Notice of Exemption

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

From: 500 South Main Street
Bishop CA. 93514

Project Title: State Route 178 Tree Removal

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location - Specific: State Route 178 North of China Lake

Project Location - City: Ridgecrest Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

In order to maintain safe and reliable natural gas service and mandated clearance to comply with federal and state regulatory requirements for public safety, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) proposes vegetation management along PG&E gas transmission line DREG5456, located within or adjacent to California Department of Transportation right-of-way in Kern County. Work includes the removal of two trees.

Ground disturbance may be required due to stump grinding at each tree removal location. Herbicide will be used as needed. Work-generated debris up to approximately 4 inches in diameter and within 100 feet of a road will be chipped in areas with wood-chipper accessibility, broadcast where allowable, or hauled to the appropriate disposal site. Debris that cannot be chipped will be lopped and scattered to a depth not to exceed 18 inches. Woody debris greater than approximately 4 inches in diameter will be left on site. Cleared vegetation and woody debris (including chips) will be disposed of in a manner to ensure they do not enter surface water or a watercourse.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Dept of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas & 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: Class 4 (Section 15304)

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
Immediate removal is necessary to prevent potential power outages, infrastructure damage, and wildfire ignition risks. Because the work is needed to prevent or mitigate an emergency and to protect public infrastructure and essential services, it meets the criteria for exemption as an emergency action under CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Stephen Pfeiler Phone number: 760-874-8329

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: Stephen Pfeiler Date: 10/8/2025 Title: Environmental Branch Chief

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

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