

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sacramento

From: (Public Agency): _____
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(Address)

Project Title: Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Maintenance

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Project Location - Specific:

Dry Creek Road, south of Collins Lake Dam towards the UCCE Sierra Foothills Research and Extension center

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Yuba

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Maintain existing road to provide access to inspect electrical transmission lines in Yuba County within the Daugherty Hill Wildlife area. Road maintenance will be limited to original road surface, with grading and addition of rock to improve road resiliency with no expansion of existing or former use.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CDFW

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Title 14 CEQA 15301- Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

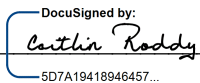
This project is exempt due to the scope of work exclusively including maintenance of existing facilities (access road through Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area. This project involves no expansion of use and no work in waterways. (15301 c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Caitlin Roddy Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 591-8959

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  Date: 9/21/2023 Title: Env. Program manager I

☐ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



Heather Co
Senior Land Planner
 Environmental Management,
 Electric Transmission

2730 Gateway Oaks Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95818
 Office: (916) 764-1335

September 1, 2023

Dustin Wallis
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 North Central Region 2

Subject: PG&E Access Road Maintenance on Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) staff met with Dustin Wallis (CDFW) on April 12, 2023 to discuss proposed access road improvements on roads in the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area in Browns Valley, Yuba County. PG&E has tentatively scheduled work for October 2023. Work is only authorized on land owned by CDFW. After PG&E completes road work, CalFire plans to create a fuel break. PG&E staff met with Dustin Wallis, Alex Funk and Ian Boyd on August 30, 2023 for another site visit to discuss the project scope and determine permitting requirements. Work will occur in two phases; phase 1 will include short term fixes to the road prism to enable safe access for 2023, while phase 2 will include more substantial fixes to the road prism sometime in 2024.

Phase 1: PG&E is proposing routine vegetation management and road work along the Palermo-Colgate 230kV transmission line. Yellow lines in Figure 1 indicate vegetation and road work, red lines indicate no work, just access. PG&E will masticate the green line in Figure 1, additional work requested by CDFW on 6/5/2023. Work will use a combination of hand tools such as chainsaws, and mechanical mower/masticator on either skid steer or mini excavator to remove vegetation. Road crew will utilize dozer, water truck, grading tractor and excavator to grade road smooth and add water drainage features where needed to prevent and mitigate erosion issues. Work will stay within the existing road prism.

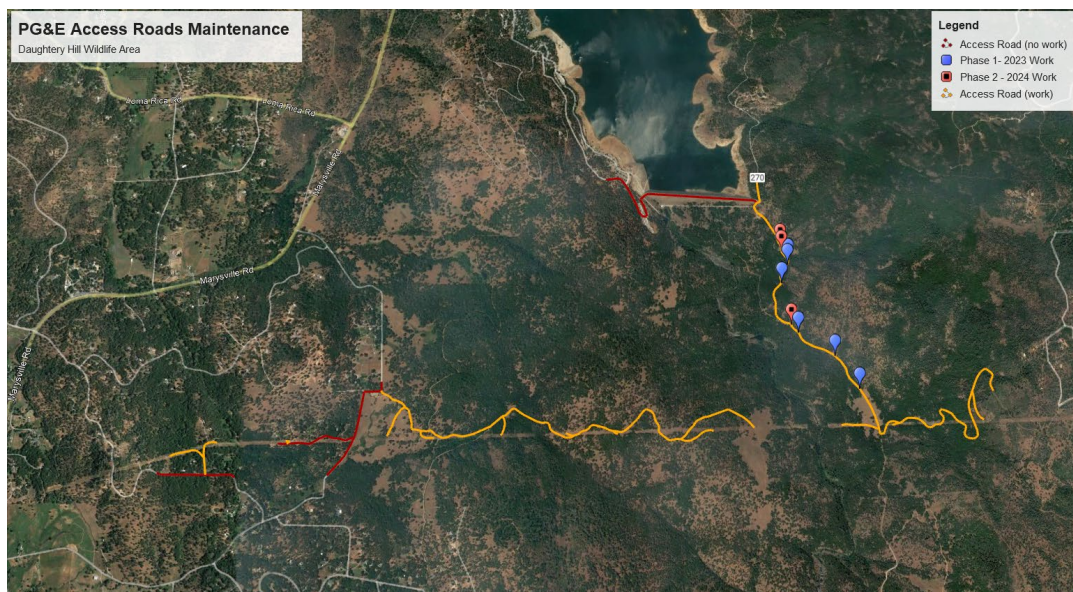


Figure 1. Map of Project Area

The following includes what work will occur in more detail with photos at the pinned locations:



Location 1: 24" steel culvert. Culvert is clear but shows erosion on the outlet side above culvert. During site visit, we established no work will occur in 2023. Further scope of work at this location will be determined in Spring 2024.





Location 2: 12" concrete culvert. Culvert is clear but shows erosion on the outlet side above culvert. During site visit, we established no work will occur in 2023. Further scope of work at this location will be determined in spring 2024.



Location 3: 30" steel culvert. The culvert itself seems to be flowing and functioning however the outlet side of the culvert is eroding away. Use large rip rap to armor edge of road way cap over the culvert outlet (area in blue polygon). Rock will be placed within road prism with smaller 3x5 rip rap to avoid future erosion. Crews will use hand tools to remove vegetation growing above culvert outlet. Work to occur during Phase 1. Phase 2 work will include a plan for a more long-term stable solution.



Location 4: Just above crossing 3, during storm event this area had a lot of water flow that was running down the road and into the culverted area, this could have been the cause of some of the erosion at the culvert. Create swale/rolling dip and armored lead out with 3x5 rock. Work to occur during Phase 1.





