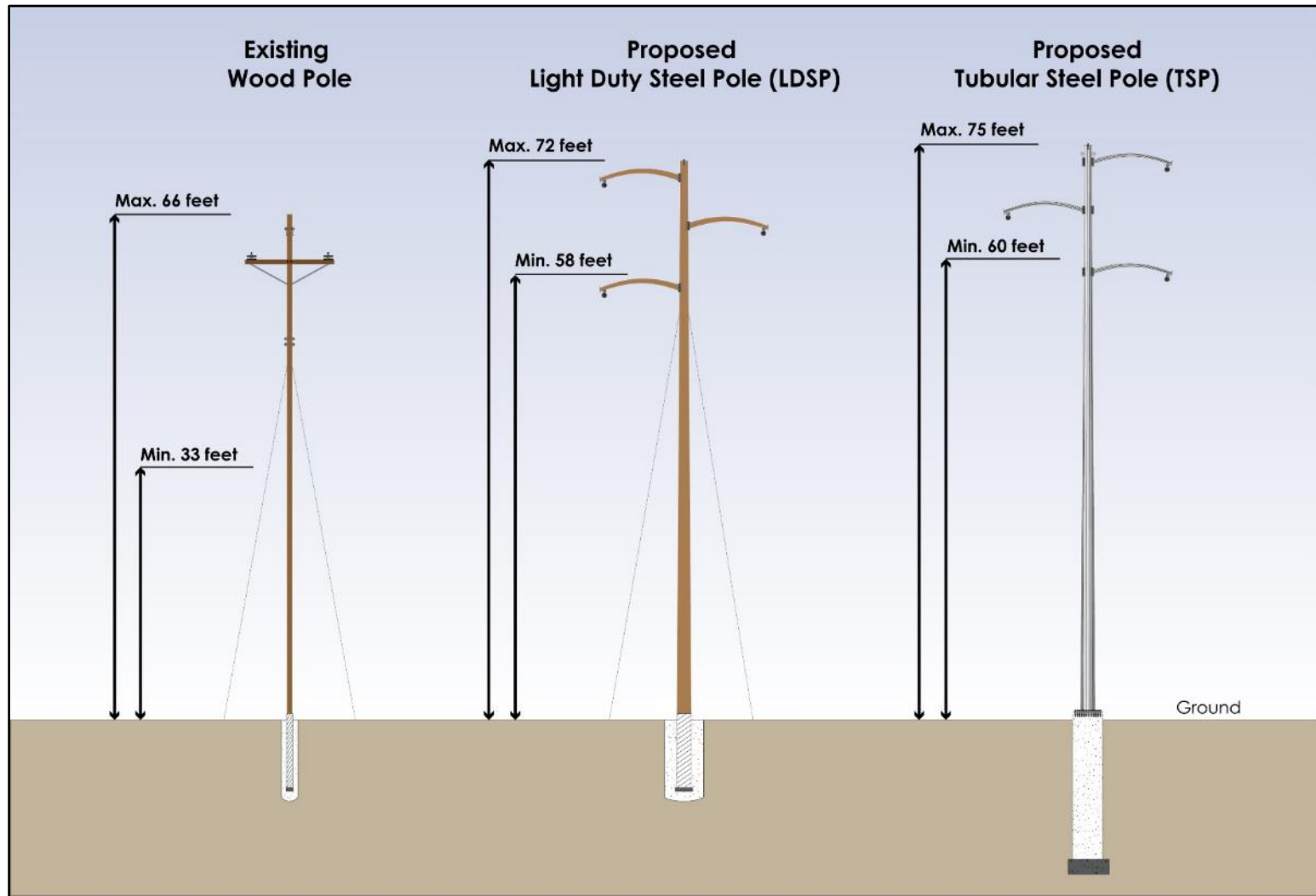
- Reconductoring
 - 8.1 miles of Fulton-Hopland 60 kV Power Line from the Shiloh Ranch Regional Park to the Fitch Mountain #1 Tap
- Pole Replacement
 - Replace 69 existing poles (primarily wood) with:
 - 59 LDSPs
 - 7 TSPs
 - Remove 3
 - New poles would be located approximately 12-35 feet from existing poles
 - New poles would be approximately 3-30 feet taller, and 15 feet taller on average



