Docusign Envelope ID: 721CDC73-2BE9-430F-BCBC-111B37966B48

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

From: CA Dept. of Water Resources
SLFD 31770 Gonzaga Rd
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 4 PG&E Transmission Line Guard Structure Installations

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur at two sites on the right side (R) of California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) Reach 4, in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW). The work sites are at Aqueduct milepost (MP) 92.40R (36.860803, -120.775048 and 36.860894, -120.775139) and MP 93.05R (36.852480, -120.767368).

The northernmost site, MP 92.40R, is approximately 1.27 miles northwest of the intersection of the Aqueduct and W. Nees Avenue; the southernmost site, MP 93.05R, is approximately 0.32 miles northwest of the intersection of W. Nees Avenue and Paul Negra Road (also known as First Lift Canal Road).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: PG&E will be conducting overhead transmission line work on existing towers. Most of the work will be done in the air using a helicopter, however, PG&E will install temporary guard structures on the ground in the DWR ROW. The guard structures are safety features designed to catch transmission lines that could fall to the ground during work and will consist of wooden poles with accessories for catching overhead wires. Two guard structures will be installed within 12 to 15 feet of each other at MP 92.40R; one guard structure will be installed at MP 93.05R. PG&E vehicles may need to drive off established roads to access the work sites.

For both locations, the accessories for catching overhead wires will first be attached to the wooden poles. At MP 92.40R, an auger-mounted digger truck will drill two approximately two-foot diameter by eight-foot-deep holes, and a 45-foot-tall wooden pole, with the attached accessories, will be installed in each hole. At MP 93.05R, one approximately two-foot diameter by eight-foot-deep hole will be drilled, and a 45-foot-tall wooden pole, with the attached accessories, will be installed in the hole. Once the poles are installed, the area around the guard structures will be backfilled and compacted.

PG&E will remove the guard structures when the transmission tower work is complete; the holes left by the removed poles will be backfilled and compacted to match the original grade. Work is necessary to protect the public while PG&E conducts overhead transmission tower work. PG&E and the public will benefit.

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Exempt/Suspend Status:

☐ Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)

☐ Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)

☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])

☒ Categorical Exemption: 15305(b) – Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations (Issuance of minor encroachment permits) and 15301 (Existing Facilities)

☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: PG&E requests permission to perform overhead transmission line work on its existing transmission towers and install temporary guard structures in the DWR ROW. No expansion of existing use will occur, there will be no changes to land use or density, and work will occur in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent. DWR will issue an Encroachment Permit for this work. Categorical Exemptions 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) and 15301 (Existing Facilities) apply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Mark McDaniel **Telephone**: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Mark McDaniel **Date**: 11/6/2025 **Title**: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant