

CHAPTER 5 – MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation will be part of the PG&E Seventh Standard Substation project to ensure the impacts to resources are less than significant.

5.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- If construction is to occur during the avian-nesting season (February 1 through August 31), a pre-construction migratory bird nesting and raptor survey will be performed by a qualified biologist one to three weeks prior to construction. If nesting raptors are identified in areas susceptible to disturbance from construction activities, a sufficient spatial buffer zone shall be employed during construction activities until nestlings have fledged.
- All equipment shall be washed prior to entering the construction site for the first time to reduce the potential spread of noxious weeds.
- Impacts to the San Joaquin kit fox will be offset through mitigation to a mitigation fund as required by the City of Bakersfield, according to the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Project vehicles will not exceed 20 mph off of paved roads.
- All excavated trenches over two feet in depth will be sloped or have escape ramps installed which are suitable for the escape of the kit fox. All trenches shall be inspected for wildlife prior to backfilling.
- Any open-ended pipes shall be capped if left overnight or inspected for wildlife prior to moving them. If a San Joaquin kit fox is discovered in a pipe, then the pipe shall not be moved until the fox has escaped and the USFWS has been consulted.
- All trash shall be properly contained, especially food-related items.
- No pets are allowed on the project site.
- The use of rodenticides and herbicides will be restricted. Label and other restrictions by the EPA, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation will be followed. If rodent control is used, then zinc phosphide should be used.
- Environmental awareness training will be conducted for all laborers by a person knowledgeable in kit fox biology. The training will explain measures to prevent impacts to the kit fox, as well as its protection under the Endangered Species Act.

5.2 AIR QUALITY

- If feasible, construction workers will carpool to the job site. Park and Ride locations are located on Weedpatch Highway in Bakersfield and in Delano off of SR 99.
- No vehicles will be allowed to idle unnecessarily. Certain diesel powered vehicles require extended warm-up times that limit their availability following their ignition. When these vehicles are needed for repetitive tasks, they may require more idling time to make them effective. A common sense approach to idling will be employed. If vehicles are not required for use immediately or continuously, the engine will be shut-off.
- Construction equipment will be properly tuned and maintained per manufacturing specifications.
- PG&E will use low-emission construction equipment where available and feasible.
- The Seventh Standard Substation will be incorporated into PG&E's system-wide SF6 emissions reduction program.
- Visible dust emissions may not exceed 20 percent opacity during periods when soil is being disturbed by equipment or wind at any time.
- Soil will be stabilized after normal working hours and on weekends by applying water to form a visible crust on the soil and restricting vehicle access. In addition, all disturbed areas, including storage piles which are not being actively utilized for construction purposes, shall be effectively

stabilized of dust using water, chemical stabilizer/suppressant, and a cover such as a tarp or other suitable cover or vegetative ground cover. If trackout or carryout occur and extend more than 50 feet from the exit point onto a paved road, an appropriate cleaning device, such as a blower or PM10-efficient street sweeper must be used.

- All land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, and cut and fill shall be effectively controlled of fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water by presoaking.
- When materials are transported off-site, all material shall be covered or effectively wet to limit visible dust emissions, and at least six inches of freeboard space shall be open from the top of the container.
- Vehicle speed should be limited to 15 mph or less when traveling off of paved roads.

5.3 PALEONTOLOGY

- If paleontological remains are discovered during construction, construction will cease or be directed away from the discovery, and the potential resource will be evaluated by a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will recommend appropriate procedure methods.

5.4 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Emergency-spill response and clean up kits will be onsite where they are immediately available to respond to an accidental release of a hazardous fluid or material.
- A water truck shall be onsite, as deemed necessary by the foreman, during dry conditions to prevent the ignition of a wildfire. The work site shall be sprayed a minimum of three times per day.

5.5 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- PG&E will develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the project to prevent sedimentation of waterways resulting from the release of sediment from the construction site.

5.6 NOISE

- Construction will occur during daylight hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.).
- Construction equipment will use noise reduction devices that are no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturer.

5.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

- If human remains are discovered within the project area during any phase of construction, work within 50 feet of the remains will be suspended immediately and PG&E and/or their representative will immediately notify the respective county coroner. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be Native American, the NAHC will be notified within 24 hours, and the guidelines of the NAHC will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. PG&E will also retain a professional archaeological consultant with Native American burial experience who will conduct a field investigation of the specific site and consult with the Most Likely Descendant identified by the NAHC. As necessary, the archaeological consultant may provide professional assistance to the Most Likely Descendant including the excavation and removal of human remains. PG&E or its appointed representative will implement any mitigation before the resumption of activities at the site where the remains were discovered.