

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 10, 2019

Mr. David Thomas
245 Market Street, Room 1054D
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Minor Project Refinement #17 for the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project (A. 15-12-005). On December 18, 2017, the CPUC issued a decision to adopt the Final IS/MND and grant PG&E a Permit to Construct the project (Decision D.17-12-012). Following its initial decision, the CPUC prepared a Supplemental IS/MND to address project changes proposed by PG&E, which was adopted on September 12, 2019.

The CPUC adopted the mitigation measures (MMs) and applicant proposed measures (APMs) identified in the 2017 IS/MND (with revisions identified in the 2019 Supplemental IS/MND) as conditions of project approval, as well as a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) to ensure compliance with the MMs and APMs pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081.6 and § 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines. A detailed Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan (MMCRP) was developed for the project with direct participation with PG&E staff that defines specific procedures that are part of the adopted program, including the Minor Project Refinement (MPR) process. The MPR process requires PG&E to obtain CPUC authorization for any deviations from the approved project.

On November 22, 2019, PG&E submitted MPR #17 requesting CPUC authorization to install an anchor that connects a guy wire and anchor to a distribution pole between Poles 20 and 21. The CPUC conducted a CEQA consistency review for MPR #17 following the procedures set forth in the MMCRP. A copy of the MPR review form is provided as Attachment 1, which describes the proposed actions and the results of the CPUC's consistency review. This letter serves to inform you that MPR #17 is approved on the basis that no new or substantially greater impacts would occur beyond those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and 2019 Supplemental IS/MND.

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Please direct any questions related to this matter to me at 415-703-1966 or
lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Orsaba', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Orsaba
Project Manager
Energy Division, CEQA Unit

cc: Aaron Lui, Project Manager, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Attachment 1: CPUC Review of MPR #17

MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT REVIEW FORM



Part A: Request Description

MPR Request

Request Number:	17
Date Requested:	November 22, 2019
Proposed Duration/ Timing of Use:	November 27, 2019 to December 10, 2020 Monday-Sunday; 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Location:	Distribution Pole between Poles 20 and 21. Disturbance area will be approximately 0.24-acre for overland access and 15 square feet for anchor installation.
Attached Map?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Proposed Action(s)

PG&E proposes to install an anchor that connects a guy wire to the distribution pole (between Poles 20 and 21) and anchor, which will offset tension and provide stability for the distribution pole. An overland access route in the vineyard will be utilized to access the work area.

Purpose(s)

A new distribution pole was previously installed within the workspace of Pole 21 to meet clearance requirements and safe working distance from Pole 21. The conductor was connected from the old distribution pole and the circuit still operates through both poles. PG&E plans to remove the old distribution pole. The new connection between the poles will occur at an angle and will put added tension on the adjacent pole. The new guy anchor will provide stability to offset the additional tension.

Part B: Existing Conditions

Existing Land Uses:	Vineyard
Surrounding Land Uses:	Vineyard, Residential
Sensitive Receptors within 500 feet:	One property, with a residential structure, is within 500 feet of Poles 20-22 where associated work would occur.
Environmental Recourses within 500 feet:	Mapped habitat for California red-legged frog (CRLF) and Seasonal Watercourse SEW-41 and SEW-42 are within 500 feet.
Has landowner approval been granted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Landowner:	Silver Lining LLC (APN 039-012-060)

Surveys

List any new survey reports under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant survey details under the applicable resource category listed in the Part E.

Biological Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for biological resources with the potential to occur in the area? If so, were survey results positive or negative? Were surveys completed during the appropriate timing and season to detect resources? If not, describe under the applicable resource category in Part E.

The proposed anchor location and overland access route are within the biological survey area identified in the IS/MND. On November 22, 2019, an approved biologist (Michael Scaffidi, Surf to Snow) conducted a survey for special-status species and potential bat roosts at the proposed work area and access sites. No special-status species or bat roosts were observed. There is potentially suitable upland habitat for

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CRLF present that surrounds watercourses within 500 feet (all existing mitigation measures from MM-Biology 3 will apply to work at this location).

Cultural Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for cultural resources (records search and pedestrian survey)? If so, were survey results positive or negative?

The proposed anchor location and overland access route are within the cultural survey area identified in the IS/MND. No eligible cultural resources were identified in these areas.

Jurisdictional Waters. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for hydrologic resources? If so, were survey results positive or negative?

The proposed anchor location and overland access route are within the survey area for hydrologic features identified in the IS/MND. Seasonal watercourse and ditches were identified within 500 feet of the proposed actives; however, none would be crossed.

Part C: Permits, Agency Approvals, and Environmental Protection Measures

List any new permits or agency approvals under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant details under the applicable resource category listed in Part E.

Have all required permits, permit amendments/authorizations, or agency approvals been issued by resource agencies with applicable jurisdiction? Describe if necessary.

Yes

Would the proposed action(s) conflict with permit conditions or agency approvals? Describe if necessary.

