
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 22, 2014

Mr. Greg Parker
Principal Land Planner
Pacific Gas & Electric
1455 E. Shaw Ave, Bag 23
Fresno, CA 93710

Subject: Shepherd Substation Project—Review of Minor Project Modification #3

Dear Mr. Parker,

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has reviewed Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) proposed Minor Project Modification (MPM) #3 for the approved Shepherd Substation Project (project), provided by email on September 26, 2014. PG&E's proposed actions include the use of a 200 by 200-foot laydown area south of East Copper Avenue, installation of crushed rock on the surface of the laydown area and a pull-and-tension site located north of East Copper Avenue, and installation of a gate in a fence adjacent to the pull-and-tension site.

The proposed actions were reviewed for consistency with the adopted Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared for the project in satisfaction of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A review form, including the initial request and supporting documentation, is attached to this letter.

This letter provides documentation that the proposed actions are consistent with the IS/MND and no further CEQA review is required. Please contact me or Susanne Heim at Panorama Environmental, Inc. if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosauer,
CPUC Project Manager

cc: Brooke Langle, Terra Verde
Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.
Aaron Lui, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Attachments: MPM #3 Review Form with Attachments

Attachments



SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT

Minor Project Change Review Form

Minor Project Change Type:	Change #:	Determination
Minor Project Modification (MPM)	3	De Minimis Change

Part A: Minor Project Change Summary			
Date of Determination:	Date Request Submitted:	Start Date:	Expected End Date:
10/22/2014	9/26/2014	10/26/2014	12/31/2015
Submitted by:	Organization and Title:	Duration and Work Hours:	
Brooke Langle	Terra Verde, PG&E Environmental Compliance Supervisor	Work would occur during standard construction work hours (i.e., between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays, and 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends)	
Location(s): <i>(Describe applicable location(s), address, and/or dimensions)</i>			
<p>1) North Laydown Area. A proposed 200 by 200-foot (0.92 acre) work area located immediately west of PG&E's power line right-of-way (ROW) on private farmland owned by Mr. Rodney Gust at 4948 East Copper Avenue, Clovis, California (APN 580-060-05S).</p> <p>2) North Pull-and-Tension Site (PTS). The previously approved North PTS (approximately 1 acre) is located at the northern end of the proposed power line alignment on private land immediately north of East Copper Avenue (APN 580-040-19S).</p> <p>Both work areas are shown on the map included with PG&E's request for MPM #3 (Attachment 1). A photo of the proposed laydown area is also included.</p>			
Proposed Action(s): <i>(List and describe each proposed action)</i>			

The following actions are proposed by component:

- 1) **North Laydown Area.** PG&E proposes the development and use of a 200 by 200-foot laydown area for the remainder of construction activities. Activities at the laydown area would include the delivery and temporary storage of Tubular Steel Poles (TSPs) and other related materials, crane operation, vehicle and equipment refueling, and the parking of general construction equipment and vehicles, including overnight storage.

PG&E anticipates covering approximately 50 percent of the laydown area surface (2,000 square feet) with crushed rock, or a similar all-weather material. If necessary, due to weather or equipment requirements, the entire laydown area surface (4,000 square feet) would be covered with rock. A fabric liner would be installed prior to application to assist with removal; however, the gravel may be left permanently in place following construction depending on the landowner's preferences (described in Part B). For the purposes of this MPM review form, it is assumed that the rock material would be left in place and the surface disturbance impact would be permanent. Access to the work area would occur from the existing gravel road from East Copper Avenue which was addressed in MPM #2.

**SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form**

- 2) **North PTS.** In addition to the North Laydown Area, PG&E proposes to install crushed rock, or a similar material, on the surface of the PTS located immediately north of East Copper Avenue. The PTS was previously addressed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project. PG&E proposes to install the rock using the same approach as described for the North Laydown Area (i.e., covering 50-100 percent of the surface and potentially releasing the material to the landowner following construction). For the purposes of this MPM, this action is considered a change in workspace surface disturbance from temporary to permanent.

PG&E would also install an access gate that directly abuts the PTS work area along an existing fence that runs parallel to East Copper Avenue. Depending on the landowner's preferences, PG&E would either leave the gate permanently in place or remove it and repair the fence following construction.

Installation of rock material at both work areas would take up to three days each. A total of approximately 463 cubic yards of rock material would be installed at the work sites if 50 percent of the surfaces were covered at a 6-inch depth. The material would be delivered and installed using dump trucks, a low boy, and water trucks. Installing the material would result in approximately 39 additional two-way truck trips and 10 two-way miscellaneous trips to deliver equipment and water. If the rock material is removed from the site, the duration of additional work days and vehicle trips would be approximately double.

