

3. Introduction to the Initial Study

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), a regulated California utility, filed an application (A.10-04-024) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on April 21, 2010, for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Windsor Substation Project (proposed project). The application was deemed complete by the CPUC on May 20, 2010. Subsequently, on May 26, 2011, PG&E submitted a Supplemental PEA to include alternative project locations. Following public meetings in August 2011, the Town of Windsor indicated support for the site addressed in this Initial Study (IS). The application was formally amended by PG&E on December 5, 2011, with this new location as the proposed project site. The CPUC is the lead agency for review of the project under CEQA because it must make a decision whether to adopt the MND and to approve or deny the PTC.

3.1 Environmental Analysis

The IS presents an analysis of potential effects of the proposed project on the environment. The IS is based on information from PG&E's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Supplement to the PEA and associated submittals, site visits, CPUC data requests, and additional research and analysis. Construction activities and project operation could have direct and indirect impacts on the environment. The following environmental parameters are addressed based on the potential effects of the proposed project and potential growth-inducing or cumulative effects of the project in combination with other projects:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ¾ Aesthetics | ¾ Land Use and Planning |
| ¾ Agricultural Resources | ¾ Mineral Resources |
| ¾ Air Quality | ¾ Noise |
| ¾ Greenhouse Gases | ¾ Population and Housing |
| ¾ Biological Resources | ¾ Public Services |
| ¾ Cultural Resources | ¾ Recreation |
| ¾ Geology and Soils | ¾ Traffic and Transportation |
| ¾ Hazards and Hazardous Materials | ¾ Utilities and Service Systems |
| ¾ Hydrology and Water Quality | ¾ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The IS has been organized into the following sections:

- ¾ Section 3: Introduction. Provides an introduction and overview describing the proposed project and the CEQA process, and identifies key areas of environmental concern.
- ¾ Section 4: Project Description. Presents the project objectives and provides an in-depth description of the proposed project, including construction details and methods.
- ¾ Section 5: Environmental Analysis and Mitigation. Includes a description of the existing conditions and analysis of the proposed project's potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.
- ¾ Section 6: Mitigation Monitoring Plan. Includes applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures that PG&E must implement as part of the project, actions required to implement these measures, monitoring requirements, and timing of implementation for each measure.
- ¾ Appendix A: List of Preparers.
- ¾ Appendix B: References.
- ¾ Appendix C: Figures