



# California Public Utilities Commission



May 15, 2023

Erin Rice  
Senior Land Planner  
PG&E  
2730 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Rm 220, #235B  
Sacramento, CA 95833

*Re: Notice to Proceed No. 3 for the Humboldt Bay-Humboldt #1 60 kV Reconductoring Project (A.19-02-004) – 2022 Construction Scope*

Dear Mr. Rice:

On November 23, 2020, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Humboldt Bay-Humboldt #1 60 kV Reconductoring Project (Project) and approved the Project (Application 19-02-004). The decision granted Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) a Permit to Construct and approved the Project conditionally with the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures adopted in the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP). On August 11, 2021, the CPUC granted PG&E Notice to Proceed No. 1, which authorized PG&E to conduct vegetation removal activities in advance of construction of the Project. On June 3, 2022, the CPUC granted PG&E Notice to Proceed No. 2, which authorized PG&E to conduct work from pole 6 (near Golden West Drive) to pole 115 (at Humboldt Substation) and approved modifications to the staging area at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds and to allow for a taller and slightly moved engineered direct embedded pole (EDEP).

On March 20, 2023, PG&E submitted Notice to Proceed Request 3 (NTPR-3) to the CPUC seeking the authority to resume construction and complete the remaining portion of the Project, including: cutting berries, willow sprouts and other vegetation to ground level within structure work areas that were previously cleared in September-October 2021; installing structures and reconductoring, from TSPs 1a and 1b adjacent to the Humboldt Bay Substation to structure 6; removing old poles and topping other poles to remain as distribution poles within this same area; and ongoing use of the Fields Landing and Golden West Drive TCEs. A map showing proposed new work locations associated with NTPR-3 is provided in NTPR-3 **Attachment A**. Upon receipt of this approval, PG&E will initiate vegetation clearing activities as soon as special status surveys are completed (which would start June 1 or later), and construction activities will begin on June 15, 2023. All Project work approved under NTPR-3 will be completed by the end of December 2023.

This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in NTPR-3. The evaluation process ensures that all mitigation measures applicable to the location and activities covered in the Notice to Proceed are implemented as required in the CPUC's Decision.

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### MMCRP Measures and Conditions

The table below identifies all Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and Mitigation Measures (MMs) described in the MMCRP along with the status of compliance for actions proposed under NTPR-3:

Applicant Proposed Measure / Mitigation Measure / Other Agency Conditions	Compliance Action / Status
APM AE-1: Nighttime lighting to minimize potential visual impacts of construction activity	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during any nighttime activities.
APM AE-2: Construction Cleanup	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined, including conducting debris removal during construction activities and will restore the sites following construction.
APM AE-3: Use of Galvanized Finish on LDSs, TSPs, and LSTs	PG&E and its contractors will use galvanized finish on new steel poles and lattice towers.
APM AE-4: Design and operation of staging areas to minimize potential visual impacts	PG&E and its contractors to implement as defined, including the use of directional and focused lighting to minimize potential spillover.
APM AQ-1: Minimize Fugitive Dust	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during activities authorized under NTP-3.
MM AQ-1: Supplemental Best Management Practices	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM BIO-1: Development and implementation of a Worker Environmental Awareness Program	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined and will conduct worker training specific to construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM BIO-2: General Resource Protection Measures	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM BIO-3: Conduct Preconstruction Survey(s) for Special-Status Species and Sensitive Biological Resource Areas	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined. A qualified biologist will conduct surveys in areas identified in the Biological Resources Technical Report prepared for the Project as having habitat for special-status species and sensitive biological resource areas within 7 days of construction activities.



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Applicant Proposed Measure / Mitigation Measure / Other Agency Conditions	Compliance Action / Status
APM BIO-4: Identification and Marking of Sensitive Biological Resource Areas	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined. Sensitive biological resources identified during pre-construction surveys will be clearly marked in the field and on project maps.
APM BIO-5: Biological Monitor On-Site during Construction Activities in Sensitive Biological Resource Areas	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined. A qualified biologist will monitor construction activities in wetland areas identified in APM BIO-4 unless the area has been protected by barrier fencing.
APM BIO-6: Nesting Bird Impact Avoidance and Protection.	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Nest detection surveys for work scheduled during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) will be conducted within 7 days prior to the start of construction.
APM BIO-7: Special-Status Plants	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Special-status plant populations will be flagged or otherwise marked for avoidance and protection measures for Lyngbe's sedge will be implemented.
APM BIO-8: Special-Status Amphibian and Reptile Impact Avoidance and Protection	PG&E and its contractors will implement the required surveys prior to the start of construction activities authorized under NTP-3. All open holes, pits, and trenches will be protected, and open excavations will be inspected each morning prior to start of construction activities. Workers will be instructed to check underneath vehicles for amphibians and reptiles prior to moving.
APM BIO-9: Implement General Protection Measures for Wetlands and Other Waters	PG&E and its contractors will implement during activities authorized under NTP-3, including those at the staging area at Redwood Acres Fairground.
APM BIO-10: Restore Temporarily Impacted Wetlands and Other Waters	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities.
APM BIO-11: Compensate for Permanent Impacts on Wetlands and Other Waters	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM BIO-12: Minimize Impact to Marbled Murrelet	PG&E will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Helicopter work will not commence until at least two hours after sunrise and will end at least one hour before sunset to avoid the potential to interrupt peak daily feeding cycles for marbled Murrelet.