Purpose(s): *(Explain why the proposed action(s) are necessary)*

- 1) **North Laydown Area.** PG&E would use the laydown area to support power line construction and other general construction storage needs for the project. Currently, the only on-site storage areas are located at the Shepherd Substation on the south end of the power line and at individual TSP work areas along the power line alignment. Offsite storage is facilitated at the Gregg Yard located approximately 20 miles from the project site. Establishing a laydown area at the north end of the power line would support pole installation scheduled in early 2015 by creating a larger and more accessible storage area for poles and equipment. The proposed laydown area may reduce vehicle trips and equipment operation periods by allowing the delivery of more TSPs at one time and increasing the installation speed. Rock would be installed on the surface of the North Laydown Area to facilitate equipment and vehicle operation on loosely tilled soils at the site.
- 2) **North PTS.** The rock material would be installed on the surface of the PTS to facilitate equipment and vehicle operation on loose soils at the site. The access gate would be installed to accommodate the turning radius of oversized vehicles and equipment entering the workspace. An adjacent existing gate would not provide a sufficient turning radius for conductor stringing equipment.

Part B: Existing Conditions

Current and Adjacent Land Use(s):

The laydown area would be located on tilled soil of an inactive citrus orchard. The approved PTS is located within an inactive open field.

Has landowner approval been granted? <i>(Describe below)</i>	Landowner:	Date of Approval:	Approval Verified by:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Rodney Gust (North	9/16/2014	Galen Raymond and

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

			Laydown Area)	Chris Howard, PG&E
<p>PG&E secured approval for use of the laydown area on September 16, 2014. The PTS location was previously included in the IS/MND. PG&E may release the rock material to the landowners of each site for personal use following construction rather than removing and disposing the material offsite. PG&E would obtain written authorization from the landowners prior to leaving the rock material in place.</p> <p>PG&E has notified residences within 300 feet of the project corridor that may be impacted by construction activities on January 10, 2014 and July 9, 2014, in accordance with Mitigation Measure (MM) Land Use-1 and Applicant Proposed Measure (APM) Noise-7. The proposed laydown area would not be located within 300 feet of additional residences.</p>				

Surveys <i>(List any new survey reports under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant survey details under the applicable resource category listed in the Part E)</i>			
Biological Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for biological resources with the potential to occur in the area? If so, were survey results positive or negative? Were surveys completed during the appropriate timing and season to detect resources? <i>(If not, describe under the applicable resource category in Part E)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative	
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
Cultural Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for cultural resources (records search and pedestrian survey)? If so, were survey results positive or negative?	<input type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative	
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
Hydrology. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for hydrologic resources? If so, were survey results positive or negative?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative	
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

Part C: Permits, Agency Approvals, and Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) <i>(List any new permits or agency approvals under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant details under the applicable resource category listed in Part E)</i>			
Have all required permits, permit amendments/authorizations, or agency approvals been issued by resource agencies with applicable jurisdiction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Provided		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorization Attached		
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
Would the proposed action(s) conflict with permit conditions or agency approvals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Would the proposed action(s) conflict with project applicant proposed measures, avoidance and minimization measures, or mitigation measures listed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Part D: Attached Materials: <i>(e.g., surveys, maps, photos, memos, agency authorizations, etc.)</i>

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PG&E MPM #3 Request Form 2. Notice to Proceed #3 Biological Survey Summary (August 8, 2014) 3. PG&E Cultural Resources Constraints Report (September 18, 2014) |
|---|

Complete the IS/MND Consistency Checklist below (Part E) and answer the consistency questions for each resource category. Include a description and justification below each resource category, as necessary. The consistency questions were developed using the CEQA Checklist provided in the IS/MND. Refer to the IS/MND for the details on the project impact evaluation.

