



# California Public Utilities Commission



January 17, 2025

Michael Calvillo  
Pacific Gas and Electric  
1455 Shaw Ave, Bag 23  
Fresno, CA 93710-8001

***Re: Minor Project Refinement No. 1 for the Estrella 230/70 kilovolt (kV) (A.17-01-023)***

Dear Mr. Calvillo:

On March 31, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Estrella 230/70 kilovolt (kV) Project (Project) and approved the Project (Application 17-01-023). The decision granted Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) a Permit to Construct and approved the Project conditionally with the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and Mitigation Measures adopted in the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP). On December 17, 2024, PG&E submitted Minor Project Refinement No. 1 (MPR-1) to propose the new Ardmore Road staging area.

The original Golden Hill staging area identified in the final environmental impact statement (EIR) is within 0.5 mile of a known active golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nest, as shown in Figure 1: Proposed Project Refinement. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Avian Program includes a standard nest buffer of 0.5 mile for golden eagle where work should not occur while the nest is active. Construction activities within the staging area would occur during nesting season and could result in disturbance to the golden eagle nesting behavior and reproductive success. Therefore, an alternate staging area was identified that is outside of the 0.5-mile buffer of known or potential golden eagle nests.

The proposed action includes the relocation of the staging area to an alternate location. The new Ardmore Road staging area would be used for receiving and staging materials and equipment, laydown areas, and employee parking. The staging area would also serve as the assembly point for project personnel, as well as the location for temporary, portable bathroom facilities; equipment storage during off-work hours and weekends; materials storage; office trailer staging; and a meeting area, as needed, for project management. Temporary power would be supplied by a distribution tap or a 15-kW generator. No grading or site leveling will be necessary as the site is already being used as a storage yard.



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Preparation of the staging area will take approximately 2 weeks to complete and would include the following actions and improvements:

- Installation or reinforcement of temporary in-ground fencing (as needed), including 6- to 8-foot-tall chain-link fence, with up to 2 feet of barbed wire around the perimeter of each staging area with locking gates to control access;
- Installation of a rumble strip or rock at the entrance, and placement of gravel and/or baserock within the staging area to control dust, sedimentation, equipment track-out, and prevention of stormwater runoff leaving the site during rain events;
- Installation of temporary power from a 15-kW portable generators (running up to 10 hours per day, 6 days per week) and/or taps to existing distribution lines in the area; and
- Installation of necessary construction office trailers, sanitary facilities, and storage buildings.

The proposed staging area is located in the Paso Robles U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, approximately 0.25 mile east of the Golden Hill Road and Ardmore Road intersection at 2126 Ardmore Road in the city of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 025-362-045). The property's center point is located at 35.638351°, -120.653004° (World Geodetic System 1984). Topography in the proposed staging area is generally flat, with an elevation of approximately 820 feet (250 meters).

A review of historical aerial imagery indicates that the soils and vegetation were heavily impacted during initial development of the subject property and the neighboring parcel (2124 Ardmore Road [APN 025-362-044]) in 2017. Since at least 2021, the subject property has been maintained as a material storage yard. The proposed staging area has been graded and has decomposed granite/road base installed throughout most of the property. Small saplings have been planted sporadically along the perimeter and two stormwater retention basins, located on either side of the existing property access from Ardmore Road, are present in the northernmost portion of the property.

The proposed staging area is dominated by existing suburban residential and industrial development north and west of the proposed staging area and rural residential and agricultural land use (i.e., cattle grazing) to



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the east and south. The agricultural land includes non-native annual grassland with oak trees (*Quercus* sp.) located along slopes and drainages.

The site is zoned C3 (Commercial/Light Industry) and has a land use designation of CS (Commercial Service).

These changes can be seen in **Attachment 1-3 and figure 1, MPR-2 Photography Log**. Changes associated with MPR-1 will comply with General Order (GO) 95, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4292, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 1252, California Public Utilities Code 8386.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sanchez", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Boris Sanchez, AICP

CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: Michelle Wilson, CPUC CEQA Manager  
Tom Engels, Montrose  
Patrick Donaldson, Montrose  
Lisa Herrera, Montrose  
Erika Sagrafena, SWCA