

# CPUC General Order 131-D



**Permitting and environmental  
review scenarios for electric  
transmission projects**

# Overview of Permitting Options



- \* Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
- \* Permit to Construct (PTC)
- \* Notice of Construction (NOC)
  - Exempt from discretionary permitting by the CPUC
  - May still be subject to CEQA
    - \* Part of a larger project's CEQA review
    - \* Triggers discretionary resource permits from other agencies
- \* Categorical or Statutory Exemptions under CEQA
- \* Activities not requiring GO 131-D permitting
  - Electric distribution lines and substations under 50 kV
  - Substation modifications within the existing utility-owned property that do not exceed the existing high-side voltage rating

# Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project



## Project and Permitting

- \* 14.7 miles of rebuilt overhead transmission line
- \* 12.4 miles of new underground transmission line
- \* Constructed in roads adjacent to habitat for CRLF and SFGS
- \* CPUC CPCN with full EIR
- \* Section 7 Biological Opinion

## Impacts

- \* Bio. impacts: Temporary and/or Permanent Loss of Sensitive Vegetation Communities; direct wildlife mortality; Habitat Removal or Disturbance of Special Status Wildlife Species.
- \* Cultural Impacts: No sig. impacts
- \* Visual Impacts: No sig. impacts

Redacted



# Windsor Substation Project



## Project

- \* Construction of a new three-bank, 115-12 kV distribution substation
- \* Connecting the new substation to an existing power line
- \* Installing new 12 kV distribution lines and reconductoring existing distribution lines

## Impacts and Permitting

- \* CPUC PTC

Redacted



# Cabrillo-Santa Ynez 115 kV Reconductoring Project



## Project and Impacts

Reconductoring of approximately 14 miles of wood pole power line

Replace 125 existing wood poles with new light-duty steel poles

Ground disturbance was significant enough to warrant a PTC

Bio. impacts: Habitat of CTS

Cultural Impacts: None.

Visual Impacts: Minor incremental changes.

## Permitting

\* CPUC PTC with IS/MND

\* USFWS Biological Opinion for CTS; CDFG CD 2080.1

\* USACE 404/RWQCB 401

Redacted





# Panoche-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring



## Project and Impacts

- \* Reconductoring 25 miles of transmission line on existing structures
- \* 68 tower raises
- \* Bio. impacts: Encroachment on burrowing owls at Helm sub
- \* Cultural Impacts: None
- \* Visual Impacts: Minor incremental changes

## Permitting

- \* Exempt under Section III.A ...placing of new or additional conductors...on or replacement of supporting structures already built
- \* ESA compliance managed through PG&E's SJVHCP
- \* Burrowing owl Protection Plan developed under the SJVHCP



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ENVIRONMENTAL VISION





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# Carizzo-Midway Project



## Project

- \* Reconductoring 35 miles of 230 kV transmission line
- \* Construction of two new switching stations

## Impacts

- \* Bio. Impacts: Habitat for BNLL, GKR, Kit Fox
- \* Cultural Impacts: Paleo and Cultural Resources – Cataloged and removed
- \* Visual Impacts: minor incremental changes

# Carizzo-Midway Project



## Permitting

- \* CPUC NOC
  - Exempt under Section III.B.1.f (larger project CEQA exemption)
- \* Two EIRs by San Luis Obispo County to cover the two solar projects driving the need for PG&E's work – found no significant unavoidable impact for this work
- \* NEPA review by DOE and ACOE
- \* Solar project BOs covered federal take permitting
- \* PG&E obtained a 2081 ITP from CDFG; half of project covered by SJVHCP



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# Lincoln-Pleasant Grove 60 kV Reconductoring Project



## Project and Impacts

- \* Reconductoring 7 miles of 60 kV line with conversion to 115 KV
- \* Replacement of all wood poles
  
- \* **Bio. Impacts:** minor for vernal pool crustaceans
- \* **Cult. Impacts:** None
- \* **Visual Impacts:** None

## Permitting

- \* **CPUC NOC**
  - \* Exempt under Section III.B.1.g. (existing easement)
- \* Programmatic BO for vernal pool crustaceans
- \* RWQCB 401 cert. required for USACE NWP 12
- \* MND by RWQCB

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# Valley Springs #1 60 Kv Power Line Relocation