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	<i>De Minimis</i> Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
Aesthetics (e.g., damage scenic resources or vistas, degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings, or create sources of light or glare)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not increase visual impacts. Temporary visual impacts during construction were addressed in the IS/MND and determined to be less than significant. Any rock material left behind at the sites would not affect the existing visual character of the area, and would be coordinated with the applicable landowner. Therefore, the modification would not change aesthetic impacts addressed in the IS/MND.				
Agriculture and Forestry Resources (e.g., convert Farmland to nonagricultural use, or create a conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions have the potential to permanently convert approximately 0.92 acre of additional Farmland. The proposed laydown area is located on land designated by the Farmland Monitoring and Mapping Program of the California Resources Agency Department of Conservation as Unique Farmland; however, the site is not being actively farmed. Neither the laydown area nor the North PTS are located on land subject to a Williamson Act Contract. Temporary and permanent impacts to Farmland were addressed in the IS/MND and determined to be less than significant with mitigation. PG&E has obtained landowner approval to use the laydown area. Should PG&E release the rock surface material to the landowner and it is left permanently in place, it is assumed the 0.92-acre space would no longer be available for agricultural uses. Any loss of agricultural land would not conflict with a Williamson Act contract, and would be decided by the landowner; therefore, impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would remain less than significant.				
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (e.g. produce additional emissions, or expose sensitive receptors to additional pollutants)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	<i>De Minimis</i> Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<i>Mitigation</i>				
<p>The proposed actions would include the additional use of vehicles and equipment for approximately 3 to 6 days, and approximately 49 to 98 additional vehicle trips, during development of the laydown area and PTS. Temporary air quality impacts during construction were addressed in the IS/MND, and impacts to air quality were determined to be less than significant with mitigation. The increase in air emissions and dust generation from the proposed activities would be minor and would not change the findings presented in the IS/MND. PG&E would implement applicable requirements listed in APMs Air-1 through -8, MM Air-1, and APMs GHG-1 through GHG-4 to reduce air quality impacts. In addition, PG&E would implement the Fresno County Air Pollution Control District approved Dust Control Plan. Air quality impacts would remain less than significant with implementation of mitigation and Dust Control Plan measures.</p>				
<p>Biological Resources (e.g., cause an adverse effect to sensitive or special-status species, or impact riparian, wetland, or any other sensitive habitat, or conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources)?</p> <p><i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed actions have the potential to permanently convert up to 1.92 acres of land (proposed 0.92 acre laydown area and change from temporary disturbance at the 1-acre PTS) if the rock material is left in place following landowner approval. The proposed laydown area is located within a loosely-tilled inactive crop field with little to no vegetation. The property was determined to be developed and does not support sensitive habitat. The PTS is located in an unused field which was determined to be an agricultural habitat type and unlikely to support special-status species.</p> <p>The project corridor was surveyed for special-status plants and animals in preparation of the IS/MND and none were identified. Focused preconstruction surveys were conducted at the substation site and within 200 feet of naturalized areas along the power line corridor as required by MM Biology-1. In addition, On August 6 and 7, 2014, Terra Verde biologists surveyed the area within 500 feet of the power line for special-status plants and wildlife. A copy of the survey review memo is located in Attachment 2. No special-status plants or wildlife have been identified at the PTS or proposed laydown area to date. A previously evaluated private pond is located approximately 70 feet east of the laydown area on the opposite side of a gravel access road. The pond is approximately 150 feet by 130 feet wide (0.44 acre) and was constructed after removal of crop trees on the property sometime after 2009. The pond is primarily used for irrigation and aesthetic purposes. The pond would be avoided, and any refueling within 100 feet of the pond would be conducted using secondary containment, as required by AMM 6. Biological impacts would remain less than significant with implementation of applicable mitigation.</p> <p>In the event that special-status species are found on the site or the areas are determined to contain suitable habitat, PG&E is responsible for reporting and providing compensation for temporary and permanent habitat impacts under their San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.</p>				

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	De Minimis Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
Cultural Resources (e.g., cause adverse change to a historical or archeological resource)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not increase cultural resource impacts. The project area was surveyed for cultural resources in preparation of the IS/MND. In addition, PG&E conducted a field survey on September 10, 2014 for the proposed laydown area. A copy of the PG&E Cultural Resources Constraints Report (dated September 18, 2014) is located in Attachment 3. No cultural resources have been identified at or adjacent to the proposed work areas. Therefore, the modification would not change cultural resources impacts addressed in the IS/MND.				
Paleontological Resources (e.g., cause adverse change to a paleontological resource)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not change paleontological resource impacts. The majority of the project area is located in a geologic formation that has been classified as a sensitive paleontological resource area, as described in the IS/MND; however, the proposed actions would not involve additional excavation, and any ground disturbance would be surficial and contained to historically tilled areas. Impacts to potential paleontological resources from the proposed actions would be less than significant.				
Geology and Soils (e.g., cause or expose people or structures to geologic or soil hazards, including erosion or loss of topsoil)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would include approximately 0.92 acre of additional ground disturbance. Ground disturbance during construction was addressed in the IS/MND and determined to be less than significant. Crushed rock or a similar material would be installed on the surface of the laydown area and PTS, which would reduce the potential for trackout, erosion, and dust generation. Appropriate erosion and sediment controls would be installed, as required by APM Geo-1/WQ-1. Therefore, the modification would not change geology and soils impacts addressed in the IS/MND.				
Hazards and Hazardous Materials (e.g., create or increase the exposure of people or structures to hazardous materials or wildland fires, involve the use of additional hazardous materials or equipment, or interfere with an adopted emergency plan)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would involve the use and storage of fuel at the laydown area. Hazardous materials				

