3.18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):		*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
18.	**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE — Would the project:**				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.18.1 Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion

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: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED.*

Although the Project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, it does not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As discussed in the *Aesthetics*, *Air Quality*, *Biological Resources,* and *Noise* sections of this IS/MND, the Project would result in potentially significant impacts (predominantly temporary impacts as a result of construction of the Project) that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. However, adoption and implementation of mitigation measures would reduce these individual impacts to levels that would be less than significant.

As described in Section 3.1, *Aesthetics,* the construction-related lighting could adversely affect nighttime views. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

As described in Section 3.3, *Air Quality*, Project construction would violate air quality standards and contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant within the region. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

As described in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, the Project would have the potential to adversely affect: species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; sensitive habitats, including federally protected wetlands; and could conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

As described in Section 3.12, *Noise*, Project construction would result in the exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established for the City of Folsom and result in increased ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED*.

The Project does not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 requires a discussion of the cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental contribution to a significant cumulative effect is "cumulatively considerable," meaning that the project's incremental effects are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. An incremental, project-specific contribution to a cumulative impact is less than cumulatively considerable, and thus is not significant, if, for example, the project is required to implement or fund its fair share of a mitigation measure or measures designed to alleviate the cumulative impact.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b), the CPUC prepared a list of past, present, and reasonably anticipated future projects that could produce related or cumulative impacts, including those projects outside the control of the Lead Agency and also considered projections contained in planning documents designed to evaluate regional or area-wide conditions. The following factors were used to determine an appropriate list of projects to be considered in this cumulative analysis:

- Similar Environmental Impacts – A relevant project is defined as a "reasonably foreseeable" project that would contribute to effects on resources also affected by the Project. For the purpose of this analysis, relevant projects with potential similar environmental impacts include other electric transmission, or public utility-related projects.

- Geographic Scope and Location – A relevant project for the cumulative effect is located within a defined geographic scope (3-miles) of the Project.

- Timing and Duration of Implementation – Effects associated with activities for a relevant project (e.g., short-term construction or demolition, or long-term operations) that could coincide in terms of timing with the effects of the Project.

Table 3.18-1 lists past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects and activities within the geographic scope of potential Project impacts. The list of projects was developed by initially reviewing websites and planning documents, as well as researching other projects under the jurisdiction of El Dorado County, Sacramento County, City of Folsom, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Sacramento County projects include specific plans, a master plan, zoning code amendments, as well as community development and commercial projects; however, none are located within the vicinity of the Project (Sacramento County, 2014). Two Caltrans road improvement projects (i.e., Highway 50 HOV Lane [State Route 99 to Watt Ave]) and the Sly Park Road Undercrossing Bridge Replacement project) are located along Highway 50; however, they would not occur within the defined geographic scope of the Project to be included in this cumulative analysis (Caltrans, 2014). In addition, the PEA, the *El Dorado County General Plan* (and its specific plans), and the *City of Folsom General Plan* were reviewed to identify projects that may be considered cumulatively reasonable (PG&E, 2013; County of El Dorado, 2004; City of Folsom, 1988). Table 3.18-1 includes eight City of Folsom and seven El Dorado County projects (City of Folsom 2013 and 2014; County of El Dorado 2012a-c, 2013a-d, 2014a-c) located within the vicinity of the Project, that together make up the cumulative scenario for the Project. **Figure 3.18-1** provides geographic locations of identified projects included in the cumulative project scenario. The public review of this IS/MND will include all of the above agency's input with regard to any specific cumulative projects.

The projects identified below are considered reasonably likely to be constructed and/or operated during a similar timeframe as the Project. Since the impacts related to construction of the Project would be temporary and localized, the potential to combine with similar impacts of other projects would only occur if construction activities were occurring at the same time and in close proximity to the Project. In the event that the cumulative projects are constructed at the same time and in close proximity to the Project, there would be a potential for short-term construction-related cumulative impacts to occur. However, for the reasons explained below, either there is no existing significant cumulative impact to which the Project's incremental, temporary, construction-related impacts could contribute, or such incremental impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Operation of the Project would not result in the potential for any individually significant impact, and any less than significant operational impacts of the Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

Aesthetics

The geographic scope of the cumulative impacts to aesthetics includes the viewsheds that could be affected by the Project from public roadways, trails, and open space areas. The temporal scope for impacts associated with Aesthetics includes all phases of the Project from construction through operation and maintenance.