Existing three-pole structure in the Northern Segment



Pole Replacement Diagram





Fitch Mountain Substation Modifications

- Fitch Mountain Substation Modifications
 - Replace existing motor switches with new circuit breakers
 - Replace existing steel lattice structures with new dead-end structures
 - Replace existing conductor with new higher rated conductor
 - Replace existing control building with a new larger control building



Fitch Mountain Substation

Construction

- Temporary Work Areas
 - Staging areas/helicopter landing zones
 - Pole work areas (installation and removal)
 - Pull sites would be accessed on each end of reconductoring segments



Example of a PG&E staging area/helicopter landing zone



Construction

- Material, Equipment, and Workers Transport
 - Trucks and other vehicles on existing paved and unpaved roads, and temporary overland routes
 - Helicopters for aerially transportation due to steep terrain



Example ground and helicopter transport



Construction

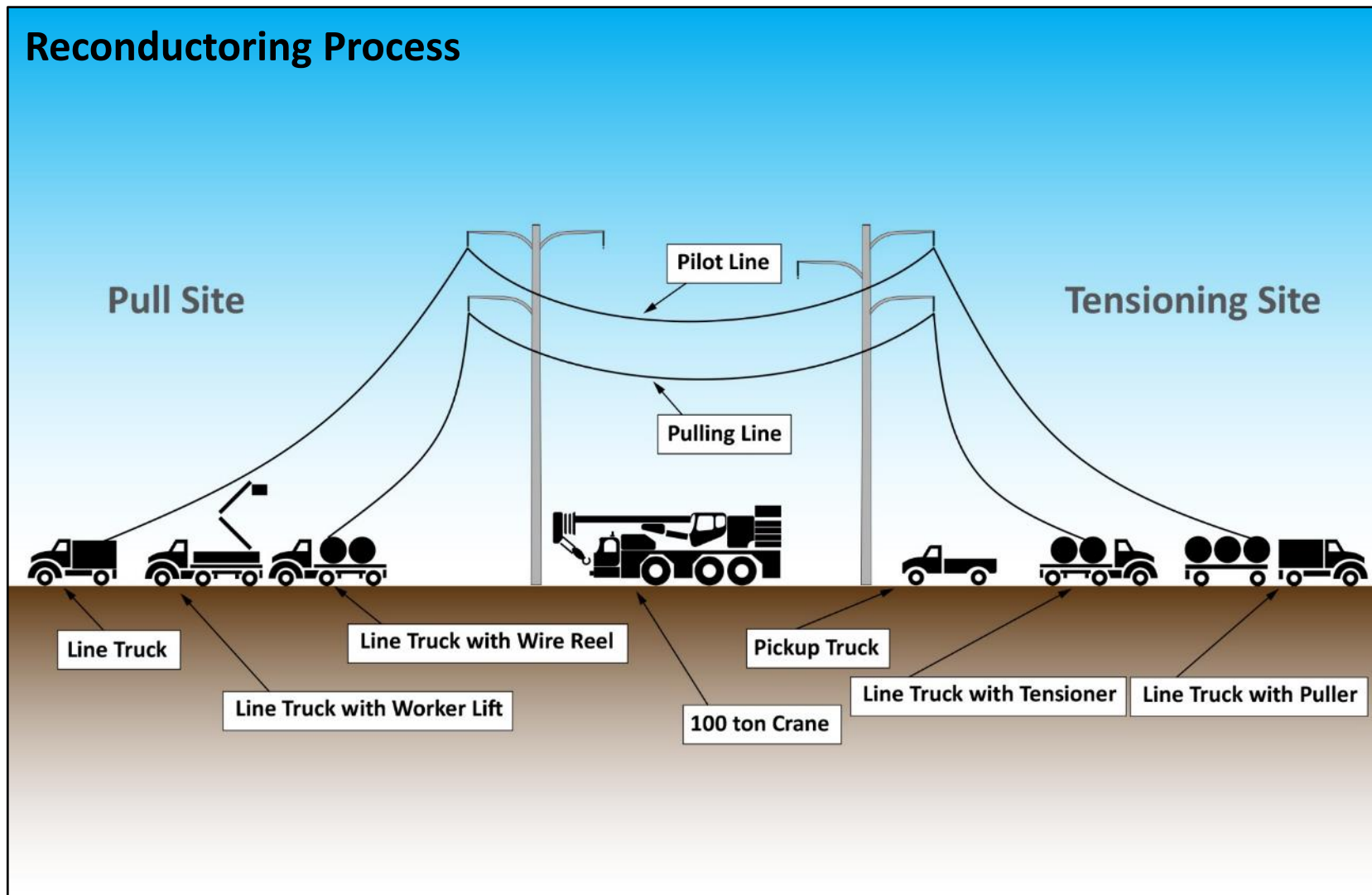
- Vegetation Clearance
 - Grass, shrubs, and tree clearing
- Ground Disturbance
 - Improve access roads
 - Stabilize temporary work areas through minor grading and gravel installation
 - Improve existing stream crossings
 - Install temporary stream crossings



