

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

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 2nd Street
Eureka, California 95501
Contact: Jonathan Hollis
Phone: 707-601-7237



Lead Agency (if different from above)
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, California 95825
Contact: Sarah Mongano
Phone: 916-574-1889

SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108*

State Clearinghouse Number: 2026020787

Project Title: Pacific Gas & Electric Company Rio Dell Feeder 35239524 Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-60863-R1C)

Project Location (include county): The Project is located within the Eel River, near the City of Rio Dell, County of Humboldt, State of California. The Project is located in Section 31, T2N, R1E, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Hydesville U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 205-181-011 and 052-111-011; latitude 40.510 N and longitude 124.112 W.

Project Description: The Project is limited to two borings (Eastern HDD and Western HDD), each of which will facilitate the installation of 1,400 feet of underground conduit for 12kV transmission lines under the Eel River using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) methods. Specialized drilling machines (American Auger DD-330 and DD-200 HDD Rigs) will be used to directionally bore the conduit along a subsurface path. HDD activities will involve the use of Work Areas established to the north and south of the river channel. These areas will require light vegetation mowing; no tree trimming or removal will be required. One working area will contain an entry pit and drilling equipment, while the other working area will contain the exit pit. In this case, two 11-foot by 11-foot bell holes will be excavated, one at each end of the planned underground route. At the entry pit, a steerable drill stem will be used to bore a pilot hole to the exit pit. A drill bit will be advanced, utilizing a bentonite-based drilling fluid with additives, until it reaches the receiving point. From the exit point a reamer will be affixed to the drilling pipe, enlarging the boring as the equipment is reversed for retrieval, concurrently pulling up 16-inch diameter high-density polyethylene casings through the enlarged boring under the Eel River. The bore pits will be filled and compacted after drilling is complete. Cover depth of the drill is anticipated to be a minimum of 50 feet beneath the streambed within the river channel. Materials, equipment, vehicle staging, and storage areas will be established within previously disturbed areas within PG&E's right-of-way or on private lands. Staging and storage areas will be situated to avoid discharge to the river and riparian area. Worksite access will be established via pre-existing access routes. Equipment required to perform the work includes: a backhoe; and excavator; a primary/pullback HDD rig; a secondary/intersect HDD rig; a 5,000 gallon vacuum truck with at least 400 feet of 4-inch diameter suction hose and sufficient disposal containers; a Vec-loader; a 1,000-gallon vacuum tank with pressure washer; and a mud recycling unit.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as ☐ the Lead Agency / ☒ a Responsible Agency approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

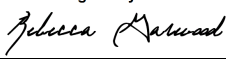
1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. A ☒ mitigated negative declaration / ☐ negative declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
CDFW considered the ☒ mitigated negative declaration / ☐ negative declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were / ☐ were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☐ was / ☒ was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.

6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081, subdivision (a).

The ☒ mitigated negative declaration / ☐ negative declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record related to the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

Signature



Date: 7/15/2026

Rebecca Garwood, Northern Region Coastal Habitat Conservation Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____