

To:

Office of Planning and Research  
For U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd Suite C-220  
Contact: Heather Elder  
Phone: 909-980-8607

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2018061004

Project Title: Newberry Springs Line 300 A & B and Ridgecrest Line 311 Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-033-06 (ITP) and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2018-0025-R6 (LSA))

Project Location: Lines 300 A and B: two parallel 36-inch high-pressure natural gas pipelines that run from the California/Arizona border to the San Francisco Bay Area. Approximately 227 miles of the pipelines are within the Mojave Desert region and are located within portions of San Bernardino and Kern counties. The eastern ends of Lines 300 A and B begin at PG&E's Topock Compressor Station in San Bernardino County, which is approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Needles, along the Colorado River. The pipeline routes proceed west for approximately 172 miles and pass through the communities of Essex and Daggett, the City of Barstow, and PG&E's Hinkley Compressor Station; the compressor station receives and moves natural gas west through the pipelines. After PG&E's Hinkley Compressor Station, the pipelines then continue for approximately 56 miles to the City of Mojave in Kern County. The pipelines are located approximately 15 miles south of Interstate (I-) 40 and parallel I-40 from the Colorado River to the City of Barstow, then proceed parallel to State Route (SR-) 58 to Mojave. Lines 300 A and B receives gas from four interstate pipelines and also interconnect with Southern California Gas Company facilities. Line 311: is a 13-inch high-pressure natural gas pipeline that crosses portions of San Bernardino and Kern counties. Pipeline begins at Line 300 A at the intersection of SR-58 and SR-395 near Kramer Junction in San Bernardino County. Line 311 travels north for approximately 24 miles along SR-395 and then continues north along Trona Road. The pipeline splits at milepost 43, with one section continuing toward the City of Trona and the other section continuing to its endpoint near the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County.

Project Description: Line 300 A & B: The project involves hydrostatic testing and In-Line Testing (ILI) activities along Lines 300 A and 300 B. A hydrostatic test is performed by using water as the test medium. These project activities would allow PG&E to find pipeline defects that could subsequently cause a rupture of leak. Hydrostatic testing activities would be conducted in four segments along Line 300 A and four segments along Line 300 B, ILI would occur at ten locations along approximately 130 miles Lines 300 A and 300 B. ILI activities would involve modifications and upgrades of existing facilities and installation of permanent inspection facilities, which are further described in the In-Line Inspections section that follows. **Line 311:** Strength-testing activities would be conducted in three test segments along Line 311. If pneumatic testing is conducted on a subsegment, no hydrostatic testing would be required for that subsegment.

The Project will result in impacts to 127.5 acres of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, which are designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act and impacts to lake and streambeds under the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation. The LSA authorizes impacts to lake and streambeds.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as  the lead agency /  a responsible agency approved the above-described project on July 3, 2018 and made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [ will /  will not] have a significant effect on the environment (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a responsible agency).
2. [ An environmental impact report /  A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures [ were /  were not] made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was /  was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [ was /  was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings [ were /  were not] made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
  - Payment is submitted with this notice.
  - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.

**Notice of Determination**

Responsible Agency statement: The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at the office location listed above:

*Signature* Leslie MacNair *Date:* 7/3/18  
Leslie MacNair, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_