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	<i>De Minimis</i> Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<p>associated with construction such as fuels, lubricants, and oils were addressed in the IS/MND. The proposed actions would include the same risk of hazards as other activities addressed in the IS/MND. PG&E would implement applicable requirements included in APMs Haz-1 through -3 and MMs Hazards-1 through -4, which include implementation of a Site Safety Plan for the project. Hazards and hazardous material impacts would remain less than significant with implementation of applicable mitigation.</p>				
<p>Hydrology (e.g., degrade water quality, discharge waste or sediment, deplete groundwater, alter the existing drainage pattern, create additional runoff water or polluted runoff, place structures in a 100-year flood hazard area, or expose people or structures to a significant risk involving flooding)?</p> <p><i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed actions would not change hydrology impacts. A private pond is located approximately 70 feet east of the proposed laydown area. The pond is primarily used for irrigation and aesthetic purposes. Construction activities around the pond, as well as other hydrologic resources and irrigation features, were previously addressed in the IS/MND and found to be less than significant with mitigation. PG&E would implement applicable requirements included in APM WQ-2 and -3, and MM Hydrology-1 through -3. Impacts to hydrology and water quality would remain less than significant with implementation of mitigation.</p>				
<p>Land Use and Planning (e.g., conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project, or conflict with a habitat conservation plan)?</p> <p><i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The North PTS and proposed laydown area are both located on private land designated by Fresno County as Rural Residential (2012 General Plan) and zoned for Agriculture. The modification would not change impacts to land use and planning addressed in IS/MND.</p>				
<p>Mineral Resources (e.g., result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or mineral resource recovery site)?</p> <p><i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: No Impact</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed actions would not impact mineral resources.</p>				
<p>Noise (e.g., expose sensitive receptors to additional noise or vibration)?</p> <p><i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed actions would include additional temporary noise. Additional noise would be generated during delivery of rock material and development of the PTS and laydown area for up to three to six days.</p>				

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	De Minimis Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<p>Four residences are within 300 feet of the PTS. The only residence within 300 feet of the laydown area is owned by Rodney Gust, the landowner who authorized PG&E to use the site. Use of the laydown area would not create greater noise levels and may reduce the total amount of power line construction days. Noise emissions during construction around the four homes was addressed in the IS/MND and determined to be less than significant with mitigation. The increase in noise from the installation of crushed rock at the work areas, and during use of the laydown area, would be temporary and short in duration, and would not change the findings presented in the IS/MND. Therefore, noise impacts would remain less than significant with implementation of APMs Noise-1 through Noise-7.</p>				
Population and Housing (e.g., induce population growth or displace housing)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: No Impact</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not impact population and housing.				
Public Services (e.g., result in adverse impacts to government facilities that provide public service, such as fire protection, police protection, schools, and parks)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: No Impact</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not impact public services.				
Recreation (e.g., increases the use of, or cause adverse effects to, parks or other recreational facilities)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not impact recreational resources.				
Transportation and Traffic (e.g., increase traffic congestion or degrade performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, or increase hazards due to a design feature)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed actions would involve approximately 49 to 98 additional truck trips during the delivery and installation of the crushed rock at the laydown area and PTS. In addition, ingress and egress from the laydown area may require minor traffic control while large equipment enters and exits the site from East Copper Avenue, which would result in short delays to drivers. The increase in truck trips would not exceed traffic impact thresholds. Any traffic control on East Copper Avenue would be short term and would not degrade performance of the circulation system. Lane and road closures on East Copper Avenue power line conductor stringing activities were addressed in the IS/MND and determined to be less than significant with mitigation. PG&E would prepare and implement applicable traffic control plans required by the County as described in APM Tran-2. Traffic control plans are typically specific to each required lane and road closure, and prepared in coordination with the County approximately a week before the closures. PG&E would</p>				

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT
Minor Project Change Review Form

Part E: IS/MND Consistency Checklist				
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	<i>De Minimis</i> Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
make all deliveries during normal construction hours as required by APM Tran-1. Transportation and traffic impacts would remain less than significant with implementation of APM Tran-1 and APM Tran-2.				
Utilities and Service Systems (e.g., result in construction of new, or expansion of existing, water facilities, stormwater drainage facilities, require additional water entitlements, or creation of new solid waste disposal needs)? <i>Previous IS/MND evaluation: Less than Significant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed actions would not change utilities and service systems impacts addressed in the IS/MND.				

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT

Minor Project Change Request Form



Proposed Minor Project Change Type:	Request #:
Minor Project Modification (MPM)	3

Part A: Proposed Minor Project Change Summary

Date Submitted:	Requested Approval Date:	Start Date:	Expected End Date:
9/26/2014	10/26/2014	10/26/2014	12/31/2015
Submitted by:	Organization and Title:	Duration and Work Hours:	
Brooke Langle	Terra Verde, Environmental Compliance Supervisor	Use would occur throughout the project duration.	

Contact Information:

blangle@terraverdeweb.com, (805) 896-5479

Location(s): *(Describe applicable location(s), address, and/or dimensions)*

- 1) An approximately 200 x 200-foot parcel on private property owned by Mr. Rodney Gust at 4948 East Copper Avenue, Clovis, California (APN 580-060-055).
- 2) Project pull and tension site (approximately 1-acre) located at the northern terminus of the proposed transmission line alignment (APN 580-040-19S).

