

Embarcadero-Potrero 230 kV Transmission Project

Construction Noise Minimization Plan

The following measures will be implemented by all contractors associated with the project, as appropriate to the location and type of work being performed as indicated below.

- Compressors and other small stationary equipment used during construction will be shielded with portable barriers if located within 200 feet of a residence (applies to HDD and Duct Bank work).
- Truck traffic will be routed away from noise-sensitive areas where feasible.
- In the event that nighttime construction is necessary because of clearance restrictions, affected residents will be notified in advance by mail, personal visit, or door-hanger and informed of the expected work schedule.
- Temporary barriers utilizing materials such as intermodal containers or frac tanks, plywood walls, mass-loaded vinyl (vinyl impregnated with metal) or hay bales will be used to reduce noise generated by the onshore HDD operations. If night-time HDD activities are required, the project will monitor actual noise levels from HDD activities between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. If the noise levels created by the HDD operation are found to be in excess of the ambient noise level by 5 dBA at the nearest property plane, PG&E will, within 24 hours of the excess measurement, employ additional minimization measures necessary to limit the increase to 5 dBA. Such measures may include ensuring semi-permanent stationary equipment (generators, lights, etc.) are stationed as far from sensitive areas as practicable, utilize “quiet” or “Hollywood/Movie Studio” silencing packages, and/or modify barriers to further reduce noise levels
- Ensure implementation of PG&E’s general construction noise reduction measures which require that all equipment is in good working order, adequately muffled and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers’ recommendations. PG&E shall use equipment that incorporates noise-control elements into the design.
- PG&E and contractors shall ensure equipment exhaust stacks and vents are directed away from buildings.
- Where use of pneumatic tools, such as impact tools (e.g., jack hammers and pavement breakers), is unavoidable, a noise source screen such as a barrier around the activity using the tools, an external noise jacket, or an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust shall be used and shall be designed to reduce noise levels from the source by 10 dBA.
- PG&E shall include noise control requirements in specifications provided to construction contractors. Such contract specifications would include, but not be limited to, performing all work in a manner that minimizes noise; use of equipment with effective mufflers; undertaking the most noisy activities during times of least disturbance to surrounding residents, day care operations, and commercial uses; and using haul routes that avoid residential buildings inasmuch as such routes are otherwise safely available.

- PG&E shall respond to and track complaints pertaining to construction noise. PG&E has provided their hotline phone number that shall be answered at all times during construction and designate an on-site construction complaint and enforcement manager for the project. The noise complaint and response process will be described in the residential notifications required under APM NO-5 and posted publicly near work areas that are within 300 feet of residential buildings or day care operations. PG&E's hotline number will be used in this signage.

Special Permit for Nighttime HDD Noise.

- PG&E shall apply to the San Francisco Director of Public Works and obtain a special permit for nighttime or 24-hour activity at the Embarcadero HDD Transition Area, consistent with Section 2908 of the Police Code. This application is typically provided 5 days prior to the night-time noise activity. Prior to commencing night-time construction of the HDD, PG&E shall provide to the CPUC a copy of the special permit or evidence that no permit is required by San Francisco.
- PG&E shall provide to the CPUC prior to commencing construction of the Embarcadero HDD Transition Area the results of actual ambient hourly (Leq) noise measurements for each hour between 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at the edge of the nearest private property containing residential use obtained from monitored noise levels as specified in APM NO-6.
- PG&E and contractors conducting nighttime work at the Embarcadero HDD Transition Area, between 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., shall implement noise attenuation features, including acoustical barriers, blankets and enclosures as identified in APM NO-6, to achieve no more than 5 dBA above existing local ambient noise levels at the edge of the nearest private property containing residential use, based on 1-hour Leq.
- PG&E shall provide a report to the CPUC actions taken to reduce the duration or level of noise within 48 hours of monitoring noise levels found to be in excess of the ambient noise level by 5 dBA, at the edge of the nearest private property containing residential use, based on 1-hour Leq.