

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-3298



To: Interested Parties

From: Billie Blanchard, CPUC Project Manager

Subject: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** –
Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Sanger Substation Expansion Project
([Application A.15-09-012](#))

Date: January 20, 2017

In response to Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E's) application for a Permit to Construct the Sanger Substation Expansion Project ([Application A.15-09-012](#)), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (IS/MND) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft IS/MND describes the project, evaluates potential environmental impacts, identifies impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

Location, Description, and Purpose of the Sanger Substation Expansion Project

The project would be located southeast of the City of Fresno, in unincorporated Fresno County, at the northwest corner of the intersection of East Jensen Avenue and South McCall Avenue (see attached map). The project would include:

- **Substation Expansion:** PG&E would install equipment including circuit breakers, switches/disconnects, steel support structures for disconnect switches, bus supports and Capacitor Coupling Voltage Transformer equipment, two Modular Protection Automation Control (MPAC) buildings, and a microwave tower for communications. PG&E would also elevate the existing transfer bus and make alterations to interconnect reconfigured power lines.
- **Substation Equipment Removal:** PG&E would remove obsolete circuit breakers, switches, steel support structures, and the concrete control building at the existing substation.
- **Power Line Reconfiguration:** PG&E would rearrange existing power lines leading to the substation by removing existing lattice steel towers (LSTs) and wood poles and installing tubular steel poles (TSPs) in a different alignment. Existing power lines would be relocated to change their angle.
- **Existing Substation Changes:** On transformer bank 1, PG&E would remove wood poles that support a temporary line from the dead end structure and would replace them with a new TSP to terminate the new 115kV line for bank 1. On transformer bank 3, PG&E would relocate the existing dead end structure to terminate at the new 115kV line for bank 3 using new TSPs.
- **Telecommunications Receiver:** PG&E would install two antenna dishes on an existing microwave tower at the Fence Meadow Repeater Station.

PG&E is proposing the Project to accommodate a new breaker-and-a-half (BAHH) bus configuration. The Project is integral to the Central Valley 115 kV transmission system because it serves as a strategic hub for routing Fresno's hydroelectric and natural gas-generated electricity to the Manchester, Barton, Airways, California, Malaga, McCall, and Reedley substations. Sanger Substation's twelve 115 kV power lines have the capacity to carry approximately 200 MW of generation annually, providing a critical energy path between Fresno metropolitan north and south areas. The new BAAH bus configuration would provide maximum reliability for power lines coming into and out of the substation.

Draft IS/MND Public Review Period

The circulation of the Draft IS/MND opens a public comment period that will extend from January 20, 2017, through February 20, 2017. Written comments must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than February 20, 2017. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in correspondence. Send written comments to:

Sanger Substation Expansion Project
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Attn: Silvia Yanez, Project Manager
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Fax: (415) 398-5326
Email: Sanger.CPUC@ene.com

Following the public comment period, the CPUC will prepare a Final IS/MND that will address comments received on the Draft IS/MND.

Availability of Draft IS/MND

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for review at the Fresno County Public Library locations indicated below.

**Fresno County Public Library,
Fresno Branch**
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 600-7323

**Fresno County Public Library,
Sanger Branch**
1812 Seventh Street
Sanger, CA 93657
(559) 875-2435

For electronic access to the Draft IS/MND and other project information:

Sanger Substation Expansion Project Public Website
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/sanger/sanger.html>

If you would like to request a hard copy of the Draft IS/MND, please call: 1 (844) 433-2844, or email: Sanger.CPUC@ene.com.