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MM BIO-1: Pre-construction Bat Survey	This measure was implemented prior to tree removal that occurred during activities authorized by NTP-1. If additional tree removal is determined to be necessary, the measure will be implemented as defined.
MM BIO-2: Habitat Restoration Plan	PG&E and its contractors will implement the 2020 Habitat Restoration Plan as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM CUL-1: Workers Environmental Awareness Training	PG&E and its contractors will conduct worker training specific to construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM CUL-2: Flag and Avoid Resources (Spiegelberg Homestead Archaeological Deposit)	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM CUL-3b): Manage Unanticipated Human Remains Discoveries	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3 if human remains are encountered.
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Archaeological Resources Avoidance	If indigenous or historic-era archaeological resources are encountered during Project construction or operation, PG&E and/or its contractors shall immediately cease all construction activity within 100 feet of the find, flag off the area for avoidance, and implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM GEO-1: Minimization of Construction in Soft or Loose Soils	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM GEO-2: Reduction of Slope Instability during Construction	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Grading plans will be designed to limit the potential for slope instability and minimize the potential for erosion.
APM PALEO-1: Unanticipated Potential Paleontological Resource	If significant paleontological resources are discovered, PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM PALEO-2: Worker's Environmental Awareness Training	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Worker training shall take place prior to and during construction for new staff.
APM GHG-1: Minimize Greenhouse Gas Emissions	PG&E and its contractors will implement GHG minimization measures as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.





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Applicant Proposed Measure / Mitigation Measure / Other Agency Conditions	Compliance Action / Status
APM HAZ-1: Hazardous-Substance Control and Emergency Response	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM HAZ-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for Health, Safety, and Environment	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Worker training shall take place prior to and during construction for new staff.
APM HAZ-3: Fire Risk Management	PG&E and its contractors will implement fire risk management procedures as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM WQ-1: Development and Implementation of a SWPPP	PG&E submitted the SWPPP to the CPUC June 22, 2022 and submitted revision to SWPPP September 1, 2022.
APM WQ-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAP) Development and Implementation	PG&E and its contractors will present a worker training specific to vegetation management activities.
APM NOI-3: Notify Sensitive Receptors of Helicopter Use	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Sensitive receptors will be notified of helicopter use at least 7 days prior to helicopter activities.
MM NOI-1a: Adherence to City of Eureka Construction Hour Restrictions	Construction activities within the City of Eureka shall be restricted to the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. MM NOI-1a supersedes APM NOI-1.
MM NOI-1b: Nighttime Construction.	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. MM NOI-1b supersedes APM NOI-2.
MM NOI-1c: Construction Noise Management	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM REC-1: Coordination and Signage	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Signage to be posted at least one week prior to commencement of construction at a given location.
APM TT-1: Temporary Traffic Controls	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. All required encroachment permits will be obtained and PG&E will coordinate with Eureka Transit Service regarding activities that could impact bus routes prior to commencement of work.
APM TT-2: Air Traffic Control	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.



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Applicant Proposed Measure / Mitigation Measure / Other Agency Conditions	Compliance Action / Status
APM TT-3: Coordination for Road Closures with Emergency Service Providers and School Districts	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3. Coordination will occur at least 24 hours prior to implementing any road or lane closures.
APM WF-1: Smoking and Fire Rules	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM WF-2: Carry Emergency Fire Suppression Equipment	PG&E and its contractors will implement as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.
APM WF-3: Construction Fire Prevention Plan	PG&E and its contractors will implement the CPUC-approved Construction Fire Prevention Plan as defined during construction activities authorized under NTP-3.

PG&E is authorized to proceed with the proposed construction activities associated with NTP-3 provided that all proposed actions and construction is carried out in accordance with the methods and conditions described in NTP-3, and subject to completion of the following implementing actions by PG&E prior to the start of construction:

- Pursuant to NWP 57 Special Condition #4, PG&E will copy CPUC on notification to the Corps of the anticipated start and stop dates of construction, at least 5 days prior to the initiation of construction.
- Pursuant to Section 401 Authorization Special Condition #4, PG&E will copy CPUC on notification to the Regional Water Board at least five working days prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities.
- PG&E will implement the MMCRP to ensure implementation of all APMs, applicable Project Mitigation Measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions during construction activities. Some measures are on-going and/or have time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction as applicable. A copy of the MMCRP, other permits, and this NTP will be kept at the construction site(s).
- Prior to conducting each survey required by APM BIO-3, PG&E will notify the CPUC of when and where (as identified in the Biological Resources Technical Report prepared for the Project) the surveys will be conducted.
- PG&E will provide documentation of pre-construction species surveys and identification of sensitive biological resource areas, as identified in the table above, prior to construction.
- Prior to conducting construction activities under NTP-3, PG&E will conduct a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for all Project personnel. PG&E will maintain training logs at the construction site(s) and will make them available upon request.
- PG&E will provide local and Caltrans encroachment permits to CPUC as they are obtained and provide documentation of coordination with Eureka Transit Service regarding activities that could impact bus routes.



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- PG&E will prepare and submit a Helicopter Use Plan for NTP-3 activities to the CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities involving helicopter use.
- PG&E will notify sensitive receptors of helicopter use at least 7 days prior to planned helicopter activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Forsythe".

John E. Forsythe, AICP  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: Mike Manka, ESA  
Matt Fagundes, ESA