Proposed Action(s): *(List and describe each proposed action)*

1) The establishment of a laydown area is proposed for general project use during construction of the transmission line component of the project. Potential activities within the workspace may include, but are not limited to the delivery and temporary storage of tubular steel poles (TSPs) and related materials, crane operation, vehicle and equipment refueling, and the parking of general construction equipment and vehicles (including overnight storage). Approximately 50 percent of the laydown area may be covered with gravel, rock, or similar all-weather material.

At this time, graveling a portion of the laydown area is anticipated; however, weather conditions and/or equipment requirements may require full coverage. A fabric liner may be installed prior to application to assist with removal; however, the landowner may request the material be left on site, in which case fabric installation and material removal may not be required. Access to the work area would occur from the existing gravel road from Copper Avenue.

2) Installation of gravel, rock, or similar all-weather material is proposed as a base surface for the pull and tension site located north of Copper Avenue and TSP 5/6. At this time, covering approximately half of the workspace is anticipated; however, weather conditions and/or equipment requirements may require full coverage.

A fabric liner may be installed prior to gravel material application to assist with removal; however, the landowner may request the material be left on site, in which case fabric installation and material removal



SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT

Minor Project Change Request Form

may not be required. No new access routes are proposed for this work area.

Additionally, PG&E proposes to install an access gate in the existing fence line along Copper Avenue to accommodate the turning radius of oversized vehicles and equipment entering the site. A temporary/permanent gate (at the landowner's request) would be installed directly abutting the workspace.

Purpose(s): *(Explain why the proposed action(s) are necessary)*

1) The current project storage locations for TSPs are limited to individual pole work locations, the Shepherd Substation, and Gregg Yard, the latter located a significant distance from the project site. Due to the limitations of workspace sizes and difficulties associated with maneuvering equipment multiple times, an accessible multi-use laydown area is necessary. Procurement of the proposed laydown area would significantly decrease the transport distance of TSPs, minimize vehicle trips and operation of large cranes, and increase crew efficiency when installation begins in early 2015.

The installation of an all-weather material (i.e. rock or gravel) is required in at least a portion of the laydown area to facilitate equipment operation over loosely tilled soils.

2) The installation of an all-weather material in the pull and tension site is required to facilitate equipment operation and access over loosely tilled soils.

A project access gate is necessary because the existing private gate to the pull and tension site does not provide sufficient clearance for PG&E reductoring equipment.

Part B: Existing Conditions

Current and Adjacent Land Use(s):

Both the proposed laydown area and pull and tension site are currently in unused dirt lots along the outskirts of a rural residential community (Clovis). A private gravel road (existing project route) accessed from Copper Avenue would provide access to the laydown area. Copper Avenue would also provide direct access to the pull and tension site, as currently approved. A private pond exists approximately 70 feet east of the adjacent gravel road and is used by the landowner for irrigation/aesthetic purposes.

Has landowner approval been granted? <i>(Describe below)</i>			Landowner:	Date of Approval:	Approval Verified by:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Rodney Gust	9/16/2014	Galen Raymond, Chris Howard

PG&E secured landowner approval on September 16, 2014 for the temporary use of the laydown area. Per Land Use and Planning and Noise Mitigation Measures, if any new landowners will be affected by the planned new laydown area use, they will be appropriately notified no less than 30 days prior to the start of activity. No new landowners have been identified at this time.

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT

Minor Project Change Request Form



Surveys (List any new survey reports under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant survey details under the applicable resource category listed in the Part E)		
Biological Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for biological resources with the potential to occur in the area? If so, were survey results positive or negative? Were surveys completed during the appropriate timing and season to detect resources? (If not, describe under the applicable resource category in Part E)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Cultural Resources. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for cultural resources (records search and pedestrian survey)? If so, were survey results positive or negative?	<input type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Hydrology. Were all sites associated with the proposed action(s) surveyed for hydrologic resources? If so, were survey results positive or negative?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Surveyed	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

Part C: Permits, Agency Approvals, and Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) (List any new permits or agency approvals under Part D, attach a copy, and describe relevant details under the applicable resource category listed in Part E)		
Have all required permits, permit amendments/authorizations, or agency approvals been issued by resource agencies with applicable jurisdiction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously Provided	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorization Attached	
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Would the proposed action(s) conflict with permit conditions or agency approvals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Would the proposed action(s) conflict with project applicant proposed measures, avoidance and minimization measures, or mitigation measures listed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Part D: Attached Materials: (e.g., surveys, maps, photos, memos, agency authorizations, etc.)
Proposed Laydown Area and Pull and Tension Site Photo 1: Proposed Laydown Area Biological Survey Memo Cultural Report

