

CENTRAL VALLEY NATURAL GAS STORAGE PROJECT	VARIANCE REQUEST FORM	
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Date Required:	September 22, 2011	Variance Request No.:	No. 12 – Installation of Temporary Bridges across Seven (7) Agricultural Ditches
Date Submitted:	September 22, 2011	Location:	Seven agricultural ditches that occur within the natural gas pipeline construction work area.
Property Owner(s):	D-2 (Sunrise Sunset LP) D-6a(Colusa Farms/ Zumwalt) D-40 (Sutton) D-41 (Ceccon/Sutton) D-44 (Ceccon) D-49 (Cutler) D-52 (Cutler)	Parcel No.:	D-2 (012-110-012) D-6a (012-110-073/012-110-103) D-40 (011-230-009) D-41 (011-230-003/011-230-009) D-44 (011-230-003) D-49 (011-220-002) D-52 (011-220-002)
Current Land Use:	Agriculture	Sensitive Resources:	The agricultural ditches provide habitat for western pond turtle and giant garter snake.

Variance from: The project description in the IS/MND did not describe the installation of temporary bridges across drainages. This variance requests the CPUC’s approval to install temporary bridges across seven (7) agricultural ditches that will were identified as being trenched in the MND and permitted for the placement of fill material by the resource agencies. These temporary bridges were installed prior to the issuance of this variance. The CPUC issued an incident report on September 22, 2011 requesting that a variance be submitted for the installation of temporary bridges across the seven of the agricultural ditches (D-2, D-6a, D-41, and D-44). The temporary bridge at D-44 has been removed and site restored as of September 22, 2011 but the six (6) remaining bridges are still in place.

Description and Justification for Variance: CVGS’ contractor installed the temporary bridges across seven drainages during pipeline construction phase (see Table 1 for list of drainages). The same installation methods described in Variance Request #7 were used to install the bridges across these seven drainages. The six remaining temporary bridges will be removed immediately after the pipeline has been installed across the drainage and all temporarily disturbed areas would be restored upon project completion.

Table 1. Temporary Bridges Proposed as Part of Variance Request No. 12

Drainage Number ¹	Drainage Type	Estimated Width (ft)	Woody Riparian Vegetation Present at Temporary Bridge Crossing	Riparian Vegetation Removed/Trimmed for Bridge Placement
D-2	Roadside Ditch	1	None	None
D-6a	Agricultural Ditch	8	None	None
D-40	Agricultural Ditch	8	None	None
D-41	Agricultural Ditch	6	None	None
D-44	Agricultural Ditch	10	None	None
D-49	Agricultural Ditch	8	None	None
D-52	Agricultural Ditch	8	None	None

Environmental Analysis. A brief description of the potential environmental effects associated with the installation and use of the temporary bridges is provided below.

Aesthetics. The temporary bridges occur within areas that are currently being used for agricultural purposes. The temporary bridges will not affect the existing character of the area and no impacts on aesthetics or visual resources are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources. The temporary bridges occur across drainage ditches and are not in agricultural production. No forestry resources occur in the project area. No impacts on agricultural or forestry resources are anticipated. No new mitigation has been identified.

Air Quality and GHG Emissions. The installation and use of the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. CVGS will implement the appropriate APMs and mitigation measures identified in the MND to avoid and minimize potential short-term construction-related air quality impacts associated with use of the temporary bridges. No new mitigation has been identified. CVGS will implement APMs AIR-1, AIR-2, and AIR-3, when appropriate.

Biological Resources. The temporary bridges will be installed across perennial and intermittent agricultural drainages that provide potential habitat for giant garter snake and western pond turtle. These seven drainages were identified in the permit packages as drainages that would be impacted during construction of the pipeline. CVGS will implement the appropriate permit conditions during installation and removal of the bridges. CVGS has implemented APMs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-11 and BIO-12 as part of the proposed bridge installation activities. No new mitigation has been identified.

Cultural Resources. The temporary bridges are located within the cultural resources survey area (conducted for the PEA and Section 106 report). No cultural resources were found during previous surveys and therefore, no cultural resource monitoring is required. CVGS will

implement APMs CR-3 and CR-4 and mitigation measure CUL-1 as part of the proposed temporary bridge installation and removal activities. No new mitigation has been identified.

Geology and Soils. The installation and use of the temporary bridges will not result in any effects related to geologic, soil, and seismic site conditions. No mitigation is required.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. No hazardous materials will be used during installation of the temporary bridges. However, CVGS will implement the appropriate APMs and mitigation measures identified in the MND to avoid and minimize potential impacts, including APMs HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 and mitigation measure HAZ-3. No new mitigation has been identified.

Hydrology and Water Quality. The temporary bridges will be installed generally from the top of bank to the top of bank and will not directly affect drainages hydrologic conditions or baseline water quality conditions. Appropriate measures outlined in the project SWPPP and APM HYDRO-1 will be implemented during bridge installation and removal activities. No new mitigation has been identified. No new mitigation has been identified.

Land Use and Planning. No potentially significant impacts related to land use have been identified. No mitigation is required.

Mineral Resources. Installation of the temporary bridges would not have a significant effect on mineral and energy resources and would not result in the loss of the availability of the resources because none occur in the project area. No mitigation is required.

Noise. CVGS will implement the appropriate APMs and mitigation measures identified in the MND (APM NOI-1 and mitigation measure NOI-1) to avoid and minimize potential short-term construction-related noise impacts associated with the installation and removal of the temporary bridges. No new mitigation has been identified.

Population and Housing. Installation of the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. No mitigation is required.



Public Services. Installation of the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts on public services than were discussed in the MND. No mitigation is required.

Recreation. Installation of the temporary bridges will not increase the use of public recreation facilities and will not require the expansion of recreation facilities. In addition, the installation and use of the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts on recreation activities than were discussed in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Transportation/Traffic. The installation and use of the temporary bridges will not affect local traffic because most of these bridges occur in publicly inaccessible agricultural areas. The roads will remain open during the work period and no road closure is proposed. The installation and use of the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts on transportation than were discussed in the MND. No mitigation is required.

Utilities and Service Systems. The installation and use of the temporary bridges would not require an expansion or improvement in utilities or service systems, including wastewater and water supply treatment or delivery. In addition, the temporary bridges would not result in any new or greater impacts on recreation activities than were discussed in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Site Conditions/Comments: The bridges will be installed across agricultural ditches that have been permitted for impact and discharge of fill material below the ordinary high water mark. No state or federal permit amendments are required for these trenched crossings.

Approvals	Date	Name (print)	Signature	Comments
CPUC Compliance Mgr				
Central Valley Construction Manager	9/22/11	Dirk de Bruyn		
Central Valley Environmental Manager	9/22/11	Susan Bushnell Bergfalk		None

Prepared by: Susan Bushnell Bergfalk, Environmental
Manager, ICF International

Date: September 22, 2011