Location 5: Low point in road that stays wet after rain events. For Phase 1, rock will be hand stacked to an eroded area on the edge of the road (area in blue polygon). Phase 2 work will include a plan for a more long-term stable solution.



Location 6: Low point drain that is causing a little bit of erosion on the fill side of the road. No work for Phase 1. Phase 2 work will include a plan for a more long-term stable solution in spring 2024.



Location 7: Small channel running across road. Erosion on the outlet side has created a large hole. Phase 1, install large rip rap to fill hole and prevent further erosion (area in blue polygons). Add additional rock to road prism. No grading. Phase 2 work will include a plan for a more long-term stable solution in spring 2024.





Location 8: Native rocky crossing thru road that has eroded away the fill side of road. Phase 1, install large rip rap armoring to fill in erosion and cap with smaller rock to prevent further erosion (area in blue polygons). No grading or keying in rock will occur.



Location 9: native crossing is eroding the roadbed. Phase 1, use large rip rap to fill in erosion on fill side of road (area in blue polygon).

As mentioned above, PG&E is proposing to start road maintenance work in October 2023. The purpose of this work is to provide safe and reliable access to PG&Es electric transmission facilities. The project location is a Tier-2 area on the California Public Utilities Commission Fire-Threat Map, meaning an elevated risk. PG&E would like to complete work while working conditions are safe and there is less threat of red flag warnings. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Heather Co

Attachment:

A – Project Map

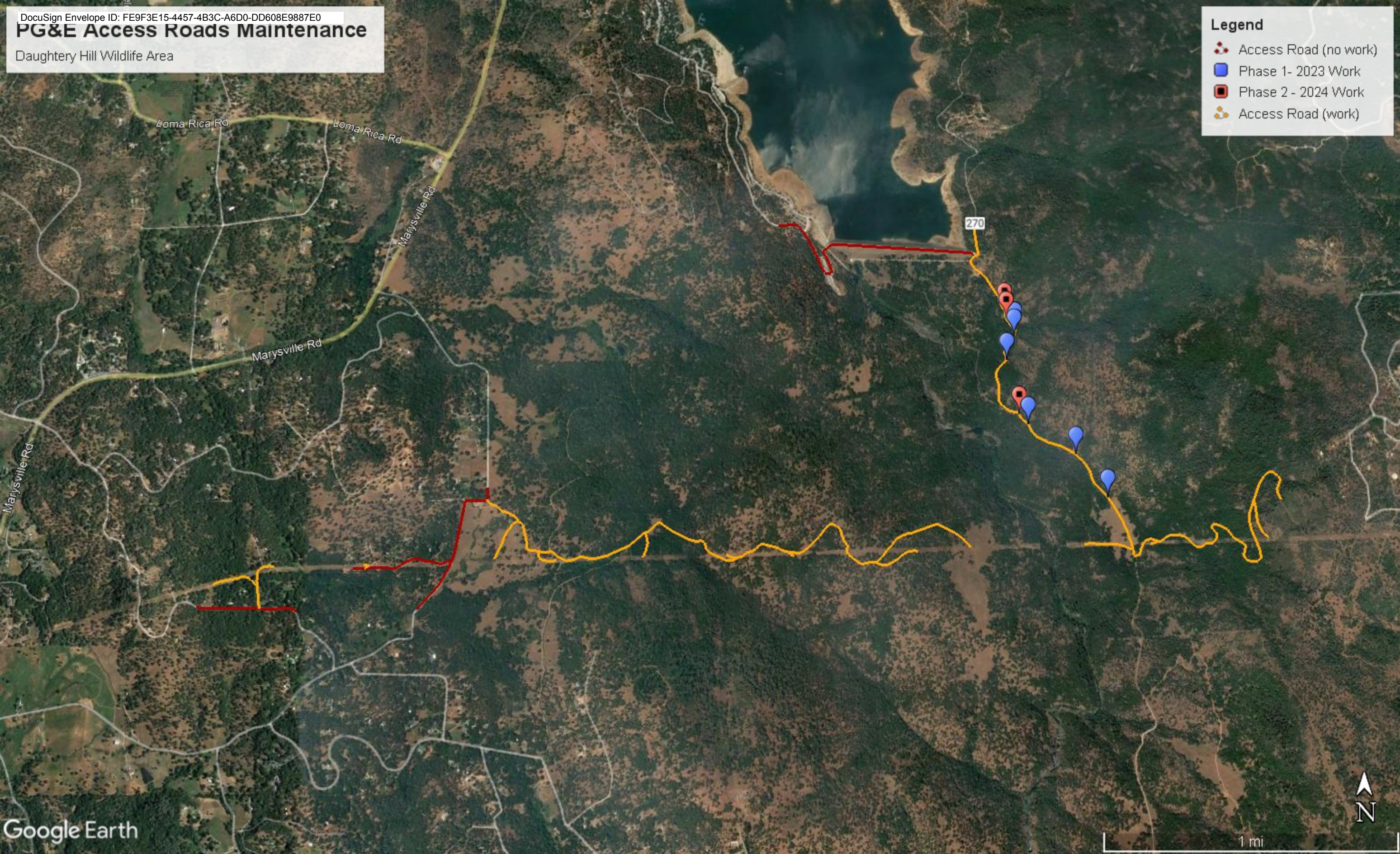
Project Map

PG&E Access Roads Maintenance

Daughterly Hill Wildlife Area

Legend

-  Access Road (no work)
-  Phase 1- 2023 Work
-  Phase 2 - 2024 Work
-  Access Road (work)



PG&E Access Roads Maintenance

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area

Legend

-  Access Road (no work)
-  Phase 1- 2023 Work
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