No

Would the proposed action(s) conflict with project applicant proposed measures or mitigation measures listed in Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)? Describe if necessary.

No

Part D: Attached Materials

List any attached materials (e.g. surveys, maps, photos, memos, agency authorizations, etc.) below. Materials should be attached to the end of this form.

Figure 1: Map of Proposed Work Area

Figure 2: Photograph of Anchor Location

Figure 3: Photograph of Proposed Overland Access Route Between the Vineyard and Perimeter Fence

Figure 4: Photograph of Distribution Pole Work Area

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Part E: Final IS/MND Consistency Summary

Complete the Final IS/MND Consistency Summary below and answer the consistency questions for each resource category. Include a description and justification below each resource category as necessary. The consistency questions were developed using the CEQA Checklist provided in the Final IS/MND. Refer to the Final IS/MND for the details on the project impact evaluation.

Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<p>Aesthetics (e.g., damage scenic resources or vistas, degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings, or create sources of light or glare)?</p> <p><i>Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>The proposed activities would be consistent with pole and associated hardware replacement analyzed in the IS/MND. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on aesthetics.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Agriculture and Forestry Resources (e.g., convert Farmland to nonagricultural use, or create a conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act)?</p> <p><i>Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i></p> <p>The proposed activities would not result in a conversion of land, and as such, would not result in the conversion of farmland or forestland to non-agricultural land. The potential for minor ground disturbance or inadvertent damage to agricultural infrastructure would be consistent with the project described in the IS/MND. MM Agriculture-1 (minimize impacts on active agricultural areas) would be implemented to ensure any inadvertent impacts on the vineyard are less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on agriculture or forestry resources.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Air Quality (e.g. produce additional emissions, or expose sensitive receptors to additional pollutants)?</p> <p><i>Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i></p> <p>The proposed activities could result in minor levels of fugitive dust. Implementation of APM AIR-1 (fugitive dust emissions) would ensure that impacts from fugitive dust would be minimized and impacts to air quality would remain less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on air quality.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Biological Resources (e.g., cause an adverse effect to sensitive or special-status species, or impact riparian, wetland, or any other sensitive habitat, or conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources)?</p> <p><i>Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>As described under Part B (Surveys), the proposed access and work area sites are within the biological survey area identified in the IS/MND. The sites were also surveyed prior to submitting the MPR request and the results were negative. The proposed work activities would occur within 500 feet of potentially suitable habitat for special-status species like the adjacent work areas (PS-4, PS-5, and Pole 21). The proposed activities would not involve vegetation removal and only minor surface disturbance, if any, would occur from tire rutting on an overland access route to reach the distribution pole (up to approximately 0.24 acre).</p> <p>Preconstruction surveys would be conducted immediately prior to construction activities to detect and avoid any special-status wildlife that may be present, as specified in APM BIO-7 (California tiger salamander), APM BIO-8 (American badger), APM BIO-9 (western pond turtle), MM BIO-3 (CRLF), MM BIO-4 (foothill yellow-legged frog), and MM BIO-5 (special-status and nesting birds). The proposed</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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actions would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on biological resources.

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources (e.g., cause adverse change to a historical, archeological, or tribal cultural resource)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

As described under Part B (Surveys), the proposed access and work area sites are within the cultural study area identified in the IS/MND; pedestrian surveys were conducted and potential cultural resources in the vicinity were determined to be ineligible. The proposed activities would involve minor excavation to install the small anchor rod and it is highly unlikely any previously undiscovered cultural resources would be encountered. In the event that a potential cultural resource is discovered, MM Cultural-1 (archaeological monitoring and cultural resource discoveries) would be implemented to ensure impacts would be less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on cultural or tribal resources.

Geology and Soils (e.g., cause or expose people or structures to geologic or soil hazards, including erosion or loss of topsoil)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would involve minor excavation for anchor installation. Disturbed soils would be stabilized and appropriate BMPs would be installed per the project SWPPP, both during and after construction to prevent erosion or loss of topsoil. Therefore, the proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on geology and soils.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (e.g., generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would not result in an increase in the level of equipment use and run time of equipment. Emissions estimates provided in the IS/MND would remain accurate. APM AIR-2 (exhaust emissions) and APM GHG- 2 (minimize sulfur hexafluoride emissions) would ensure that any impacts from emissions would remain less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials (e.g., create or increase the exposure of people or structures to hazardous materials or wildland fires, involve the use of additional hazardous materials or equipment, or interfere with an adopted emergency plan)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

Vehicles and equipment involved with the proposed actions would use hazardous materials (such as fuels and oils) that would be consistent with the types of materials analyzed in the IS/MND. Potential hazards associated with all types of project construction activities would be addressed through implementation of APM HM-3 (smoking and fire rules), APM HM-4 (carry emergency fire suppression equipment), MM Hazards-1 (hazardous materials procedures and worker training), and MM Hazards-2 (Construction Fire Prevention Plan) would ensure that impacts from hazards and hazardous materials are less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality (e.g., degrade water quality, discharge waste or sediment, deplete groundwater, alter the existing drainage pattern, create additional runoff water or polluted runoff, place structures in a 100-year flood hazard area, or expose people or structures to a significant risk involving flooding)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