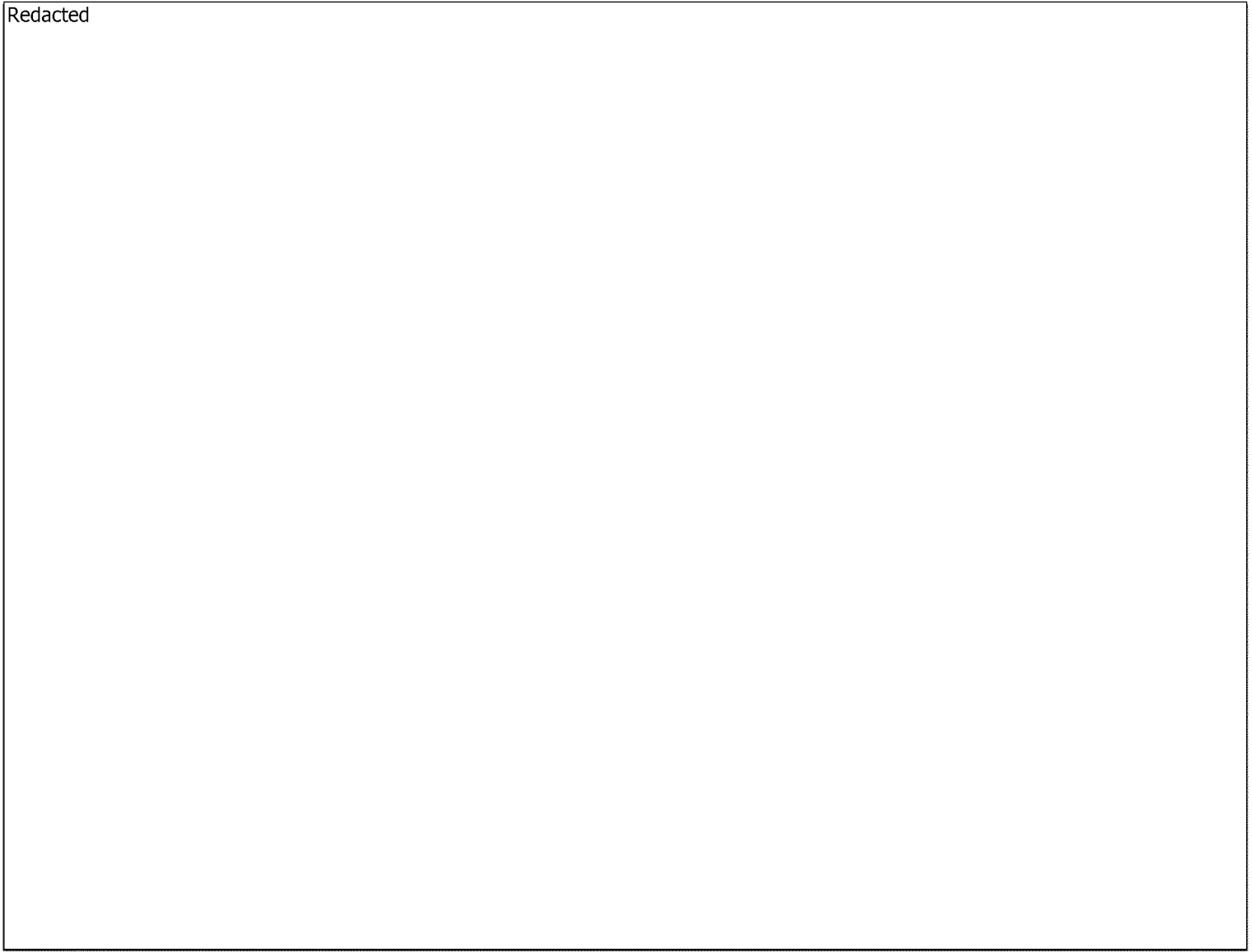
## Project

- \* Triggered by Caltrans' Highway 26 project
- \* Relocation of approximately 1,135 feet of 60 kV power line in San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties
- \* Replacement of five wood poles in existing franchise
- \* Pole height increases for clearance over new facilities

## Impacts and Permitting

- \* No bio, cultural or visual impacts.
- \* CPUC NOC
  - Exempt under Section III.B.1.c (minor relocation) and Section III.B.1.g (existing franchise)
- \* No other discretionary permits

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# Cottonwood-Benton 60 kV Pole Replacement