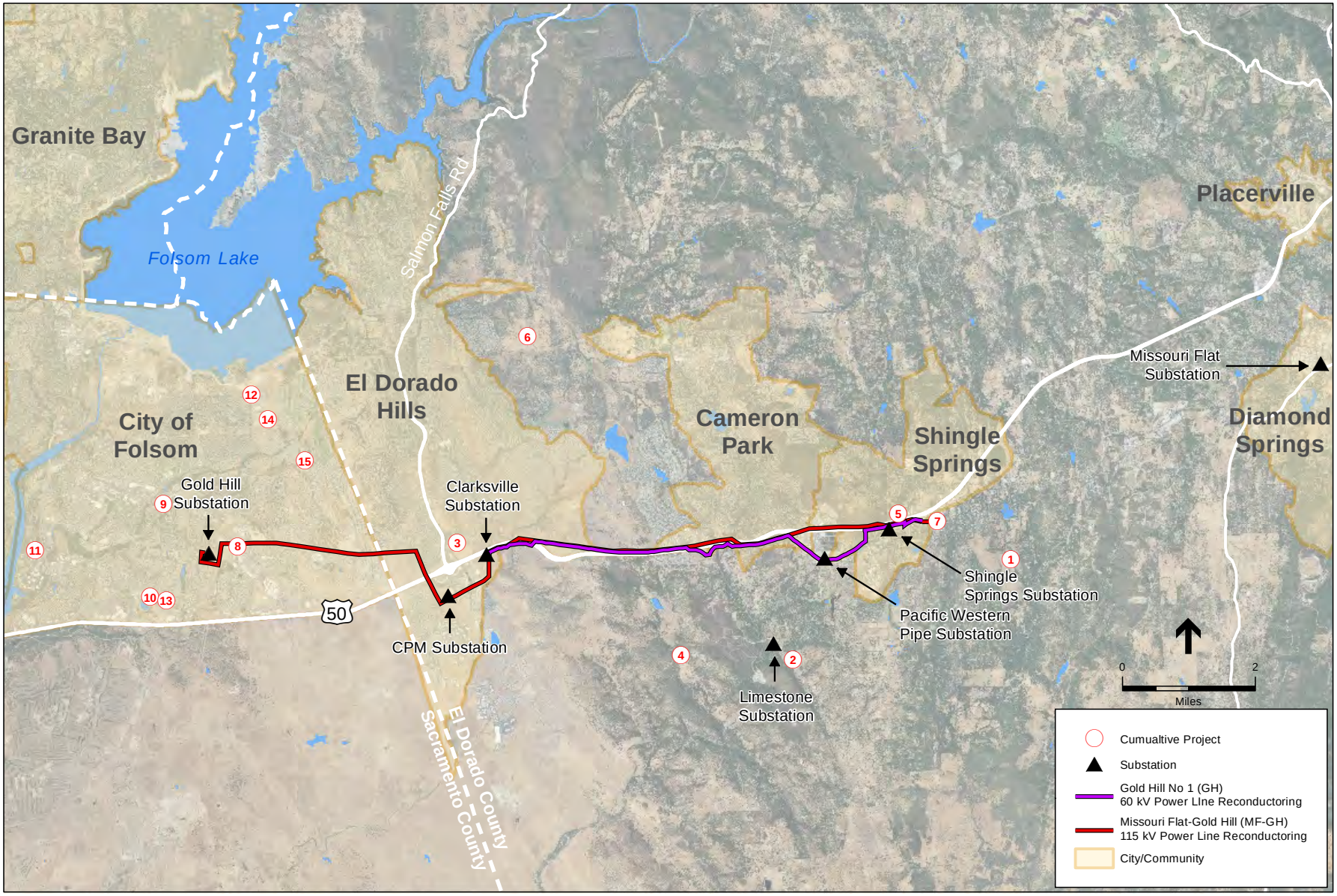
The majority of impacts resulting from the Project would occur during the construction phase in association with power line reconductoring, pole removal, new structure installation, new pole installation, and the presence and operation of heavy machinery at staging areas, work areas, helicopter landing zones, and pull sites. The potential for fugitive dust created during construction

