

**Notice of Exemption**

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
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Project Title: Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance (Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04)

Project Location: The Gas Line 301A and 301G Operations and Maintenance Project (Project) is comprised of four locations throughout San Benito County. Project activities will occur at five discrete Work Areas within the Project Area, which extends from northwest of the City of Hollister's city limits at its easternmost extent, to northwest of the City of San Juan Bautista at its westernmost extent. The easternmost site is a Work Area at 36.864° latitude, -121.443° longitude, the westernmost Work Area is located at 36.879° latitude, -121.580° longitude.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has issued Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04, pursuant to Section 2081 subdivision (b) of the Fish and Game Code (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2) to Pacific Gas and Electric Company to incidentally take California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) which is listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G Code 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(3)(G).

The Project includes three interrelated inspection, maintenance, and upgrade activities along two gas transmission lines. Project activities include direct assessment of excavated portions of the pipeline as well as casing removal and remediation. The Project will involve multiple excavations to inspect, maintain and upgrade various lengths of pipeline ranging from 10 feet to 81 feet in length. Excavations will range in size from 9-foot by 10-foot up to 10-foot by 44-foot along 206 feet of pipeline. The entire Project Area including Work Areas and access roads will temporarily impact 2.24 acres of upland habitat. It is estimated that Project activities will take seven months to complete and are planned to begin in 2019 and extend until October 31, 2023.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

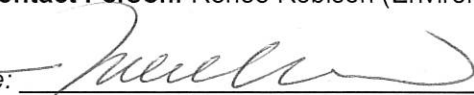
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Adam Cleary, Manager-Gas Transmission, 1455 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93710

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15282, subdivision (k); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080.21
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Renée Robison (Environmental Scientist), 559-243-4014, ext. 274

Signature: 
Julie A. Vance,
Regional Manager, Central Region

Date: 8/29/19
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: AUG 29 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Notice of Exemption Attachment

Project Title: Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance (Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04)

Current Situation: To comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 112-E, which incorporates the United States Department of Transportation regulations provided by Title 49, Part 192 (Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline) of the Code of Federal Regulation, Permittee is required to maintain, inspect, and repair their natural gas transmission infrastructure. In addition, Public Utilities Code (PUC) §§ 961 and 963(b)(3) state that it is the “policy of the state that the commission and each gas corporation place safety of the public and gas corporation employees as the top priority.” Further, PUC § 961 mandates that gas operators must go beyond what is considered “adequate” to develop and implement gas safety plans that are “consistent with best practices of the gas industry.” On April 20, 2012, the CPUC amended the scope of the Pipeline Safety Rulemaking to include compliance with the requirements of PUC §§ 961 and 963.4. The CPUC further directed each California natural gas corporation to develop and implement a plan for the safe and reliable operation of its gas pipeline facilities. The purpose of Permittee’s proposed action is inspect, maintain, and upgrade activities along three transmission lines to maintain safety and reliability of its infrastructure.

Reasons why project is exempt: Approval of this Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 18 Statutory Exemption §15282 (k) “The installation of new pipeline or maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline as set forth in Section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length”; as well as Pub. Resources Code, §21080.21, “This division does not apply to any project of less than one mile in length within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way for the installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline.” “Pipeline” includes subsurface facilities but does not include any surface facility related to the operation of the underground facility.” (Pub. Resources Code, §21080.21). This Project involves excavations to inspect, maintain, and upgrade is transmission infrastructure.

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AUG 29 2019

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