

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 27, 2011

Ms. Robyn Salvadori
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Land Planner
245 Market Street, Rm. 1054B
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Atascadero – San Luis Obispo 70 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project – Notice to Proceed #3

Dear Ms. Salvadori:

On July 26, 2011, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to commence installation of culverts, temporary bridges, and/or steel plates at access road crossings as part of the Atascadero – San Luis Obispo 70 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project (Project).

The requested work will occur in portions of the Project area that are within the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG's) jurisdiction. CDFG has authorized the work through a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). The specific access road crossing improvements included in this NTP request are listed below, and are shown on the Figure 1/Exhibit A of the SAA, included as part of this NTP request package (see Attachment 1).

- S1 – Culvert (temporary)
- S2a – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S2b – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S2c – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S3 – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S4 – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S5 – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)
- S8 – Culvert (Installation of corrugated metal pipe)
- S9 – Culvert (Existing culvert is blocked. The culvert inlet will be cleaned out and the road re-established over the culvert.)
- S11 – Temporary stream crossing (bridge)

The project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The mitigation measures (MMs) and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) described in the project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration were adopted by the CPUC as conditions of project approval (Approval No. 11-04-014) dated April 15, 2011. The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the project during implementation.

Notice to Proceed

PG&E is required to obtain a Notice to Proceed (NTP) in order to commence any project related activities. NTP #1, issued on May 16, 2011, authorized PG&E to commence site preparation activities at the 5-acre lot located east of the PG&E Templeton Service Center. NTP#2, issued on May 27, 2011, authorized PG&E to commence all construction activities throughout the entire project area with the exception of any construction activity within CDFG jurisdictional areas, because PG&E had not received the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On July 26, 2011, PG&E received the signed and authorized SAA for the Project from CDFG. The SAA describes a variety of measures that PG&E must implement as a condition of the Agreement with CDFG. The CPUC also requires implementation of these measures as a condition of its approval of NTP #3.

NTP #3 Conditional Approval

NTP #3 to commence with the installation of culverts, temporary bridges, and/or steel plates at access road crossings is granted by the CPUC with conditions. The conditions of NTP #3 are based on the timely implementation of the preconstruction and construction requirements outlined in the SAA. In addition to the SAA measures, all applicable project MMs, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures include on-going/time-sensitive requirements and must be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.

CPUC understands that some conditions of the SAA deviate from the MMCRP. The following conditions of the SAA, which deviate from the MMCRP, shall be met by PG&E for work within CDFG jurisdictional areas. These measures further reduce potential impacts of the project.

1. PG&E shall install drainage crossings between July 25 and October 31, 2011. As the work at the crossings is determined, PG&E will provide CDFG with more specific dates as required by SAA measure 1.9.
2. PG&E shall require all individuals working on the crossings to receive a copy of the SAA per measure 1.2, and training on its contents per measure 1.10.
3. PG&E will submit survey results to the CDFG for California red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, Coast Range newt, Western spadefoot, foothill yellow-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, Coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, burrowing owl, and nesting birds in accordance with SAA measures 2.3 h, i, j, and 2.4b. PG&E will maintain the same nesting bird avoidance buffers as those approved in the Avian Protection Plan but will use a survey radius of 0.25- mile when working within CDFG jurisdiction.

4. PG&E shall submit a seed mixture to CDFG for review and approval per SAA measure 3(b).
5. PG&E shall submit individual biological survey reports and a Final Project Report to CDFG in accordance with measure 4.2. If necessary, a Diversion and Dewatering Plan and a record of fish rescued will also be submitted.

Please contact me or Tania Treis at RMT if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Orsaba
CPUC Project Manager



Cc: Andrew Martin, RMT
Tania Treis, RMT
Jo Lynn Lambert, PG&E Attorney

Attachment 1: NTP #3 Request Submittal (includes the SAA and attachments)