



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name (if applicable):</b> D-1370A L-197A MP 37.45 Casing Remediation	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 10-CAL-12	<b>PM/PM:</b> 16.033
<b>EA:</b> N/A	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), in coordination with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes casing remediation at an existing gas transmission line that crosses State Route (SR) 12 at post mile 16.033, in Calaveras County. The scope of work includes excavating two (2) bell holes to expose each end of the existing 16" diameter casing pipe. Shoring will be installed, and a visual inspection of the casing ends will be completed. Any necessary repairs will be directed by the PG&E Engineer. The casing will be gel filled and the project site will be restored. The purpose of this project is to inspect and remediate any casing deficiencies. The project is needed to ensure integrity and functionality of the transmission line into the future. PG&E has applied for an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans District 10 for the work within Caltrans Right of Way.	

**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA


Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class 1.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
  - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

Elizabeth Hummel (Acting)		10/13/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Francisco Rodriguez		10/14/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date



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**Caltrans NEPA Determination** (Check one)

**Not Applicable**

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See [SER Chapter 30](#) for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

**23 USC 326:** Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)**
- 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)**
- Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans**

**23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

Print Name	Signature	Date
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**Project Manager/ DLA Engineer**

Print Name	Signature	Date
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**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** N/A  
**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** See Continuation Sheet

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



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### Continuation sheet:

#### **General:**

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

#### **Cultural:**

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
  1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
  2. Protect the discovery area
  3. Notify the Permit Engineer
  4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

#### **Biology**

- If construction occurs during migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), a preconstruction bird survey will be completed by a qualified biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction related activities. If an active nest is discovered, a 100-foot protective buffer will be established around it. If an active hawk nest is discovered, a 300-foot protective buffer will be required. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is discovered, a 600-foot protective buffer will be required. No construction related activities will occur within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged. If work does not commence within 14 days of the preconstruction bird survey clearance, or if work halts for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey will be required prior to the commencement or recommencement of any construction related activities.