EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), to analyze and disclose the environmental effects associated with the proposed Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Threemile Slough Pipeline Crossings Remediation and Decommissioning Project (Project). The Project would authorize Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E; Applicant) to remediate two active pipelines (L-131Y and L-131Z) within the bed of Threemile Slough with burial of rock materials, and removal of two inactive pipelines (L-131 East and West pipelines) from the bed and banks of Threemile Slough.

The CSLC prepared an MND because it determined that, while the IS identifies potentially significant impacts related to the Project, mitigation measures (MMs) incorporated into the Project proposal and agreed to by the Applicant will avoid or mitigate those impacts to a point where no significant impacts occur.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The Project area is located in unincorporated Sacramento County, California, approximately 2.2. miles southeast of the City of Rio Vista. For the Project vicinity, the Brannan Island State Recreation Area (SRA) is located to the north, State Route (SR) 160 is located 0.5 mile to the west, and rural agricultural lands of Sherman Island and Twitchell Island are located to the south and east (see **Figure 1-1**).

PG&E owns four natural gas transmission pipelines within the Project area. This includes the two inactive 10-inch pipelines, designated L-131 East and L-131 West, which were active until approximately 1989 to 1990 when they were replaced with two new gas transmission lines: L-131Y, a 12-inch pipeline, and L-131Z, a 10-inch pipeline. The Project would involve:

- Project area preparation and equipment mobilization.
- Remediation of the active L-131Y and L-131Z pipelines within Threemile Slough through placement of rock materials to achieve a minimum required depth of five feet.
- Removal of the inactive pipelines, L-131 East and West, from the bed and north and south banks of Threemile Slough.
- Post-construction restoration of the Project area and demobilization activities.

The Project includes three separate work areas (see Figure 2-1): the Brannan Island SRA Work Area; the Sherman Island Work Area; and the Threemile Slough Work Area. The Brannan Island SRA Work Area consists of limited-use public recreation sites and the north bank of Threemile Slough. The Sherman Island Work Area consists of the Sherman Island levee, Sherman Island East Levee Road, and private lands on the landside of the levee. The Threemile Slough Work Area would be within, and along the riverbed of, Threemile Slough, generally following the pipeline alignments.

Pre-construction surveys would be completed for the in-water work areas for assessment of existing conditions. Terrestrial site preparation activities would include mowing, vegetation removal, and trimming; installation of fencing, signage, notices, and warning buoys; and staging of temporary office trailers, sanitation facilities, and trash receptacles. Equipment mobilization would include delivery, preparation, and staging of terrestrial equipment, as well as mobilization of work vessels and equipment from the home port CS Marine in Mare Island.

Proposed remediation work would restore rock cover over the active L-131Y and L-131Z pipelines to 1990 as-built conditions to ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and to protect pipeline integrity. Remediation would include placement of crushed rock via a crane-deployed clam bucket from a derrick barge to achieve the prescribed minimum 5 feet of cover. Removal of the inactive L-131 East and West pipelines would consist of terrestrial and marine construction activities, including excavation, cutting, and removal of the pipelines within the Sherman Island levee bank, Brannan Island SRA waterside slope, and within Threemile Slough (see Figure 2-1). Once the terrestrial pipeline removal is complete, excavations would be backfilled, ~~and~~ compacted, and restored ~~using spoils removed during excavation. Topsoil and riprap removed would then be replaced to match pre-Project conditions~~. For marine excavation, materials would be side-cast along the riverbed and natural processes are anticipated to restore pre-Project contours over time.

During the Site Restoration and Demobilization phase, all construction materials, equipment, and debris would be removed from the terrestrial and marine work areas. A Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan would be implemented for revegetation of the Sherman Island and Brannan Island SRA Work Areas. Post-Project surveys of in-water work areas would also be performed, and the results would be compared to initial baseline surveys.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

This MND identifies potential significant impacts from the Project on the following environmental resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Cultural Resources – Tribal
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Impacts of the Project on the environmental resource areas below would be considered less than significant:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services

PG&E has agreed to the implementation of MMs that would reduce the potentially significant impacts to "less than significant with mitigation," as detailed in Section 3.0, *Environmental Checklist and Analysis*, of this MND.

