



California Public Utilities Commission



February 13, 2025

Michael Calvillo
Pacific Gas and Electric
1455 Shaw Ave, Bag 23
Fresno, CA 93710-8001

Re: Minor Project Refinement No. 5 for the Estrella 230/70 kilovolt (kV) (A.17-01-023)

Dear Mr. Calvillo:

On March 31, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Estrella 230/70 kilovolt (kV) Project (Project) and approved the Project (Application 17-01-023). The decision granted Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) a Permit to Construct and approved the Project conditionally with the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and Mitigation Measures adopted in the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP). On January 29, 2025 PG&E submitted Minor Project Refinement No. 5 (MPR-5) proposed action includes setting or removing additional poles by helicopter, establishing additional temporary work areas, and changes to construction access roads.

The proposed action addresses updated field conditions and refined engineering designs. The landowner at 601 Navajo Avenue will not allow Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to use the original access to reach Poles 169 through 171. Therefore, PG&E will use an alternate existing road and install a new temporary road for access. Since the existing road cannot support line trucks traveling to poles 169 and 170, they will be removed and set using a helicopter. Due to safety concerns, the helicopter cannot travel across State Route (SR-) 46 from the Paso Robles airport with a tether attached; therefore, the tether will be attached at a new helicopter landing zone west of pole 176, and south of SR-46. The transmission poles will be staged at a new temporary work area directly north of the new helicopter landing zone (see Figure 1). The helicopter will pick up the poles from this new temporary work area and fly them to poles 169, 170, 172, and 173 for installation and removal, as well as removal of the distribution pole south of pole 171.

Helicopter Pole Operations:

- Remove and install pole 170 using a helicopter.
- Remove the existing distribution pole south of pole 171 using a helicopter.

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- Use one new temporary staging area and helicopter landing zone to store transmission poles to be picked up and transported by helicopter to poles 169, 170, 172, and 173. Note that poles 169, 172, and 173 were already analyzed as helicopter set in the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and pole 171 has already been replaced as part of ongoing maintenance requirements.

Construction Access:

- Use one existing unpaved road to access poles 169 and 170. Rubber-tracked vehicles like an excavator drill, skid steer, and Gradall may be used. No improvements are necessary.
- Install one temporary unpaved access road to reach poles 169 and 170, which may involve grading or mowing for safe access.
- Access pole 171 and the distribution pole to the south of pole 171 via a temporary footpath. No improvements are necessary.

These changes can be seen in **Figures 1, Attachment 1 (Biological Resources), and Attachment 2 Google Earth KMZ provided**. Changes associated with MPR-3 will comply with General Order (GO) 95, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4292, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 1252, California Public Utilities Code 8386.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sanchez", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Boris Sanchez, AICP
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: Michelle Wilson, CPUC CEQA Manager
Tom Engels, Montrose
Patrick Donaldson, Montrose
Lisa Herrera, Montrose
Erika Sagrafena, SWCA