

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-033-04 ITP for the R-1134 L-301A/301G Pipe Replacement & Removal Project

Project Location: The R-1134 L-301A/301G Pipe Replacement & Removal Project is located at 36°51'47.85"N, 121°24'36.65"W near Hollister, California. Two staging areas are located at 430 Gateway Drive and 1619 4th Street, in Hollister, San Benito County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit (ITP), No. 2081-2019-033-04, to permit Pacific Gas and Electric Company to incidentally take California tiger salamander, which is listed as threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(3)(G)).

The ITP authorizes take of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), a species listed as threatened pursuant to CESA for activities associated with the R-1134 L-301A/301G Pipe Replacement & Removal Project, including excavation, pipeline removal and replacement, site habitat restoration, and other related activities. The installation of the replacement pipeline segment will include the following general sequence of activities: 1) remove the remaining abandoned and overlapping segment of L-301G on Park Hill to make way for removal and replacement of L-301A; 2) install and tie in a new section of L-301A parallel to the active segment of L-301G to mitigate fault risk; and, 3) once the new L-301A segment has been tied in, remove the old section of L-301A.

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, 6111 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, California 94583.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. Public Resources Code Division 13 Environmental Quality, Section 21080.21
- Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Craig Bailey (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Supervisory), 559-243-4014, extension 227

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____ Date: 9/29/2020

Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager, Central Region

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: Sep 29 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-033-04 R-1134 L-301A/301G Pipe Replacement & Removal Project

Approval of this Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, title 14, Article 18, Statutorily Exemption section 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 Public Resources Code, section 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 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(a)).

The proposed Project includes 1) remove the remaining abandoned and overlapping segment of L-301G on Park Hill to make way for removal and replacement of L-301A; 2) install and tie in a new section of L-301A parallel to the active segment of L-301G to mitigate fault risk; and, 3) once the new L-301A segment has been tied in, remove the old section of L-301A. The total linear length of pipeline associated with this project is 1,800 feet.

Project activities include vegetation clearing, grading, excavation, backfill and compaction, equipment movement, construction, and other activities. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-033-04. Measures include: 1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; 5) permanent habitat protection; and 6) site restoration.