TABLE 3.18-1
CUMULATIVE SCENARIO FOR THE MISSOURI FLAT-GOLD HILL 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT

Map ID	APN(s) or Project Name	Description	Address / Location	Agency / Organization	Details	Status / Timeline	Distance from Proposed Project
1	San Stino Residential Project (090-190-01-100)	Residential Development	4661 French Creek Road	County of El Dorado	1,041-unit detached residential subdivision on 645 acres.	Notice of preparation of a Draft EIR submitted on February 22, 2013.	~1.25 miles east of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
2	Lime Rock Valley Specific Plan (109-010-09, 10, 13, 14, and 109-020-01, 04, 05, 06 & 20)	Specific Plan for Residential Development	Deer Creek Road and Marble Valley Road	County of El Dorado	800 residential units on approximately 377 acres, a 15-acre neighborhood park with recreational amenities, and approximately 314 acres of public and private open space.	Notice of preparation of Draft EIR submitted on February 20, 2013. Draft EIR expected for release the summer of 2014.	~1.25 miles south of the Gold Hill Line.
3	Central El Dorado Specific Plan	Specific Plan for Residential and Commercial Development	El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Serrano Parkway	County of El Dorado	1,028 residential units, 11 acres of public facility/recreational use or 50,000 square feet of commercial use, 15 acres of public village park, and 85 acres of public parks and open space.	Notice of preparation of Draft EIR submitted on February 20, 2013. Draft EIR expected for release the summer of 2014.	~0.05 miles north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line and Gold Hill Line.
4	Village of Marble Valley Specific Plan (087-200-74; 119-020-56 and 119-020-57; 119-030-13 through 119-030-19; and 119-330-01)	Specific Plan for Residential and Commercial Development	Marble Valley Road	County of El Dorado	3,236 residential units, 475,000 square feet of commercial uses, 87 acres of public facilities/recreation uses, 1,282 acres of open space, 42 acres of agriculture use, on 2,341 acres.	Notice of preparation of Draft EIR submitted on February 20, 2013. Draft EIR expected for release the summer of 2014.	~0.05 miles south of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line and Gold Hill Line.
5	Tilden Park Commercial-Residential Development Project (070-280-59 & 070-280-60)	Residential and Commercial Development	4108 Wild Chaparral Drive, Shingle Springs	County of El Dorado	14 residential lots, two commercial lots, and two open space lots on 12 acres.	Notice of preparation of Draft EIR submitted on December 19, 2012.	~0.05 miles north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
6	Dixon Ranch Residential Project (126-020-01-100, 126-020-02-100, 126-020-03-100, 126-020-04-100, 126-150-23-100)	Residential Development	Green Valley Road and Malcolm Dixon Road	County of El Dorado	Subdivide 280 acres to include 605 single family units, and 84 acres of open space.	Notice of preparation of Draft EIR submitted on December 14, 2012.	~3 miles north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line and Gold Hill Line.
7	Pacific Gas & Electric Road and Public Utility Easement Acquisition and Temporary Use (090-430-23)	Road and Utility Easement	Sunset Lane and Becken Lane	County of El Dorado	10,959 square foot portion of a parcel would allow construction of a 28 foot wide road approximately 460 feet long.	Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study submitted on November 13, 2012.	~0.05 miles north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.

TABLE 3.18-1 (Continued)
CUMULATIVE SCENARIO FOR THE MISSOURI FLAT-GOLD HILL 115 KV POWER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT

Map ID	APN(s) or Project Name	Description	Address / Location	Agency / Organization	Details	Status / Timeline	Distance from Proposed Project
8	East Bidwell Street Complete Streets Corridor Plan	Road Improvements	East Bidwell Street	City of Folsom	Transportation improvements along East Bidwell Street including: a streetscape vision; improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities; green and sustainable roadway and landscape improvements; and transportation improvements to meet the needs of existing and future development.	Anticipated to be complete spring of 2014.	Adjacent to the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
9	Oakmont of Folsom	Residential Development	Southwest corner of the intersection of East Bidwell Street and Creekside Drive	City of Folsom	Development of a 60,000 square foot residential senior care facility.	Anticipate construction to be complete summer of 2014.	~1 mile southeast of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
10	Parkside Subdivision	Residential Development	Barnhill Drive at Iron Point Road	City of Folsom	78 single family units	Under construction	~1.15 mile northeast of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
11	The Island Subdivision	Residential Development	Parkshore Drive, east of Folsom Boulevard	City of Folsom	290 single family units and 60 affordable rental units.	Approved	~1.7 miles west of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
12	The Knolls Subdivision	Residential Development	Northeast corner of the intersection of East Natoma Street and Green Valley	City of Folsom	79 single family units	Under construction	~2.25 miles northeast of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
13	Willow Bridge Subdivision	Residential Development	South Side of Iron Point Road at McAdoo Drive	City of Folsom	115 single family units	Under construction	~0.85 miles southeast of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
14	Marbella at Parkway/The Collection-Trails at Folsom	Residential Development	Parkway Drive North	City of Folsom	93 single family units	Under construction	~1.80 miles east of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.
15	Serenade Senior Apartments	Residential Development	Northwest Corner of East Natoma Street and Golf Links Drive	City of Folsom	218 Senior Apartment Units	Project on hold	~1.30 miles east of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115v Power Line.



