

# Comment Set R

*Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.*

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Southern Alameda County, California*

November 26, 2000



Mr. Brad Wetstone, CPUC  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, California 94104

Via Facsimile and  
Postal Service

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report for the  
Proposed Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement  
Project. Application No. 99-09-029. Date: October 2000.

Dear Mr. Wetstone:

The Ohlone Audubon Society (Society) has reviewed the subject document  
and has the following comments.

PG&E Co's proposed project consists of the construction and operation  
of a new approximately 7.3-mile long transmission line, distribution  
line upgrades, a new 24-acre substation, and minor modifications to  
the existing Newark Substation.

The Society remains adamant in its concerns that new overhead trans-  
mission lines not cross areas of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge, nor any other areas where there is the poss-  
ibility of bird strikes and bird mortality due to new transmission  
lines.

The preferred alternative that least interferes with wildlife is the  
NORTHERN UNDERGROUND ALTERNATIVE as indicated in FIGURE B-2, Page 18.  
This alternative avoids crossing wildlife habitat in the Pacific Com-  
mons Preserve Area where heat from the underground cables could be  
harmful to wildlife.

There is confusion in the mapping related to the continuation of the  
underground route from FIGURE B-2 along Fremont Boulevard to FIGURE  
B-4. Clarification of this route is needed.

The Society prefers the SOUTHERN UNDERGROUND ALTERNATIVE as indicated  
in FIGURE B-6 as the area to the west of the proposed industrial devel-  
opment will be wildlife habitat. Undergrounding should continue on  
past the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Plant Oxidation Ponds.

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R-2

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The California Public Utilities Commission should be in the forefront  
of promoting conservation of energy as the least expensive  
alternative.

The Ohlone Audubon Society appreciates the opportunity to participate  
in this PG&E project, and would like to be informed of dates of future  
CPUC meetings related to this project.

Sincerely yours,

*Frank and Janice Delfino*

Frank and Janice Delfino  
Ohlone Audubon Society  
Conservation Section  
18673 Reamer Road  
Castro Valley, California 94546

cc: DESFPBWR

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