



California Public Utilities Commission



September 22, 2022

Erin Rice
Sr. Land Planner
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
2730 Gateway Oaks, Rm 220, #235B
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Minor Project Refinement No. 4 for the Humboldt Reconductoring Project – (A.19-02-004)

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). Notice to Proceed (NTP)-2 (2022 Construction Scope) was issued by the CPUC on June 3, 2022. NTP-2 consists of construction activities from pole 6 (near Golden West Drive) to pole 115 (at Humboldt Substation) through calendar year 2022.

On September 19, 2022, PG&E provided the CPUC with Minor Project Refinement Request No. 4 (MPRR4) to relocate the anchor and guywire associated with Pole 96. Due to unanticipated geotechnical considerations resulting in pole subsidence, PG&E proposes to replace the existing pole and to move the anchor and guy wire approximately 15 feet to the southwest, resulting in 100 square feet of vegetation removal.

PG&E replaced Pole 96 as part of the current project in August of 2022, but due to ground subsidence, it has sunk by approximately 3 feet, bringing the pole out of engineering standards. The scope of this minor project refinement is to drill a new anchor hole for a guywire to allow greater support for the pole by means of a more stable pole base and a wider guywire angle. The resulting minor change in line angle would also necessitate trimming a small redwood tree north of the transmission line to maintain required clearance distance. Existing unimproved access roads would continue to provide ground access to the work area. Following construction, the work area would be restored consistent with the project Habitat Restoration Plan and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Pole 96 is located on land owned by Humboldt County in Eureka, California (APN: 017-031-013-000).

The pole, anchor, and guywire associated with Pole 96 are located within the study area included in the Final IS/MND. No special status species, critical habitat, rare plants, or wetlands were identified within the proposed pole, anchor, and guywire re-location sites. The anchor relocation site would require 100 square feet of vegetation removal (Himalayan blackberry, native blackberry, and salmonberry). The resulting minor change in line angle would also require trimming of a small redwood tree north of the transmission line to maintain required clearance

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distance. No additional vegetation clearing would be required. No special status species, critical habitat, or rare plants were identified within the proposed refinement area. No additional impacts to vegetation would occur.

The project change identified in MPRR4 consists of a minor project change that will not trigger other permit requirements, will not increase the severity of an impact, or create a new impact, and will clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the approved mitigation measures. The minor project refinement would not result in any changes to the impact conclusions in the Final IS/MND with implementation of relevant applicant proposed measures and mitigation measures listed in the MMCRP and will not trigger a permit requirement or require approval by another jurisdictional agency. The CPUC has determined that no further documentation is needed for compliance with CEQA.

PG&E is authorized to proceed with the minor project refinement identified in its MPRR4 submitted September 19 (dated September 16) upon condition that all proposed actions and construction are carried out in accordance with the methods and conditions described in NTP-2.

Sincerely,

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

John E. Forsythe, AICP
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: Matt Fagundes, ESA
Even Holmboe, ESA