Example of an existing unpaved access road, temporary crossing, and overland route



Construction





Anticipated Construction Schedule

Entire Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 months (continuous)• July 2018 to January 2020
Northern Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (continuous)• July 2018 to July 2019
Fitch Mountain Substation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 months (dispersed)• July 2018 to April 2019
Southern Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 months (continuous)• September 2019 to January 2020



Operation & Maintenance

- Maintenance activities would not substantially change from existing maintenance activities
 - Project lines would be inspected annually as they are now
 - Vegetation around poles would be trimmed regularly, per PG&E protocols
 - Electrical infrastructure would be repaired and/or replaced as necessary
- Fitch Mountain Substation would remain unattended, automated, and operated remotely (no on-site staff)



Existing



Proposed (Visual Simulation)

CEQA Review and Public Participation



CEQA Environmental Review

Purpose of environmental review?

- Define the proposed project in detail and describe the:
 - Objectives
 - Components
 - Construction procedures
 - Operation & maintenance procedures
- Identify potentially significant environmental effects
- Identify ways to minimize or eliminate any significant effects



CEQA Environmental Review

- CPUC preparing an Initial Study (IS)
- Based on results of IS, CPUC will prepare one of the following:
 - Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) if all significant effects can be mitigated to less than significant
 - Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if significant effects of a project are unavoidable, and cannot be mitigated to less than significant



CEQA Environmental Review

CEQA Parameters (IS/MND or EIR):

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

CEQA Environmental Review



Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)

- Measures proposed by PG&E and included in the PEA
- Considered part of the project
- Intended to reduce impacts of the project

Mitigation Measures (MMs)

- Developed by CPUC
- Mitigate significant impacts to environmental resources
- May supersede APMs if CPUC determines impacts would not be adequately reduced

CEQA Environmental Review



Anticipated Document Schedule:

Activity	Date
PG&E Submitted Application and PEA	December 3, 2015
CPUC Public Information Meeting	August 24, 2016
CPUC Publishes Draft CEQA Document	Early 2017
Public Review and Comment Period on Draft Document (30 to 45 days)	<i>Dates to be determined</i>
CPUC Publishes Final Document	Summer 2017
CPUC Decision	Late 2017
Anticipated Construction Schedule (if approved)	July 2018 to January 2020



Public Participation

- Questions
 - Questions on the environmental review process can be submitted at anytime via the project website
- Comment Periods Under CEQA
 - If IS/MND, during a 30-day public review period
 - If EIR, during a 30-day public scoping period **and** during a 45-day public review period of the Draft EIR



Public Participation

- CPUC CEQA Page:
 - <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Fulton-Fitch/Fulton-Fitch.html>

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Questions?

