

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Project Title: D-1510B L-300A MP 425.4 ILI DIG (ID-603G-6) (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-48-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The D-1510B L-300A MP 425.4 ILI Dig (ID 603G-6) (Project) is located within the Diablo Range in central San Benito County, approximately 11 miles northwest of Panoche and approximately 15 miles southwest of Paicines. The Project sites are located within polygons located within Section 4, Township 15 South, Range 8 East and Sections 7 and 18, Township 15 South, Range 9 East; USGS 7.5-Minute Quad Panoche Pass MDB&M.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 2081-2025-048-04), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

The Project includes excavation, inspection, and repair of a 34-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline. The Project will also include additional excavations to access and ventilate the pipeline on either side of the repair site. Project activities will include vegetation removal, excavation, inspection of the anomaly in the pipeline, pipeline repair or replacement, backfill, and site restoration.

The pipeline is essential to meet gas delivery to a large number of customers, and outages will occur if the line is unable to function or operate with reduced pressure. Therefore, it is not feasible to delay inspection and repairs.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to 2.301 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

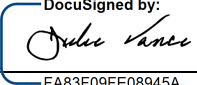
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Craig Geldard, Senior Manager, 6121 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, California 94583, (925) 951-3568, M7C9@pge.com.

Exempt Status:

- ☒ Statutory Exemption. to Public Resources Code §21080, subd. (b)(4)) California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15269, subd. (c)
☐ Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See attachment.

CDFW Contact Person: Jim Kitch, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), (559) 580-3198, James.Kitch@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  Date: 6/12/2026
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Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager, Central Region

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

**California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-048-04
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) D-1510B L-300A MP 425.4 ILI DIG
(ID-603G-6) (Project)**

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for “Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency” (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, § 21080, subd. (b)(4)) and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269, subd. (c)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). “Emergency” is defined as “A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services” (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.3).

PG&E conducted In-Line Inspection of Line 300A to determine if any anomalies or irregularities (e.g., dents, cracks, metal loss due to corrosion) were present. One anomaly was identified at the ID-603G-6 location. The purpose of the Project is to assess the condition of the pipeline at this anomaly location. PG&E will need to conduct an investigative dig (ID-603G-6) to excavate soil around the pipeline and conduct inspections to assess the condition of the pipe (direct assessment). Direct assessment activities include the evaluation of the anomaly along L-300A to determine whether damage of the pipeline is present and to make necessary repairs to the pipeline. The Project must begin immediately as required by state and federal regulations to repair the leak. Natural gas pipeline maintenance is required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 112 F. General Order 112 F incorporates the United States Department of Transportation regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49, Part 192, Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline, as well as the California Department of Water Resources California Well Standards Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90, to ensure a safe and constant supply of natural gas to customers.

Line 300A is a backbone gas line in the system. The pipeline is essential to meet delivery to a large number of customers, and outages will occur if the line is unable to function or operate with reduced pressure. Therefore, it is not feasible to delay inspection and repairs.

The Project includes excavation, inspection, and repair of a 34-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline. The Project will also include additional excavations to access and ventilate the pipeline on either side of the repair site. Project activities will include vegetation removal, excavation, inspection of the anomaly in the pipeline, pipeline repair or replacement, backfill, and site restoration. Project workspace will be returned to pre-Project conditions to the extent feasible and restored. Project is expected to temporarily disturb 2.301 acres of Covered Species habitat.

Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-048-04. Measures include:

1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.