Table ES-1 lists the proposed MMs designed to reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts. With implementation of the proposed MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Table ES-1. Summary of Proposed Project Mitigation Measures

Proposed Project Mitigation Measures
Aesthetics
MM AES-1: Night-Lighting Minimization
MM BIO-14: Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan
Air Quality
MM AQ-1: Implement SMAQMD Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices
Biological Resources
MM BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Training
MM BIO-2: Special Status Plant Avoidance
MM BIO-3: Biological Monitoring
MM BIO-4: Turbidity Monitoring Plan
MM BIO-5: Swainson's Hawk Nesting Season Avoidance or Preconstruction Surveys
MM BIO-6: Nesting Bird Season Preconstruction Surveys
MM BIO-7: Roosting Bat Avoidance
MM BIO-8: Giant Garter Snake Work Window and Preconstruction Surveys
MM BIO-9: Northwestern Pond Turtle (NPT) Preconstruction Surveys
MM BIO-10: Elderberry Shrub Avoidance Buffers
MM BIO-11: Elderberry Shrub Trimming
MM BIO-12: In-Water Work Window
MM BIO-13: HACCP and Decontamination Plan
MM BIO-14: Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan
MM BIO-15: Riparian Habitat Protection Measures
MM BIO-16: Replacement of In-Water Woody Debris
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
Cultural Resources
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains
Cultural Resources – Tribal
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains
Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
MM BIO-14: Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
MM AQ-1: Implement SMAQMD Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan

Proposed Project Mitigation Measures
MM HAZ-2: Asbestos Exposure Minimization
MM HAZ-3: Soil Testing and Disposal
MM HAZ-4: Bathymetric Surveys and Debris Removal Measures
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
MM TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan (Terrestrial)
Hydrology and Water Quality
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
MM BIO-4: Turbidity Monitoring Plan
MM BIO-14: Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
MM HAZ-3: Soil Testing and Disposal
MM HAZ-4: Bathymetric Surveys and Debris Removal Measures
Recreation
MM REC-1: Construction Noticing and In-Water Safety Measures
Transportation
MM TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan (Terrestrial)
MM REC-1: Construction Noticing and In-Water Safety Measures
Utilities and Service Systems
MM HAZ-2: Asbestos Exposure Minimization
Wildfire
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
MM TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan (Terrestrial)
Mandatory Findings of Significance
MM AES-1: Night-Lighting Minimization
MM AQ-1: Implement SMAQMD Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices
MM BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Training
MM BIO-2: Special Status Plant Avoidance
MM BIO-3: Biological Monitoring
MM BIO-4: Turbidity Monitoring Plan
MM BIO-5: Swainson's Hawk Nesting Season Avoidance or Pre-Construction Surveys
MM BIO-6: Nesting Bird Season Pre-Construction Surveys
MM BIO-7: Roosting Bat Avoidance
MM BIO-8: Giant Garter Snake Work Window and Pre-Construction Surveys
MM BIO-9: Northwestern Pond Turtle (NPT) Pre-Construction Surveys
MM BIO-10: Elderberry Shrub Avoidance Buffers
MM BIO-11: Elderberry Shrub Trimming
MM BIO-12: In-Water Work Window
MM BIO-13: HACCP and Decontamination Plan
MM BIO-14: Site Restoration and Riparian Mitigation Plan

Proposed Project Mitigation Measures
MM BIO-15: Riparian Habitat Protection Measures
MM BIO-16: Replacement of In-Water Woody Debris
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
MM HAZ-2: Asbestos Exposure Minimization
MM HAZ-3: Soil Testing and Disposal
MM HAZ-4: Bathymetric Surveys and Debris Removal Measures
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
MM REC-1: Construction Noticing and I-Water Safety Measures
MM TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan (Terrestrial)