

1.0 PEA SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to reinforce the electric transmission system in Sonoma County by replacing the conductor on a 9.9-mile-long section of the Fulton-Hopland 60 kilovolt (kV) Power Line between the communities of Fulton and Healdsburg. The Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project will also include replacing poles along 8.1 miles of the Fulton-Hopland Line, removing the first pole and replacing the second pole of the Fitch Mountain #1 Tap 60 kV Power Line, replacing conductor on 1.3 miles of the Geysers #12-Fulton 230 kV Transmission Line, and making minor modifications to Fitch Mountain Substation.

The project was planned and engineered to avoid or minimize environmental impacts, and Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs) will be implemented to further avoid or minimize impacts to environmental resources. This Proponent’s Environmental Assessment (PEA) describes the environmental setting, regulations, and APMs for minimizing potential effects, and evaluates potential environmental impacts that could result from construction and operation of the project. With implementation of the APMs, all potential project-related impacts will be less than significant.

There are no known areas of controversy, and no major issues that must be resolved related to the project.

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PEA

As required by CPUC guidelines, Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (hereafter referred to as the CEQA Checklist) was used as the format for describing potential impacts pursuant to CEQA. The CPUC, as lead agency, will review this information and will be responsible for preparing and providing public review of the Initial Study.

This PEA is organized in the following manner:

- Chapter 1.0, PEA Summary
- Chapter 2.0, Project Description, provides a detailed description of the project, purpose, and need. In addition, the end of this chapter provides a list of the APMs that will be implemented (APMs are described in detail in Table 2.0-5 of Chapter 2.0 and in Chapter 3.0, Impact Assessment Summary).
- Chapter 3.0, Impact Assessment Summary, Sections 3.1 through 3.18, provide environmental setting information and analysis of all potential impacts on resources (described in the CEQA Checklist) that might result from implementing the project, and the Mandatory Findings of Significance and growth-inducing impacts of the project. Each section includes a description of the regulatory context, environmental setting, resource-specific APMs, and analysis and assessment of potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

Appendices include the following:

- Appendix A: Affected Properties
- Appendix B: EMF Discussion
- Appendix C: Greenhouse Gas Calculations
- Appendix D: Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence
- Appendix E: Nesting Birds: Species-Specific Buffers for PG&E Activities
- Appendix F: List of Preparers