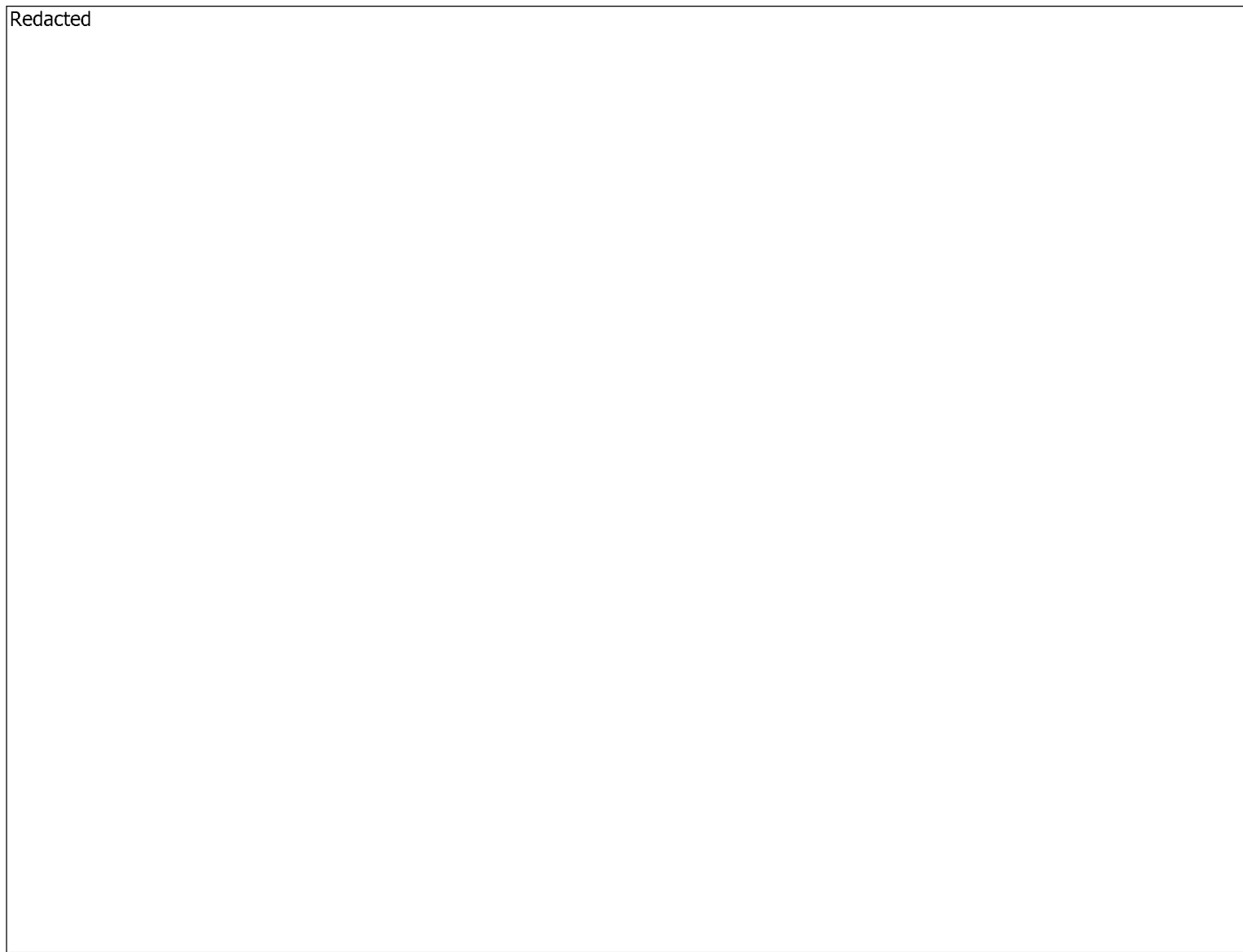
## Project and Impacts

- \* Replace 6 wood poles with wood or light-duty steel poles
- \* No biological, cultural, or visual issues

## Permitting

- \* No CPUC NOC
  - Categorically exempt from CEQA (replacement of existing facilities)
- \* No other discretionary permits
- \* PG&E coordinate with affected landowners

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# Oakland D Substation



## Project

- \* Install new 115/12 kV transformer bank
- \* Does not change high-side voltage of the substation
- \* Modifications within existing substation property

## Permitting

- \* No CPUC NOC or PTC
  - Substation modification
- \* No local discretionary jurisdiction
- \* No bio resource permits required



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