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The proposed access and work area sites do not cross any water features or potentially jurisdictional wetlands. SEW-41 and SEW-42 occur within 500 feet of the proposed work area and would be completely avoided. No gravel or other erodible materials would be installed, and minimal ground disturbance would occur. MM Hydrology-1 (SWPPP development and implementation) and MM Hydrology-2 (SWPPP monitoring program) would be implemented to ensure impacts on water features and water quality would be less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on hydrology and water quality.

Land Use (e.g., conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project, or conflict with a habitat conservation plan)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities are located on a private vineyard owned by Silver Lining, LLC. The proposed activities would have no effect on land use or zoning designations, and would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on land use and planning.

Noise (e.g., expose sensitive receptors to additional noise or vibration)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would generate minor levels of noise from equipment use that would be consistent with those evaluated in the IS/MND. Sensitive receptors in the area would not be exposed to greater noise levels. Implementation of MM Noise-1 (general construction noise) would ensure impacts from construction noise would be less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on noise.

Paleontological Resources (e.g., cause adverse change to a paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would be located in an area of low paleontological sensitivity. The minor excavation involved with anchor installation is not likely to encounter or damage paleontological resources. In the event that potential paleontological resource are discovered, MM Paleontology-2 (previously undiscovered paleontological resources) would be implemented to ensure impacts would be less than significant. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on paleontological resources.

Population and Housing (e.g., induce substantial population growth in an area, or displace substantial numbers of people or housing)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would not result in any impacts on population and housing.

Recreation (e.g., increases the use of, or cause adverse effects to, parks or other recreational facilities)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation

The proposed activities would be located on private land and would not result in any impacts on recreation facilities or parks.

Transportation and Traffic (e.g., increase traffic congestion or degrade performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, or increase hazards due to a design feature)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant

The proposed activities would occur on private land and would not occur within public roads. Impacts on transportation and traffic would be consistent with the analysis in the IS/MND. The proposed activities

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would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on transportation and traffic.

Utilities and Public Services (e.g., result in construction of new, or expansion of existing, water facilities, stormwater drainage facilities, require additional water entitlements, or creation of new solid waste disposal needs)?

Final IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant

The proposed activities would not include the construction or expansion of water, or stormwater drainage facilities; require additional water entitlements; or, creation of new solid waste disposal needs. The proposed activities would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact on utilities and public services.

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Figure 1: Map of Proposed Work Area



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Figure 2. Photograph of Anchor Location

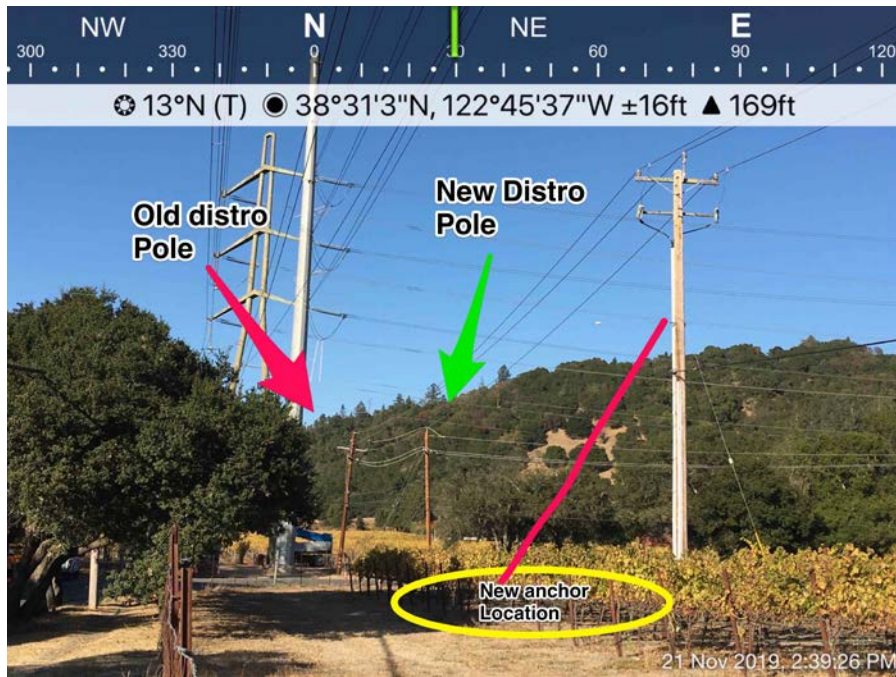


Figure 3: Photograph of Proposed Overland Access Route Between the Vineyard and Perimeter Fence



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Figure 4: Photograph of Distribution Pole Work Area

