

Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for PacifiCorp Lassen Substation Project

1 INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1.1 Project Title

PacifiCorp – Lassen Substation Project

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Michael Rosauer, Project Manager
Energy Division
415.703.5484

1.4 Project Location

The proposed Lassen Substation Project (project) is located in the City of Mount Shasta (City) and in unincorporated Siskiyou County (County). The new Lassen Substation would be located on two parcels (APN 036-220-280 and APN 036-220-170) adjacent to the existing Mount Shasta Substation on South Old Stage Coach Road, approximately 0.67 miles to the southwest of the City, and about 900 feet west of Interstate 5 (I-5) in unincorporated Siskiyou County. Transmission and distribution line upgrades, including pole replacements, would take place predominantly in existing rights-of-way on the western side of I-5. Distribution lines would extend into the City of Mount Shasta under the I-5 to Jessie Street, along Kingston Road, and along private roads through Eskaton Washington Manor. In addition, pole-top stepdown transformers and distribution lines would be installed on existing poles on Chestnut Street and Mill Street to connect the new 12.47-kilovolt (kV) lines to the existing 4.16 kV distribution system in the City.

1.5 Project Sponsor's Name and Address

PacifiCorp
825 Northeast Multnomah, Suite 940
Portland, Oregon 97232
503.813.6539
415.276.6500

Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for PacifiCorp Lassen Substation Project

1.6 General Plan Designation

According to Siskiyou County, the General Plan Land Use Element does not contain mapping for specific land use designations. Instead the County uses overlay maps to identify development constraint areas. According to the Land Use Element of the General Plan, the proposed project would be within the following mapped resource overlay areas: Wildlife Hazard, Woodland Productivity, Erosion Hazard, Prime Agricultural Soils, and Water Quality.

Elements of the project within the City of Mount Shasta traverse areas classified as CC (Commercial Center), RR (Low-Density Residential and Rural Residential), EC (Employment Center), and RL (Resource Land).

1.7 Zoning

According to Siskiyou County the proposed substation location is zoned as Rural Residential (R-R). Remaining element of the project would cross with Multiple-Family Residential (RES-4), Neighborhood Commercial (C-U), Rural Residential Agricultural (R-R), Non-Prime Agricultural (AG-2), and Planned Development (P-D) zoning designations. Elements of the project within the City of Mount Shasta are zoned U (Unclassified).

1.8 Description of Project

The application and accompanying Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) identifies the proposed project, which consists of the demolition of the existing Mount Shasta Substation, construction of the new Lassen Substation, upgrades to the 69 kV Line 2 transmission line, installation of a new 12.47 kV distribution line, and the upgrades of two existing 4.12 kV distribution lines to 12.47 kV.

For further discussion, see Section 4, Project Description.

1.9 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The project area is located near the City of Mount Shasta, in Siskiyou County. The area is bounded by Mount Shasta to the northeast, Mount Eddy and the coastal ranges to the west, and Lake Siskiyou to the southwest.

All elements of the proposed project associated with the substation and the upgrade to the transmission lines occur within the County. Elements of the distribution line upgrade are split between Siskiyou County and the City of Mount Shasta.

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The Lassen Substation would be located in a rural residential area to the southwest of the City. The proposed location for the substation is adjacent to the existing Mount Shasta Substation and would be constructed on two vacant residential properties currently consisting of vacant dwellings and associated outbuildings surrounded by coniferous and ornamental trees.

Transmission and distribution system upgrades would occur both within the City and in rural open space to the west and north of the City and in unincorporated Siskiyou County. Vegetation communities under the existing transmission lines and in the surrounding project area include non-native grassland, dry and wet montane meadows, fen, riparian scrub, and fragmented lower montane coniferous forest. The area is predominantly rural residential and montane coniferous forest, with the open space under the transmission lines having been heavily grazed by cattle.

A variety of land uses are found in the surrounding area. The substation and transmission line components are set in a rural residential area and traverse both woodland and open non-prime agricultural grazing land. The components within the City of Mount Shasta traverse commercial residential and light industrial areas of the City.

1.10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required

In addition to the Authority to Construct required by the CPUC for overall project approval and California Environmental Quality Act review, Table 1-1 describes additional permits that the applicant will likely be required to obtain for project implementation.

**Table 1-1
Required Permits and Approvals**

Permit/Approval	Accepting Authority/ Approving Agency	Statutory Reference
<i>Federal</i>		
Clean Water Act 404 Preconstruction Notification	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act, Section 404; 33 CFR 320–330
Permit to cross Federal-Aid Highway	Federal Highway Administration	23 CFR 1.23 and 1.27; 23 CFR 645 Subpart B; 23 CFR 77
<i>State of California</i>		
Permit to Construct	CPUC	CEQA, Cal Pub. Res. Code Sec. 21000 et seq. and Public Utilities Code Section 1001
Encroachment Permit	California Department of Transportation, District 2 - Redding	Section 671.5(a) of the California Streets and Highways Code
Streambed Alteration Program – Notification	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northern Region (1)	Fish and Game Code, Sections 1602 and 1603

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**Table 1-1
Required Permits and Approvals**

Permit/Approval	Accepting Authority/ Approving Agency	Statutory Reference
Section 401 CWA Water Quality Certification	State Water Resources Control Board – California Water Quality Control Board for Central Valley, Region 5 (Redding Office)	Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401
State Waste Discharge Requirements – obtained as part of the 401 Water Quality Certification	State Water Resources Control Board – California Water Quality Control Board for Central Valley, Region 5 (Redding Office)	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
General Discharge Permits for Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity	State Water Resources Control Board – S.M.A.R.T.S. Database	Federal Clean Water Act, Section 402

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2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

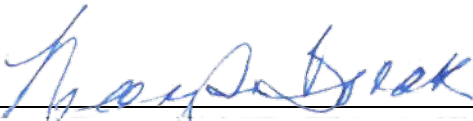
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND) will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant impact unless mitigated” on the environment, but a least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An EIR is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or ND pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or ND, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Mary Jo Borak
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

11.21.16

Date

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