SHEPHERD SUBSTATION PROJECT

Minor Project Change Request Form



Part E: IS/MND Consistency				
Impact Question	No Change	De Minimis Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
Would the Proposed Action Result in a New Impact, or Increase the Severity of an Impact Previously Analyzed in the IS/MND? Provide information on any new impacts or additional impacts. (<i>Refer to the IS/MND for the details on the project impact evaluation.</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Biological Resources: The location of both proposed work locations lie within the 500-foot buffer area of the pole alignment and pole work areas that were surveyed as part of preconstruction surveys performed on August 6 and 7, 2014 by Terra Verde biologists Halden Petersen and Rhett Blanton. No occurrences of special-status plant or animal species were observed in the vicinity of the proposed work areas; however, further preconstruction surveys will cover the 500-foot buffer (or appropriate species-specific distance) area surrounding the proposed work locations. A private pond exists nearby but will not be impacted by the proposed activities. Surveys will be refreshed as needed during the use of this site.</p> <p>Cultural Resources: On September 18, 2014 PG&E Cultural Resources Specialist Matt Armstrong supplied a Cultural Resources Constraints Report (CRCR) of the laydown area included in this MPM. On September 10, 2014 a field survey was conducted of the area proposed for construction and no additional resources were observed. The CRCR is included.</p>				

Shepherd Substation Project

Project Components

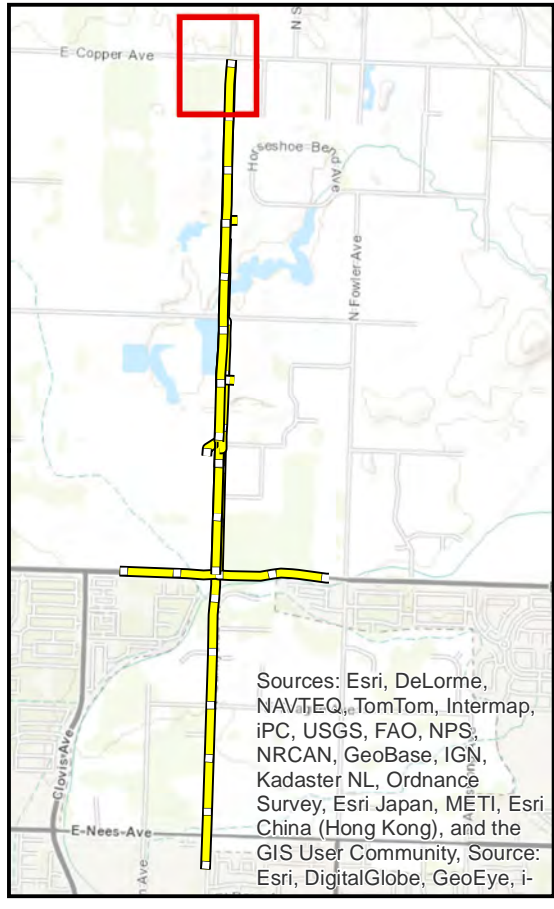


- TSP Location
- Proposed Shoo Fly Pole
- Existing Distribution Pole
- New Wood Pole
- - - Access Roads
- Shepherd Ave. West Distribution Line
- Shepherd Ave. East Distribution Line
- Sunnyside Ave. South Distribution Line
- Existing Distribution Line (Underbuild)
- Substation Site
- Pull and Tension Site
- TSP Workspace
- Temporary Turn-around

Resource Data

- California Annual Grasslands
- Open Land
- Canal
- Detention Basin/Aquifer Recharge
- Drainage
- Pond
- Seasonal Pond
- Seasonal Wetland
- 250-foot Survey Buffer
- 500-foot Buffer

0 125 250 Feet







August 8, 2014

Susanne Heim
Panorama Environmental, Inc.
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740
San Francisco California 94111

RE: Preconstruction Biological Surveys for the Shepherd Substation Project
Notice To Proceed #3

Dear Susanne,

This memorandum is being provided to summarize the biological surveys conducted on August 6 and 7, 2014 for the Shepherd Substation Project located in Clovis, California. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) received a conditional authorization of Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on December 31, 2013 and a conditional authorization of NTP #3 from the CPUC on August 7, 2014. Prior to the initiation of proposed actions for the transmission line foundation work, preconstruction surveys were completed along the pole alignment, the proposed shoo-fly alignment, and the appropriate buffers as depicted in a map created by Panorama Environmental (Shepherd Substation Project Survey and Resource Map 11/12/2013) and as shown in Minor Project Modification request #2. These surveys comply with the preconstruction requirements for AMM-17 and MM Bio-2, MM Bio-3, MM Bio-4, MM Bio-5, and MM Bio-6.

Terra Verde biologists Halden Petersen and Rhett Blanton conducted field surveys of the transmission line and shoo-fly alignments including surrounding areas. Additionally, Dr. Francis Villablanca conducted Molestan blister beetle surveys in suitable habitat (i.e., grasslands) along the transmission line easement, proposed work areas, and access routes. Areas not accessible by foot were surveyed to the extent feasible with binoculars. Weather conditions were hot and calm with high visibility, suitable for the detection of wildlife.

