

**17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>Would the project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less-Than-Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a. Degrade Biological or Cultural Resources**

**Less-than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

The proposed project involves the upgrading of existing transmission lines and substations. The long-term operational improvements would occur within the existing PG&E right-of-way and within the fencelines of the existing substations. As a result, there would be no expansion of PG&E’s “footprint” and, hence, no net change in terms of encroachment into areas of biological or cultural sensitivity. In the short-term, however, during the construction period, there would be construction equipment and crews that could disturb the sensitive plant and wildlife species known to occur at Burlingame Lagoon, West of Bayshore parcel, and San Bruno Mountain. Potential impacts could include fill of wetlands, take of listed species, loss of habitat critical to the listed species, accidental spills from construction equipment that would directly or indirectly affect the species, and accidental fires. PG&E has proposed Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs; see Table B-5), Best Management Practices (see Appendix C), Fire Suppression (see Appendix D), and Revegetation Plans (see Appendix F) that would help reduce these impacts. Additional or supplementary mitigation measures (MMs) have been identified within this document. A complete description of these potential impacts and the mitigation measures that have been proposed to address potential short-term impacts in each of these sensitive

areas is presented in 15 mitigation measures in Section B.4, Biological Resources. Implementation of these measures would mitigate potential impacts on biological resources to less-than-significant levels.

While the project corridor is not expected to contain significant cultural resources, based on past studies and work in and around the PG&E right-of-way, the environmental setting along the bayshore offers a desirable location for human settlement. Grading and other ground disturbance activities during the construction period would thus have the potential to encounter and eliminate examples of Bay Area history or prehistory. PG&E has proposed APM-62 to APM-64 (see Table B-5) that would reduce potential impacts on cultural resources. MM CR-1 under Section B.5, Cultural Resources, would reduce potential impacts on cultural resources to less-than-significant levels.

**b. Result In Considerable Cumulative Impacts** **No Impact**

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The proposed reconductoring project would not result in any significant long-term impacts that would substantially cumulate with impacts of other current and probable future impacts. Consequently, the project would not create impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

**c. Result In Adverse Effects on Humans** **Less-than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

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In the long run, the San Mateo-Martin #4 Conversion Project would not substantially alter the physical environment in a manner that would create adverse effects on human beings. The existing noise, air, visual, hazards, transportation, and land use settings would remain virtually unchanged in the future if the project were implemented. Therefore, potential increases in noise exposure and air emissions, loss of views, public health risks from hazardous waste or electromagnetic fields, traffic congestion, and land use conflicts — all of which could significantly affect human beings — would not occur as a result of project implementation.

During the construction period, temporary but potentially significant adverse impacts to human receptors related to light and glare, dust, noise, and ground vibration emissions may occur. The proposed construction would also result in potentially hazardous conditions, largely from the possible release of hazardous substances during equipment operation. The project may also result in adverse effects on traffic, parking availability, and alternative modes of transportation. PG&E has proposed APMs (see Table B-5), BMPs, and a Fire Prevention/Suppression Plan that would reduce potentially adverse impacts on humans. Construction-related traffic and lane closure in Burlingame may potentially affect traffic flow and emergency vehicle response times. PG&E would implement its *Work Area Protection Guide and Traffic Control Manual* (see Appendix E), which would reduce traffic-, parking-, and transportation-related impacts. Mitigation measures have been recommended within this document that would mitigate the project's potential adverse impacts to less-than-significant levels. With mitigation, adverse impacts on humans would be less than significant.