SOURCE: AECOM, 2013; City of Folsom, 2012/2013; El Dorado County, 2013

Missouri Flat Project . D207584.16

Figure 3.18-1

Cumulative Projects

would be minimized with the implementation of APM AQ-1 as described in Section 3.3, *Air Quality*. The potential for impacts associated with temporary nighttime construction experienced by residents would be minimized with the implementation of APM AE-2 and Mitigation Measure 3.1-1, as described in Section 3.1, *Aesthetics*. Overall, impacts during construction would be temporary and remain less than significant. The cumulative construction impacts on aesthetics would be less than significant because they would be temporary and the viewer would not be exposed to activities for permanent periods of time.

As discussed in Section 3.1, *Aesthetics*, impacts could result from the taller height of 44 of the 60 poles along the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill Line and taller height of the 80 of 120 poles to be replaced along the Gold Hill No. 1 Line. However, the difference in height is unlikely to be immediately perceived by motorists, recreationalists, and other users within the Project viewshed as the new poles would have a similar alignment and would be similar in appearance to the existing condition. APM AE-1, as described in Section 3.1, *Aesthetics*, would reduce significant individual effects on visual resources by reducing the potential of the Project to introduce of permanent amounts of glare along the Project alignments. With mitigation incorporated at the Project level, the cumulative operation and maintenance impacts on Aesthetics would be less than significant.

The projects described in Table 3.17-1 include numerous residential development projects in eastern Sacramento County and western El Dorado County that could alter the visual character of areas within the Project vicinity. The projects within the geographic scope of the Project that could cause impacts similar to those of the Project include the East Bidwell Complete Streets Corridor Plan, the Central El Dorado Specific Plan, the Tilden Park Commercial-Residential Development Project, and the PG&E Road and Public Utility Easement Acquisition and Temporary Use. These projects are described in greater detail in Table 3.18-1 and are shown on Figure 3.18-1, *Cumulative Projects*. Many of these projects would have the potential to contribute new visual impacts within the viewshed that could be affected by the Project from public roadways, trails, open space, and residential areas. The projects would generally be located in suburban and rural developed areas and could potentially affect the area's visual character. Future development within the Project vicinity is guided by applicable city and county General Plans and design review processes, in addition to associated planning and environmental documents.

The East Bidwell Complete Streets Corridor Plan could contribute temporal impacts during construction, but could result in an improved appearance of East Bidwell Street due to landscaping and roadway improvements. Impacts resulting from the El Dorado Specific Plan could result in potentially significant impacts due to the transformation of existing undeveloped open space area in a residential neighborhood. However, the development could be similar in appearance to surrounding developments and is proposed to contain 100 acres of open space and parks within the proposed 257 acre planned community. The Tilden Park Commercial-Residential Development Project could also result in potentially significant impacts due to the proposed development of existing open space into residential and commercial uses, changing the appearance of the landscape. The PG&E Road and Public Utility Easement project includes the construction and use of an approximately 28-foot wide by approximately 460 feet long public road to provide emergency access to a 40-unit housing project from Sunset Lane. It is not anticipated that the easement project

will create significant impacts to aesthetic values due to the lack of vegetation that would be cleared as the project area is currently a gravel drive and parking area. In addition, the project is not in the vicinity of any public parks, scenic vistas, or scenic roadways.

As discussed *Chapter 2, Project Description*, the Project would replace existing electrical infrastructure along the majority of the alignment. The Project would contribute to cumulative adverse influences where aboveground facilities or evidence of underground facilities (e.g., cleared ROWs) occupy the same field of view as other built facilities or impacted landscapes that are currently in the viewsheds of sensitive viewers in the Project area. Existing utility infrastructure (described in the impact analysis above), including transmission lines and substations, have compromised the existing visual setting in the Project vicinity. The Project, along with the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not cause or contribute to a cumulatively significant effect because it would not dominate the landscape setting. When considered with the existing visual setting and the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the project area, the Project's contribution would not be cumulatively considerable because it would not significantly alter existing scenic quality or viewshed.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The geographical context of cumulative impacts on agricultural and forestry resources include agricultural and forest land within western El Dorado County and the City of Folsom. However, when considered in combination with the impacts associated with other projects in Table 3.18-1, the Project's incremental contribution to impact on agricultural and forestry resources would not be cumulatively considerable given that the Project would have no impacts with respect to such resources.

