

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Pacific Gas and Electric Company proposes to construct and operate an approximate 4.9 acre 115/21kV electrical substation called the Seventh Standard Substation. The project is located entirely on private land in northwest Bakersfield, within the Urban Bakersfield Northwest Distribution Planning Area (DPA), Kern County, California.

Over recent years, the northwest Bakersfield area has experienced consistent, increased electrical load growth. Nearly all electrical capacity within the Urban Bakersfield Northwest DPA has been used. The project will meet increased electrical load demands. Construction is scheduled for summer 2009.

This Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) was prepared in support of an application for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Seventh Standard Substation. The PEA was prepared in compliance with the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) PEA Guidelines (CPUC Information and Criteria List, Appendix B, Section V), as well as the CPUC's requirements for a PTC pursuant to General Order 131-D.

This PEA examines impacts that could result from the project to the environment. The analysis of impacts within the PEA shows that the project will not result in any significant impacts. The main issues discussed in this PEA concern biological resources, since the project will remove approximately five acres of potential San Joaquin kit fox foraging and migration habitat. Because the project will adhere to the terms of the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan to mitigate impacts to the kit fox, impacts to that species will be less than significant. A detailed discussion of biological resources and other potential project-related impacts are found in Chapter 4.