

3.0 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

This Initial Study provides an analysis of the environmental issues listed below. These issues are the same as those identified in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Section 1500 et. seq.

3.1	Aesthetics	3.10	Land Use and Planning
3.2	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	3.11	Mineral Resources
3.3	Air Quality	3.12	Noise
3.4	Biological Resources	3.13	Population and Housing
3.5	Cultural Resources	3.14	Public Services
3.6	Geology and Soils	3.15	Recreation
3.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3.16	Transportation/Traffic
3.8	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3.17	Utilities and Service Systems
3.9	Hydrology and Water Quality	3.18	Mandatory Findings of Significance

The Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the project, as prepared by PG&E (the applicant) and submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as part of Application No. A. 09-02-023 for a Permit to Construct, contains project information that was incorporated into the Initial Study. The PEA was used extensively to develop Chapter 1.0, particularly the Description of the Project and the Applicant's Purpose and Need. The full PEA is available for public review on the Internet at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/palermo/Palermo_East_Nicolaus.html

Additional project information was submitted by the applicant after the PEA filing date in response to CPUC requests for further information. The data requests and responses occurred over a period of time beginning on March 27, 2009 and ending on August 3, 2010. The applicant's responses to the requests for further information were incorporated into the Initial Study and will be available in the Administrative Record prepared at the completion of the CEQA process.

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