Air Quality

The geographic scope of cumulative air quality impacts includes the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which are designated as non-attainment for the State and federal ozone standards, the State PM10 standard, and the federal PM2.5 standard. The SVAB is also non-attainment of the State PM2.5 standard. As described in Section 3.3, *Air Quality*, pursuant to El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD) policy, projects that would be consistent with the applicable air quality management plans, meet all applicable rules and regulations, and would not result in emissions that exceed EDCAQMD significance thresholds would not be considered to have a significant cumulative impact. Similarly, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) recommends identifying significant cumulative impacts for projects that would result in emissions that would exceed the SMAQMD significance thresholds.

As discussed under Section 3.3 a) through c), the Project would be consistent with all applicable air quality plans, and average daily emissions of criteria pollutants from construction of the part of the Project in El Dorado County would be less than the adopted EDCAQMD significance thresholds and the emissions from construction of the part of the Project in Sacramento County would be less than the adopted SMAQMD significance thresholds. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.3-1 and 3.3-2 would ensure that all applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust control measures and SMAQMD Basic Construction Emission Control Practices for

fugitive dust are implemented as appropriate. Therefore, construction emissions that would be associated with the Project would not be cumulatively considerable and the cumulative impact would be mitigated to less than significant. The proposed Project would require no change to PG&E's existing operation and maintenance activities, and would result in no net change in long-term emissions. Therefore¸ no operation-related cumulative impacts would occur.

Biological Resources

The cumulative context for biological resources varies depending on the biological resource. For special-status wildlife and wetland resources, the geographic scope of the analysis includes the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada foothills ecological section. For special-status species that have distinct populations or occurrence areas, such as special-status plant species, the geographic scope includes gabbroic chaparral, foothill grassland, vernal pool, and cismontane woodland habitat within the Clarksville, Shingle Springs, Pilot Hill, and Coloma quadrangles. The temporal scope of the analysis for cumulative impacts to biological resources extends between summer of 2015 through summer of 2017.

Biological impacts resulting from Project implementation would be localized around individual utility towers and poles, limited staging areas and access roads, and approximately 1,000 feet of line undergrounding. The Project activities would result in ground-disturbance during construction, with no changes to existing operation and maintenance activities anticipated with Project implementation. Thus, Project-level impacts would be limited to the construction phase and would be less than significant following mitigation. Nonetheless, the Project would make incremental, less-than-significant contributions to cumulative impacts, if any, on the following biological resources: The Project would result in a loss of approximately 1 to 2 acres of upland habitat (0.02 acre of gabbroic chaparral habitat, 1.0 acre of white-leaf Manzanita/Sonoma sage chaparral habitat, and minor amounts of riparian habitat), approximately 225 trees (125 of which are native oak trees), and the potential loss of special-status individuals. The Project would also temporarily impact several seasonal drainages and one seasonal wetland during site access.

Cumulative projects in the area include 13 residential development projects, one road improvement project, and a road and utility easement acquisition and temporary use (see Table 3.18-1). Impacts on biological resources related to potential road improvements would include loss of relatively small areas of disturbed or fragmented habitat in areas with existing urbanization. Subdivision requests ranging from 14 residential lots to 3,236 units would require more than 1,600 acres of land, assuming a conservative average lot size of 0.5 acre; some of these subdivisions are proposed in undeveloped foothill grasslands and oak woodland habitat which could result in a large area of habitat conversion, depending on the number of lots constructed and the nature and extent of roadway and other infrastructure necessary to serve them. Indirect impacts on habitats and species also could result from the attraction of additional people, introduction of domestic pets and exotic plant species to the area. The cumulative impact of these projects on upland habitat, wetland habitat, native trees and special-status species is not significant in percentage terms relative to remaining resources, to the extent that such resources can be assessed using publicly available digital and satellite imagery (e.g., Google Earth). However, even if there were an existing cumulative impact, the incremental contribution of the Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

