

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, and All Interested Parties

From: Lisa Orsaba, Environmental Project Manager

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Supplemental Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project in Sonoma County, California

Date: June 7, 2019

Project Background

On December 3, 2015, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed an application (A.15-12-005) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project (project) pursuant to General Order 131-D. The linear project alignment is 9.9 miles long and comprised of a Northern Segment (8.1 miles) and a Southern Segment (1.8 miles) located between Fulton Substation and Fitch Mountain Substation. The Northern Segment is in unincorporated Sonoma County and the Town of Windsor. The Southern Segment is in unincorporated Sonoma County and in the unincorporated community of Larkfield-Wikiup. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC prepared an Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project. On December 18, 2017, the CPUC issued a decision (D.17-12-012) to adopt the Final IS/MND (2017 Final MND) and approve PG&E's PTC application. The approved project included (1) replacing existing 60-kilovolt (kV) conductors and replacing 70 wood poles in the Northern Segment; (2) replacing existing 60-kV and 230-kV conductors and retaining 21 existing tubular steel poles (TSPs) in the Southern Segment; and (3) making modifications to Fitch Mountain Substation.

Following CPUC approval of the originally proposed project (D. 17-12-012), PG&E identified corrosion on the cross-arms of TSPs in the Southern Segment that could potentially cause cross-arm failure during reconductoring activities. On June 29, 2018, PG&E submitted a Petition for Modification (PFM) in accordance with Rule 16.4 of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure in which PG&E proposes to replace the 21 TSPs in the Southern Segment as part of the reconductoring process. The CPUC is required to issue a separate decision on PG&E's PFM because the proposed modifications are different than the approved project.

Construction of the Northern Segment is complete and has been constructed as proposed and approved by the CPUC. Construction of the Southern Segment has not been initiated.

Information Available

The CPUC has prepared a Draft Supplemental IS/MND pursuant to Sections 15162 and 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with PG&E's PFM that were not addressed in the 2017 Final MND. Consistent with the 2017 Final MND, the Draft Supplemental IS/MND addresses the environmental impacts of PG&E's proposed modifications. All potentially significant impacts would be similar to those addressed for the approved project and would be avoided or minimized with the application of mitigation measures.

The Draft Supplemental IS/MND is available for download via the project website:

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/Fulton-Fitch/Fulton-Fitch.html>

This website will be used to post public documents during the environmental review process and will provide important updates regarding CPUC decisions.

Copies of the Draft Supplemental IS/MND may be requested by email at fulton2fitch@panoramaenv.com or by phone at (650) 373-1200. Printed copies are also available for review at the following locations:

Windsor Regional Library
9291 Old Redwood Highway Building 100
Windsor, CA 95492

Central Santa Rosa Library
211 E Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Public Comments on the Draft Supplemental IS/MND

The Draft Supplemental IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period from June 15 through July 15, 2019. During this period, interested parties may submit written comments regarding the proposed modifications and the adequacy of the Draft Supplemental IS/MND. Comments should be submitted via email, U.S. mail, or fax to the following:

Email: fulton2fitch@panoramaenv.com
U.S. Mail: California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.
717 Market Street, Suite 650
San Francisco, CA 94103
Fax: (650) 373-1211

Comments received or postmarked by July 15, 2019 will be addressed when preparing the Final Supplemental IS/MND. The CPUC will not consider anonymous comments. The CPUC will honor requests for confidentiality to the extent allowed by law. Such requests should be clearly stated at the beginning of the comment. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be publicly disclosed in their entirety.

Public Meeting

The CPUC will hold a public meeting to help interested parties understand PG&E's proposed modifications, the findings presented in the Draft Supplemental IS/MND, and how to participate in the CPUC's decision-making process. Written comments may be submitted in person during the meeting. The meeting schedule and location are provided below:

Schedule: Tuesday, June 18, 2019; 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: San Miguel Elementary School, Multipurpose Room
5350 Faught Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403