AMM-17, MM Bio-2, MM Bio-3, MM-Bio-5 & MM Bio-6:

Preconstruction surveys for California tiger salamander, San Joaquin kit fox, burrowing owls, and American badger were conducted by two-person pedestrian transects. Transect lines provided full visual ground coverage of the survey area. A third biologist surveyed for Molestan blister beetle by walking transects through suitable habitat; plant inflorescences, focusing on detecting known host plants, were examined for species presence.



Upland burrows were observed throughout the survey area in grasslands, agricultural areas, and previously disturbed land. The highest concentration of burrows was observed within the grassland field and detention basins north of the substation; however, landowner rodent management practices were evident and many open burrows had been collapsed or filled prior to the survey. No salamanders were observed during the survey; however, given the season and dry, daytime conditions of the survey, it is highly unlikely they would be observed. The highest potential for site presence is for estivating individuals underground. Monitoring will be conducted in suitable habitat in accordance with APM Bio-7.

No kit fox, burrowing owls, or American badger individuals were observed during the field survey. No suitable burrows or dens were observed throughout the survey areas.

No Molestan blister beetles were observed during the survey. Suitable host plants, were identified in the survey area; however, all *Erodium* spp. and most *Lupinus* spp. inflorescences have senesced.

MM-Bio-4:

A visual survey for nesting birds was conducted to a maximum distance of 500 feet from the edge of proposed activities outlined in NTP #3. Using a combination of binoculars and naked eye identification, avian species and nesting behavior were noted for non-raptor species up to 250 feet and for raptors to 500 feet. Where private property impeded access of a full 250- or 500-foot corridor, surveys were conducted from the project right-of-way and public roads. No nesting birds or nesting behavior was observed during the surveys. Ongoing surveys will be conducted throughout the nesting season in accordance with MM Bio-4.

Please let me know if you need any additional information specific to NTP #3 preconstruction surveys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Langle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke Langle
Principal Biologist/Environmental Compliance Supervisor



Project Name: Shepherd Substation Project		Date: September 18, 2014
PM Number: 30744145		Line of Business: Electric Transmission
Prepared for: Greg Parker		Prepared by: M. Armstrong
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION		
<p>PG&E proposes to construct Shepherd Substation, an approximate 5.0 acre 115/21 kV electrical substation needed to meet an increased electric load within the Woodward DPA. A 115 kV overhead power line interconnection, approximately 1.5 miles long, would be constructed to link the substation to the existing power grid. The Project is located within Fresno County, California, north of the City of Clovis.</p> <p>The substation and overhead power line locations had been surveyed in preparation of a PEA for the project (Bassett 2010). A proposed laydown area, measuring 200 feet by 200 feet, and located south of Copper Avenue near the overhead power line (see attached map), was identified after the initial archaeological survey, and is not in an area covered by that survey. This CRCR documents efforts to identify cultural resources in the laydown area.</p>		
County: Fresno		
Quad/Township/Range/Section: Friant, California 7.5' Quadrangle, T. 12S, R. 21E, Sec. 16.		
UTM or Lat/Long: 11S, 259927 mE/4086543 mN		
Property Ownership: Private		
JURISDICTION		
Landowner: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Regulatory Nexus: Section 106 <input type="checkbox"/> CEQA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>		
Applicable Agencies: California Public Utilities Commission		
Permits Required/Issued: Permit to Construct Shepherd Station Project		
<p>This CRCR provides information in addition to that provided in the PEA and associated cultural resources reports submitted to the CPUC.</p>		
DESKTOP / LITERATURE REVIEW		
Records Search Results: No resources known within the laydown area.		
Date: See below	Search Radius: See below	Conducted by: Staff of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
Resources within the API: None		
Resources within the Records Search area: None in vicinity of laydown area		
Studies within the API: One		
Studies within the Records Search area: None		
% API previously studied: 0% (laydown area is at edge of 2010 survey area)		
Eligibility Status of Sites within API (National, State or Local): NA		
<p>A record search was performed in 2010 for the initial cultural resources study. The record search covered the laydown area, and so no additional record search was performed in 2014. Although the record search results were four years old, the project is located on private land, and Mr. Armstrong's direct experience in the project vicinity suggests that it is unlikely that additional studies covering the laydown area having been conducted since 2010.</p> <p>No cultural resources were identified within the project area during the records search.</p>		
Other Sources Consulted:		
See Bassett 2010 and Transcon 2011 for a full list of sources consulted.		
<p>Bassett, Everett J. 2010. <i>Draft Cultural Resources Inventory Report, Shepherd Substation Project, Fresno County, California</i>. Prepared by Transcon Environmental for submittal to the California Public Utilities</p>		