Cultural Resources

The cumulative setting for cultural resources includes Sacramento and El Dorado Counties for historic period resources, and the portions of foothills identified as the territory of the local Native American community for prehistoric archaeological resources. Potential impacts to cultural resources resulting from the Project would be localized around individual utility towers and poles, and limited primarily to ground-disturbance during construction. However, with the incorporation of the Applicant Proposed Measures, impacts related to the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction would be less than significant. Cumulative projects within five miles of the project area include 10 housing subdivisions, 3 specific plans for residential and commercial development, and 2 road-improvement projects. While these other projects may have impacts to cultural resources, they would be required to go through the CEQA process, including an assessment of impacts to cultural resources. Measures similar to the ones for the Project presented in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources,* would also be implemented to comply with CEQA. The potential unanticipated discovery of cultural resources by the Project would not cause or contribute to a significant cumulative effect and would not be cumulatively considerable.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Impacts on geology and soils are generally localized and do not result in regionally cumulative impacts. Geologic conditions can vary significantly over short distances creating entirely different effects elsewhere. Unless a project would alter the soils and rock underlying other adjacent projects or affect surrounding land due to landslides, impacts related to geologic, soils, and seismic hazards would be limited to the project site. The geographic scope of cumulative impacts related to geologic, soils, or seismic hazards therefore includes the Project site and any projects immediately adjacent to it. Potential impacts of the Project include: exposure of structures to seismic ground shaking and liquefaction; creation or worsening of landsliding risks at or around the project site; exposure of soil to erosive forces; and placement of structures on unstable or expansive soil. However, with the incorporation of standard construction and engineering practices, APMs GEO-1 and GEO-2, and Mitigation Measure 3.6-1, all geologic, soils, and seismic hazard impacts of the Project would be less than significant.

Three projects are located adjacent to the Missouri Hills-Gold Flat 115 kV line and are therefore within the geographic scope of cumulative geologic impacts: the PG&E Road and Public Utility Easement Acquisition and Temporary Use, which would construct a 28-foot wide road just north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115kV power line; East Bidwell Street Complete Streets Corridor Plan, which would implement transportation improvements along East Bidwell Street adjacent to the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115kV line in Folsom; and Tilden Park Commercial-Residential Development Project, which would develop 12 acres just north of the Missouri Flat-Gold Hill 115kV line in unincorporated El Dorado County. These projects would be constructed in accordance with the most recent version of the California Building Code construction and seismic safety requirements and recommendations contained in the respective project-specific geotechnical reports prepared prior to their construction. For this reason, the cumulative impact would not be significant and the less-than-significant incremental Project-specific impacts on geology, soils, and seismicity would not cause or contribute to a significant cumulative effect and would not be cumulatively considerable.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are inherently a cumulative concern, in that the significance of GHG emissions is determined based on whether such emissions would have a cumulatively considerable impact on global climate change. Although the geographic scope of cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions is global, this analysis focuses on impacts associated with potential conflicts with California's reduction goals and this Project's direct and/or indirect generation of GHG emissions.

As discussed in *Section 3.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the total amortized GHG construction emissions in the form of CO_2e would be approximately 27 metric tons per year. Adding 27 metric tons of CO_2e to the operational emissions of 9 metric tons CO_2e per year equals a total Project annual GHG emissions rate of approximately 36 metric tons CO_2e per year, which would be substantially less than the significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO_2e per year, which is based on the Executive Order S-3-05 GHG emissions reductions goal of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Therefore, the GHG emissions that would be generated by the Project would not be cumulatively considerable and would not cause or contribute to a significant adverse cumulative effect related to global climate change and would not be cumulatively considerable.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Depending on the pathway of migration, the geographic scope for cumulative effects relating to hazards and hazardous materials would be the air basin, watershed boundary, groundwater basin, or extent of affected soils. Materials delivery routes also would be included in the event of a traffic accident-related spill. Cumulative hazards and hazardous materials-related effects could arise at any point from the Project construction or operation and related activities. Other projects in the vicinity of the Project would create similar hazardous material effects during standard construction activities.

There is no existing significant adverse cumulative condition relating to hazards and hazardous materials in the vicinity of the Project and, alone, the incremental impacts of the Project would not cause a significant adverse cumulative impact. Further, construction activities associated with the Project would increase the hazard potential in the study area by a less than significant amount, and operation of the Project would have no impact. With mitigation incorporated, the Project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to the proximity of an airport. Current and reasonably foreseeable projects would also be required to comply with measures that would minimize and/or avoid exposure of hazardous materials to people or the environment. Accordingly, no significant cumulative impact would result from the cumulative scenario to which the Project's incremental impact could contribute.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The geographic context for the cumulative impacts associated with hydrology and water quality are the Lower American, North Fork American, South Fork American, Upper Cosumnes and Lower Sacramento watersheds downstream and within the vicinity of projects identified in Table 3.18-1, as well as two groundwater subbasins, the Cosumnes Subbasin and South American Subbasin.

