

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 27, 2016

Tom Johnson
Principal Land Planner
Environmental Management
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
650 O Street, Mail Code 23
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

RE: Cressey-Gallo 115 kV Power Line Project (C-G): Minor Project Change #2

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On January 22, 2016 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a request to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Minor Project Change to 1) allow for a temporary fence around the project staging area to remain permanently, per the request of the Gallo Winery, located at APN 047130034, as well as 2) allow for 3 existing wooden power line poles to remain in place, to be used by an orchard, located at APN 143050002000, as owl box posts. The fencing and the posts are within existing work areas associated with the Cressey-Gallo Project, located in the San Joaquin Valley, Merced County, California.

The CPUC voted on January 16, 2014 to approve the Final MND for the PG&E Cressey-Gallo 115 kV Power Line Project (Decision D.14-01-003) and a Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH#2013021061).

The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the C-G Project during implementation. The MMCRP also acknowledges that minor changes to the project, such as the need for additional or revised workspace, are anticipated and common practice for construction efforts of this scale and that a Minor Project Change request would be required for such activities. This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this Minor Project Change and that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested Minor Project Change activities.

Minor Project Changes are reviewed for consistency with CEQA requirements and are located within the geographic boundary of the project study area. Minor Project Changes do not create new or substantially more severe significant impacts, or conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy. Also, they do not trigger other permit requirements unless the appropriate agency has approved the change, and clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

Minor Project Change #2 to allow the staging area perimeter fence to remain, and allow for three existing wood poles in an orchard along the alignment to remain, is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

PG&E Minor Project Change Request. Excerpts from the PG&E Minor Project Change request, received January 22, 2016, are presented below (Correction: What PG&E calls MPC #3 is actually MPC #2.)

Current Vegetative Cover/ Land Use: Disturbed bare ground and weeds / Gallo Winery staging area (Loc.1), and existing /disturbed dirt access road on west side of property south of Olive Avenue (Loc. 2)

Existing Sensitive Resource: There are no existing sensitive resources at either loc. 1 or 2.

Specify Source: Modifying Minor Project Change #1 at the Gallo Laydown Yard (Loc. 1) and removal of poles no longer in use (Loc. 2) south of Olive Avenue (i.e. where existing line was transferred over to new poles).

Loc. 1: At the request of the land owner/Gallo Wines, PG&E is proposing to leave the fencing that is installed around the Gallo laydown yard. The Gallo laydown yard location was approved in Minor Project Change (MPC) #1. This current request (MPC#3) is a modification of MPC#1, since MPC#1 specified that fencing around the laydown yard was temporary and would be removed upon project completion. See Attachment 1 (a copy of the land owner's request to leave fencing in place), and Attachment 2 (a photo of the fencing around Gallo Yard). This yard location is at APN 047130034

Loc. 2: At the request of the land owner at APN 143050002000, PG&E proposes to leave three existing wood power line poles (see Attachment 3, aerial of pole locations). The existing power line was transferred over to the new power line poles per the original project description. The owner has requested that the three poles (see Attachment 4, photo of poles) be left in place so that the owner can install owl boxes on the 3 poles. The poles have been cut by PG&E to a height of 25-feet above ground. The cut poles are similar to the height of the surrounding orchard trees. See attachment 5, email from property owner requesting that poles be left in place.

CPUC Evaluation of Minor Project Change Request

In accordance with the MMCRP, the subject Minor Project Change request was reviewed by CPUC to confirm that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested Minor Project Change activities.

The location of the current project staging area was approved under Minor Project Change #1. As a condition of Minor Project Change #1, the aggregate base material was to remain in place after construction activities for use by the landowner (Gallo Winery); however, the perimeter fencing around the staging area was to be removed following project completion. Subsequent to the approval of Minor Project Change #1, Gallo Winery requested that PG&E leave the fencing in place after construction, along with the aggregate base. This Minor Project Change #2 accounts for the fencing remaining permanently.

As for the request to allow the poles to remain in the orchard, the landowner intends to use these as posts for barn owl boxes to support ongoing agricultural operations on the property.

Biological Cultural and Paleontological Resources: No disturbance or construction is proposed under Minor Project Change #2 and no sensitive resources are currently being impacted by existence of the structures, therefore no biological, cultural or paleontological impacts are expected to occur.

Sensitive Land Uses/Noise. No disturbance or construction is proposed under Minor Project Change #2. Fencing and poles are to remain per the landowners' requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billie Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billie Blanchard
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen