



Linda S. Adams
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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY, WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION UNIT**

Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Gas Pipeline 303 In-Line Inspection Repair Project and CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification (certification).

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The State Water Board is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

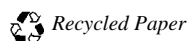
Project Location: The Project Area consists of three separate pipeline anomalies (Sites 1, 2, and 3). Anomalies are points where possible defects in the pipeline may exist. Sites 1 and 2 are located north and south of Camino Diablo Road, respectively, in Contra Costa County. Site 3 is located in Alameda County approximately two miles north of Interstate 580 and 0.45 miles west of Vasco Road near Livermore.

Description of the Proposed Project: The State Water Board acting as lead agency for CEQA compliance, provides this notice of a project by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to inspect and, if necessary, repair three anomalies identified by previous in-line inspections of a 36 inch diameter gas pipeline. The State Water Board also proposes to certify, with technical conditions, project activities that have the potential for discharge of dredged or fill materials to waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State.

As part of the verification of in-line inspection results, an external direct examination of the pipeline is required to gather data to validate the in-line inspection results and verify the integrity of the pipeline. As a result of the external direct examination, a repair may be made to restore the integrity of the pipeline. Each pipeline anomaly will require excavation of a 10 foot x 20 foot hole placed within a 50 foot x 50 foot work area. Soil from the excavation will be stockpiled alongside the pipe, within the work area and outside of any wetland areas. After the pipe has been exposed, examined and repaired, a protective epoxy coat will be applied and the pipe trench will be backfilled. The temporarily impacted areas will then be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Wetland features have been identified at Site 1. A seasonal wetland is located in the work area of site 1, and a vernal pool is located immediately to the east of this anomaly. The access route to Site 3 crosses a swale characterized by *Distichlis spicata* (salt grass) and *Juncus Balticus* (baltic rush) and *Eryngium vaseyi* (coyote thistle).

California Environmental Protection Agency



The proposed project would pose less than significant impacts to resources with Mitigation. A combination of avoidance, minimization and compensatory mitigation measures are proposed.

Public Review Period: The MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning Oct. 6, 2010. Written comments should be submitted no later than Nov. 5, 2010, to the following address:

Cliff Harvey, Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board
1001 I Street, 15th Floor, #55C
Sacramento, CA 95814

Copies of MND may be reviewed at the location below during normal business hours by contacting Cliff Harvey at (916) 558-1709 (CHarvey@waterboards.ca.gov) or online on the State Water Resources Control Board website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml#new):

State Water Resources Control Board
CalEPA Office Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Your views and comments on potential impacts of the project on the environment are welcomed.