Construction-related impacts on water quality, associated with the Project and projects identified in Table 3.18-1 have the potential to result from several different sources. Among these sources are contamination from fuels or other hazardous materials and an increase in erosion caused by grading or vegetation clearing that leads to increased sedimentation. Vegetation may be cleared or mowed to improve existing access roads or establish overland access routes, work areas, pull sites, or helicopter landing zones for construction. In some instances, minor grading may also be needed to improve work areas or existing access roads. The Project, along with projects identified in Table 3.18-1, have the potential to adversely affect water quality temporarily because of erosion and subsequent sedimentation that can occur when off-road vehicle use or earth-disturbing activities increase.

However, the Project, along with the projects identified in Table 3.18-1, would be required to comply with applicable federal, State, and local water quality regulations, which includes obtaining coverage under the Construction General Permit, Section 401 (of the Clean Water Act) water quality certification, and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The Construction General Permit reduces the ability of combined sites to adversely impact water quality. Under the Construction General Permit the Project, along with the projects identified in Table 3.18-1, would be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which includes storm water management measures that would effectively control erosion and sedimentation and other construction related pollutants during construction. Other management measures, such as construction of infiltration/detention basins, would be required to be identified and implemented that would effectively treat pollutants that would be expected for the post-construction land use for certain projects. Construction and operational related stormwater runoff from the Project, and other related projects within the region, would be controlled by the requirements of a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (e.g., General Permit), WDR measures, and mitigation measures required as part of this IS/MND. Other new development in the area would also be required to control construction and operational stormwater by implementing federal, State, and local requirements regarding hydrology and water quality, as well as by requirements introduced through CEQA review where applicable. The imposition of such requirements would result in a less-than-significant cumulative impact. In addition to the applicable federal, State, and local water quality regulations, PG&E would implement APM HYDRO-1 and APM HYDRO-2 to further minimize potential construction-related impacts. Therefore, the incremental impact of the Project, in combination with the projects identified in Table 3.18-1, would not cause or contribute to a significant cumulative effect and would not be cumulatively considerable.

Land Use and Planning

Because the Project would have no adverse effect on land use and planning, there is no potential for the Project to cause or contribute to any cumulative impact to land use and planning.

Mineral Resources

There is no designated production-consumption region to which the Project alignment area belongs; for this reason, the geographic scope of cumulative impacts to mineral resources comprises the areas of Sacramento and El Dorado Counties that have been classified by the California Geological Survey under the Mineral Land Classification program. All of the

cumulative projects listed in Table 3.18-1 are within this geographic scope. If the Project, along with other projects within this geographic scope, would result in the loss of availability of mineral resources of value locally or to the State, the projects could contribute to a cumulative impact on mineral resources and the Project's impact would be cumulatively considerable. However, no known mineral resources are mapped along the Project alignment and the structures built would mostly occur within existing PG&E right-of-way; thus the Project's impact on mineral resource availability would not be cumulatively considerable.

Noise

Noise levels tend to lessen quickly with distance from a source; therefore, the geographic scope for cumulative impacts associated with noise would be limited to projects within 0.5 mile of the Project boundary. Construction of the Project would result in potentially significant impacts associated with construction equipment; however, this impact would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Operation and maintenance activities would not result in permanent increases to existing noise levels in the study area; therefore, no impact would occur.

As identified in Table 3.18-1, there are a number of projects located within 0.5 mile of the Project that are reasonably foreseeable (in addition to past and present projects) and that would have the potential to be constructed simultaneously with the Project. If construction of these projects were to occur simultaneously with construction of the Project, the potential for impacts to nearby sensitive receptors from construction noise would increase. However, as discussed in *Section 3.12, Noise*, with implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.12-1 through 3.12-5, the Project's incremental contribution to noise levels in the Project area from construction activities and the associated nuisance would be less than significant. Other projects constructed simultaneously with the Project would be subject to applicable local noise standards as well, thereby reducing their own incremental contribution during construction. Therefore, when considered in combination with cumulative development, the Project's incremental contribution to temporary noise impacts from construction, with proposed mitigation, would not be cumulatively considerable.