Commission.	
Transcon 2011. <i>Supplemental Cultural Resources Inventory Report, Shepherd Substation Project, Fresno County, California</i> . Prepared by Transcon Environmental for submittal to the California Public Utilities Commission.	
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Search: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
See Bassett 2010 and Transcon 2011 for the results of Native American consultation.	
Risk Assessment:	
Nearest Water Source: The Enterprise Canal (approximately 0.75 miles to the southwest), and an un-named seasonal drainage approximately 0.75 miles to the east.	Slope: Negligible-to-Mild (<5%)
Depositional Environment: Holocene alluvial sediments.	
Known Resources/Ethnographic Places in the Area: None within the vicinity of the laydown area.	
Potential for Prehistoric Resources (Surface/Buried): Low/Low	
Potential for Historic Resources: Low/Low	
Amount of Project Ground Disturbance: Minimal (use of area as laydown location, and some vehicle traffic)	
<p>Previous survey within the vicinity of the project area has identified no sign of prehistoric cultural resources, and such resources are typically found nearer major drainages. However, prehistoric-era archaeological resources are occasionally found in and near smaller drainages and wetlands, and as such, the possibility of sub-surface resources cannot be ruled out entirely.</p> <p>There are no historic-era artifacts or features on the surface of the laydown area. Although some sub-surface historic-era features (i.e. buried trash sumps and privies) are known in the region, this land has been used for agriculture and disturbed, and it is unlikely that a buried historic-era resource would have remained both intact and completely buried.</p> <p>As this location will be used as a laydown area and not excavated, it is unlikely that previously undiscovered cultural resources will be disturbed.</p>	
Risk (Prehistoric Resources): Low	Risk (Historic Resources): Low
CONSULTATION	
Native American: See Bassett 2010 and Transcon 2011 for the results of Native American consultation.	Agency: See the PEA submitted with the application to the CPUC (PG&E 2010).
Other: NA	
FIELD REVIEW	
Field Methods:	
PG&E Cultural Resource Specialist Matthew Armstrong (MA, RPA) performed a pedestrian survey of the laydown area on September 10, 2014. Mr. Armstrong walked the laydown area using 10-meter N-S oriented transects.	
Survey Results:	
The ground had been cleared of vegetation, and soil visibility was near 100%. Local soils consisted of reddish-brown sandy loam and clays. The	
SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS	
No cultural resources were identified within the project area. No further cultural resources studies are recommended.	
ATTACHMENTS	
A: Map showing laydown area. B:	



Project Name:	Date:
----------------------	--------------

PM Number:	Line of Business:
-------------------	--------------------------

Prepared for:	Prepared by:
----------------------	---------------------

SUMMARY

PG&E proposes to construct Shepherd Substation, and an associated A 115 kV overhead power line interconnection. The Project is located within Fresno County, California, north of the City of Clovis. The substation and overhead power line locations had been previously surveyed in preparation of a PEA for the project (Bassett 2010). This CRCR Tear Sheet applies to the laydown area located south of Copper Avenue and east of Sunnyside Avenue.

Not cultural resources were identified within the laydown area, and it is unlikely that any will be encountered during construction. No further cultural resources measures are recommended.

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION MEASURES

Location-Specific Protocol

None

Inadvertent Discovery Protocol

If any cultural resources are located during project activities, Best Management Practice 25 (Environmental Services Procedure P-002) should be implemented, which includes stopping all work in the vicinity of the discovery and immediately notifying a PG&E Cultural Resources Specialist. Archaeological and historic-period resources in the region may include:

- **Archeological materials:** flaked stone tools (projectile point, biface, scraper, etc.) and debitage (flakes) made of chert, obsidian, etc., groundstone milling tools and fragments (mortar, pestle, handstone, millingstone, etc.), faunal bones, fire-affected rock, dark middens, housepit depressions and human interments.
- **Historic-era resources:** may include, but are not limited to, small cemeteries or burial plots, cut (square) nails, containers or miscellaneous hardware, glass fragments, cans with soldered seams or tops, ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments, milled or split lumber, earthworks, feature or structure remains and trash dumps.

Human Remains Protocol

Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial. In keeping with the provisions provided in 7050.5 CHSC and Public Resource Code 5097.98, if human remains are encountered (or are suspected) during any project-related activity:

- Stop all work within 100 feet;
- Immediately contact a PG&E Cultural Resource Specialist (CRS), who will notify the county coroner;
- Secure location, but do not touch or remove remains and associated artifacts;
- Do not remove associated spoils or pick through them;
- Record the location and keep notes of all calls and events; and
- Treat the find as confidential and do not publically disclose the location.

Inadvertent Discovery Contact

Upon Discovery of cultural resources or suspected human remains, contact the following individual immediately:
Cultural Resources Specialist
Cell:
Office:

ATTACHMENTS

- A: Map of laydown area
- B: