

**Notice of Exemption****- 1 -****To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Region 1 - Northern  
 601 Locust Street  
 Redding, California 96001

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Coal Creek Tributary Stream Crossing Upgrade (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SHA-37696-R11)

**Project Location (include county):** The project is located a spring-fed tributary to Coal Creek on PG&E property in Lakehead, Shasta County, California, 96051; Latitude 40.842273, Longitude -122.326005; Assessor's Parcel Number 135-45-048D-3.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SHA-37696-R11, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), as represented by Sam Silver.

The scope of construction activities authorized by this Agreement (Project) is limited to the replacement and improvement of an existing stream crossing damaged in the 2021 Salt Creek Fire that provides access to PG&E electric transmission line facilities. The existing crossing consists of two defunct culverts (24 and 18-inch) at an unnamed intermittent spring-fed tributary to Coal Creek. The stream is not finfish-bearing, but demonstrates habitat values for amphibians and mollusks. The culverts will be replaced with a rock-armored vented ford designed by an engineer to overtop during >two-year flood events and to withstand 100-year stormflows without diverting the stream. An 18-inch culvert will be installed to pass baseflows. The culvert inlet will be armored with six-inch rock slope protection (RSP) and the outlet will be armored with 12-18-inch RSP.

The project also includes the installation of bioengineered bank stabilization upstream of the inlet to support culvert functionality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and improve aquatic habitat. Large woody debris (LWD) consisting of root wads will be buried in the bank and incorporated into the RSP at the culvert inlet.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** PG&E

**Exempt Status:**

Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. Type – **Class 2; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302 (c)**, Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. (c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Categorical Exemption. Type – **Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304**, Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

**Reasons why Project is exempt:** The Project will replace an existing, defunct culverted stream crossing with a culverted vented ford crossing of substantially the same purpose and capacity. Minor alterations in the condition of land and water for the purposes of bank stabilization and habitat enhancement, not involving the removal of trees, will also occur.

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**CDFW Contact Person:** Helen Bowman (Environmental Scientist): (530) 485-2889,  
[R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov)

DocuSigned by:

Signature: Curt Babcock

Date: 5/22/2023

Curt Babcock, Interior Habitat Conservation Program Manager

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