Operation and maintenance of the Project would cause no impact to increases in existing noise levels in the Project area, so there is no potential for the Project to cause or contribute to any adverse cumulative effect.

Population and Housing

The geographic context for the cumulative impacts associated with population and housing issues are the unincorporated communities located in western El Dorado County and the City of Folsom; the temporal scope of impacts would include construction, operation and maintenance of the Project, in combination with build-out of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Both El Dorado County and the City of Folsom are expected to undergo population growth over the next few decades. As described in *Section 3.12, Population and Housing*, by 2020, the population of El Dorado County is expected to increase 12 percent from 2010 levels to 203,095 persons while the population of the City of Folsom is expected to increase nearly 12 percent from

2010 level to 81,060 persons (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014; California Department of Finance, 2013). The projects listed in Table 3.18-1 include numerous subdivisions for single- and multi-family residences, which would have a direct impact on population growth in the study area, and other projects, which could have an indirect impact. The Project, along with the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not cause or contribute to a cumulatively significant effect because it would have no direct impact on population growth in the study area.

Because the Project's construction crews would not be expected to relocate into the study area to construct the Project, any incremental indirect impacts on population growth associated with the Project's labor force would not be cumulatively considerable. Additionally, the cumulative projects, as well as other future development, would be subject to the applicable city and/or county planning process, as well as environmental review on a project-by-project basis. As such, build-out of the projects listed in Table 3.18-1 would not be likely to result in the inducement of substantial direct or indirect population growth in the area beyond what is planned. Accordingly, the Project's incremental impact on indirect population growth associated with the extension of infrastructure would not be cumulatively considerable.

Public Services

Project would have no effect on public services and so would not cause or contribute to any cumulative impact to public resources.

Recreation

The geographic scope of this impact is the regional recreation facilities in the study area, generally located within western El Dorado County and the City of Folsom. The temporal scope of impacts would include construction, operation and maintenance of the Project, in combination with build-out of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

With regards to the potential increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, impacts from the Project would be temporary in nature within a limited 24-month construction period and would be less than significant. The projects identified in Table 3.18-1 include several residential projects that could increase the demand on existing park and recreation facilities and/or result in the need for new facilities within the Project vicinity by increasing the population in the area. The Project would have no incremental demand on existing recreational facilities once construction is complete. Accordingly, no significant cumulative impact would result from the cumulative scenario to which the Project's incremental impact could contribute.

Transportation and Traffic

The geographic context for the cumulative impacts associated with transportation and traffic issues is limited to the areas where roadways would be crossed during conductor stringing activities. The temporal context for the cumulative transportation and traffic impacts is limited to the Project's construction phase. The temporary and short-term Project construction-related traffic impacts would be related to truck routes and Project area access routes used by Project-generated worker and truck trips, air traffic patterns affected by the Project's use of helicopters for some construction activities, and access for emergency service vehicles. In conjunction with other projects identified in

Table 3.18-1, significant cumulative impacts could occur if construction activities (i.e., truck and worker trip-generating activities) for those other projects were to overlapping (in time and place) with the Project. Implementation of APM TRA-1 and APM TRA-2 (see *Section 3.16, Transportation and Traffic*) would ensure that the Project's contribution to any transportation and traffic-related cumulative impacts during construction would not be cumulatively considerable.

Utilities and Service Systems

The geographic scope of utilities and service system-related impacts is the service area of affected utilities and service systems, which generally is limited to the area within western El Dorado County and the City of Folsom. As described in *Section 3.17, Utilities and Service Systems,* the Project would result in no impacts to utilities during operations or maintenance. Accordingly, the timeframe within which the Project could contribute to any adverse cumulative condition would be limited to the construction period. Construction of the Project would generate solid waste; however, the Project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs and impacts would be less than significant. Operation of the residential projects identified in Table 3.18-1 would result in long-term increases in solid waste generation. Accordingly, no significant cumulative impact would result from the cumulative scenario to which the Project's incremental impact could contribute.

c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED.*

The Project has the potential to have environmental effects that could cause substantial direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings; however, the implementation of mitigation measures would reduce such impacts to less-than-significant levels. As analyzed in the context of criterion a), the Project's impacts relating to *Air Quality and Noise* could cause adverse effects on human beings. Impacts regarding soil instability during Project construction, as identified in Section 3.6, *Geology, Soils, and Seismicity*, could also occur. However, implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the respective sections of this IS/MND would reduce or avoid such impacts on human beings to a less than significant level.

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