

CENTRAL VALLEY NATURAL GAS STORAGE PROJECT	VARIANCE REQUEST FORM	
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Date Required:	September 2, 2011	Variance Request No.:	No. 9 – PG&E Power Poles Raise at Colusa Drain
Date Submitted:	August 30, 2011	Location:	A privately owned, 15-foot tall electrical power pole, located just off of the right-of-way needs to be replaced with a 30-foot pole.
Property Owner(s):	Evelyn Thompson, John H. & Deborah M. Medeiros (Farmed by D. McGeoghegan)	Parcel No.:	APN 012-150-013
Current Land Use:	Canal Levee	Sensitive Resources:	The site is a disturbed canal levee that is adjacent to aquatic habitat for giant garter snake.

Variance from: This variance requests the CPUC’s approval to replace the 15’ tall pole owned by the private property owner with a 30-foot tall pole. The purpose of the higher pole is to raise the power line that connects to a landowner’s pump used for irrigation of fields.

Attached is a photo that shows the pole in question as well as the canal it crosses.

Description and Justification for Variance: During the construction of the pipeline, a floating bridge will be used to span the gap of the channel. The utility power line that runs to the West side of the drain that crossed the Right of Way will be in the way of passing pipeline construction equipment. The equipment will not be allowed to pass under the utility line at the present moment due to lack of appropriate clearance under the line. The power pole must be raised to allow the attached power line to allow safe clearance of equipment.

Environmental Analysis. A brief description of the potential environmental effects associated with the project activities being proposed as part of this variance request is provided below.

Aesthetics. The new pole higher than the existing pole and is one of several in the area. Installation of the power poles would not result in any new or greater aesthetic impacts than were previously described in the MND. The pole will blend into the existing character of the area and no impacts on aesthetics or visual resources are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources. The new pole will replace an existing pole in the same location. There will be no change in use. The area is within the levee area and thus is not currently in agricultural production and will not be used in the future for

Land Use and Planning. No potentially significant impacts related to land use have been identified. No mitigation is required.

Mineral Resources. Replacement of the power pole would not have a significant effect on mineral and energy resources and would not result in the loss of the availability of the resources because none occur in the project area. No mitigation is required.

Noise. CVGS will implement the appropriate APMs and mitigation measures identified in the MND (APM NOI-1 and mitigation measure NOI-1) to avoid and minimize potential short-term construction-related noise impacts associated with installation of the new poles and removal of the one existing pole. No new mitigation has been identified.

Population and Housing. Replacement of the power pole would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. No mitigation is required.

Public Services. Replacement of the power pole would not result in any new or greater impacts on public services than were discussed in the MND. No mitigation is required.


Recreation. The pole replacement activities will not increase the use of public recreation facilities and will not require the expansion of recreation facilities. In addition, the proposed work would not result in any new or greater impacts on recreation activities than were discussed in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Transportation/Traffic. The proposed work would not result in any new or greater impacts on transportation than were discussed in the MND. No mitigation is required.

Utilities and Service Systems. Replacement of the power pole would not require an expansion or improvement in utilities or service systems, including wastewater and water supply treatment or delivery. In addition, the proposed work would not result in any new or greater impacts on recreation activities than were discussed in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Site Conditions/Comments: The pole replacement activities will occur on a disturbed canal levee.

Approvals	Date	Name (print)	Signature	Comments
CPUC Compliance Mgr				
Central Valley Construction Manager	8/30/2011			

Central Valley Environmental Manager	8/30/11	Susan Bushnell Bergfalk		None
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Prepared by: Susan Bushnell Bergfalk, Environmental Manager, ICF International **Date:** August 30, 2011

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CPUC Compliance Mgr				
Central Valley Construction Manager	8/30/2011	Dirk de Bruyn		
Central Valley Environmental Manager	8/30/11	Susan Bushnell Bergfalk		None

Prepared by: Susan Bushnell Bergfalk, Environmental Manager, ICF International **Date:** August 30, 2011