

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 (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2020-056-04 for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Dolan Road Substation Fence Replacement (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located at 12000 Dolan Road (APN 133-171-005-000), near Moss Landing, within the County of Monterey. The Project is located approximately 0.86 miles east of Highway 1 at approximately 36°48'1.08" N, 121°46'8.84" W.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a CESA (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) ITP to authorize Pacific Gas and Electric Company to incidentally take California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) 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 Project includes emergency substation maintenance activities at Dolan Road Substation. The substation grounding is non-compliant and possess significant risk of electric shock to individuals who come in contact with conductive structures located within the substation boundaries including the substation fence. Project activities consist of the placement of a temporary security fence, grading and site preparation, installation of an erosion/no-dig barrier, replacement the old fence with a new non-conductive fence topped with barbwire, and scour pads. The Project is expected to result in the permanent loss of 0.06 acres of California tiger salamander habitat and temporary impacts to 0.019 acres of California tiger salamander habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Don Triplett, Principal Land Consultant, 1455 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93710.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b); Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(2)
- 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:

 Signature: _____ Date: 12/24/2020
 for Julie A. Vance,
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-056-04 Pacific Gas and Electric Company Dolan Road Substation Fence Replacement (Project)

Approval of this Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 *et seq.*) because the Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b), “Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare” and Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(2), “Emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service”. “Emergency” is defined as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services” (Pub. Resources Code, § 21060.3).

On November 30, 2020, results of a Grounding Analysis were reported to Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Environmental Planning and Permitting Department, indicating that the existing ground grid does not meet IEEE Guide for Safety in AC Substation Grounding (P80). Electric shock potentials in excess of allowable limits may exist on grounded objects within the substation yard as well as at the chain-link fence. This poses a significant risk of electric shock to individuals who come in contact with conductive structures, including the substation fence, located within the substation boundaries. To correct these safety concerns, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company will immediately install a non-conductive fence around the substation yard and will also install additional ground wells (within the substation) to mitigate potential shock hazard. This work includes grading of soil around the substation perimeter, prior to installation of scour pads and erosion/no-dig barriers to prevent future erosion and creation of gaps below the fence line where trespassers have the opportunity to access the site.

The proposed Project includes 1) installation of a temporary security fence; 2) grading and site preparation; 3) installation of a concrete erosion/no-dig barrier; 4) replacement of the current fence with a non-conductive fence topped with barb wire; and 5) installation of scour pads.

Project activities include: fence installation, scraping, grading, excavating/trenching, pouring concrete, auguring, and other activities. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-0456-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.