



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 April 2020

Sam Danner
Pacific Gas & Electric
2730 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC, WEST SACRAMENTO-BRIGHTON 115 KV TOWER INVESTIGATIONS PROJECT (WDID#5A34CR00780), SACRAMENTO COUNTY

On 22 October 2019, the Central Valley Water Board received an Application for 401 Water Quality Certification from Pacific Gas & Electric (Applicant) for the West Sacramento-Brighton 115 kV Tower Investigations Project (Project). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the Project enroll under and comply with the General Water Quality Certification and Order of the United States Army Corps of Engineers 2017 Nationwide Permits (General Certification Order). The proposed activity will take place within less than 0.39 acre of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #6 (Survey Activities), subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the Nationwide Permit ("Special Conditions"). This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the [General Certification Order](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nw_p_go.pdf) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nw_p_go.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Order webpage and is enclosed.

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. The project is described in the application form, dated 22 October 2019 and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project is located within the American River floodplain along the West Sacramento-Brighton 115kV transmission line in Sacramento. The Project consists of conducting

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

geotechnical soils investigation at two transmission towers (008/049 and 009/059) and archeological subsurface testing at three transmission towers (008/049, 008/053, and 009/59). The project will temporarily impact up to 75 feet by 75 feet (0.13 acre) of wetland habitat at each tower. Rubber mats will be used within the work areas for vehicle/equipment staging.

Geotechnical investigations: One or two boreholes will be drilled at towers 008/49 and 009/059 with a hollow-stem auger, approximately 6-inch diameter on a truck mounted drill rig, inserted to a depth of 50 feet, displacing 0.36 cubic yards of native soil per bore. Borings are expected to encounter groundwater and or soft soils. All drilling fluid will utilize clean potable water and temporary steel casing may be used to advance the boring to the required depth or to stabilize the borehole. Each borehole will be backfilled with approximately 0.29 cubic yards of bentonite chips or cementitious grout and a minimum of 10 feet of native topsoil at the top of the bore (0.07 cubic yards of soil).

Archeological subsurface investigation: Coring or backhoe trenching will be performed at towers 008/049, 008/053, and 009/059. Backhoe trenching consists of excavating approximately 75 cubic yards of native soil per tower. Coring will be conducted using a truck-mounted hydraulic coring rig, approximately 6-inches diameter to a depth of 30 feet, to recover continuous core samples of subsurface deposits. Coring would remove up to 10.8 cubic yards of native soil. The holes left by coring will be backfilled with approximately 0.15 cubic yards of bentonite chips or cementitious grout and a minimum of 10 feet of native topsoil at the top of the core (0.07 cubic yards of soil).

The Project will temporarily impact 0.39 acre of waters of the United States. Approximately 2.9 cubic yards of bentonite chips or wet cementitious grout and 1.17 cubic yards of native soil will be placed into waters of the United States during naturally dry conditions. All soil disturbance areas would be returned to presurvey contours and conditions following completing of the project. The Project will adhere to Section XIII.H.7 in the General Certification Order.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES: To minimize the potential effects of construction on water quality and resources, the Applicant shall implement all applicable measures required as described in the General Certification Order. According to the Applicant, the following measures will be in place during construction activities to avoid, reduce, and minimize impacts to waters of the state:

- Work will occur between May 1 and September 30 (which is outside of the flood season for the American River) to avoid the potential for runoff.
- Minimize overland travel. When accessing work sites, limit travel and parking of vehicles and equipment to pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas.

- Minimize ground disturbance and vegetation removal. Ground disturbance and vegetation removal may not exceed the minimum amount necessary to complete work at the site.
- Prior to boring or excavation work is performed, a biologist will delineate the boundaries of aquatic resources for avoidance.
- Avoid nesting bird habitat. Work activities that occur during migratory bird nesting season (approximately February 15 -August 31) will abide by PG&E's Nesting Bird Management Plan.
- Develop a Hazardous Material Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP) before construction begins. The plan will include strict on-site handling rules to keep drilling and equipment materials from entering the river, including procedures related to refueling, operating, storing, and staging construction equipment; as well as preventing and responding to spills. The plan also will identify the parties responsible for monitoring the spill response. During construction, any spills will be cleaned up immediately according to the SPCCP.
- Equipment must be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking engine fluids. Perform all vehicle maintenance at least 300 feet from all drainages and wetlands. Conduct any necessary equipment washing where the water cannot flow into drainages, wetlands, or the river.
- Haul any construction spoils/materials to an approved off-site location for disposal.
- Isolate the work area from the river with plastic sheeting and berms to prevent spills or leaks of fuel, lubricants, drilling fluids, grout, or other contaminants from reaching the river.
- Properly train all crews in spill prevention and control measures and provide all necessary equipment to quickly control and clean up contaminant spills.
- Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB). Project activities that fall within the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) species range require a survey to be performed by a VELB Conservation Program trained Qualified Individual within 20 feet of the work area. All plants with 1 or more stems measuring 1 inch or more in diameter at ground level shall be flagged prior to work being performed. The VELB Compliance and Elderberry Identification brochure must always be carried in all vehicles performing O&M activities within the potential range of VELB. If impacts (pruning/trimming, removal, ground disturbance or other damage) are unavoidable or will occur, the crew shall follow the additional measures identified in the VELB utility Standard (ENV-7001S) and compliance brochure.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Township 9 North, Range 4 East, MDB&M

Latitude: 38°35'56.08"N and Longitude:121°28'24.12 W

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

1 May 2020 through 30 September 2020

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$ 1,638.00 was received on 22 October 2019. The remaining application fee balance of \$4,013.00 was received on 12 December 2019.

The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as category A - Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Angela Nguyen-Tan at (916) 464-0335 or Angela.Nguyen-Tan@waterboards.ca.gov .

Original Signed By James Marshall for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map
Figure 2: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 008/049
Figure 3: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 008/053
Figure 4: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 009/059

Enclosure: State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits General Water Quality Certification and Order

cc: [Via email only]

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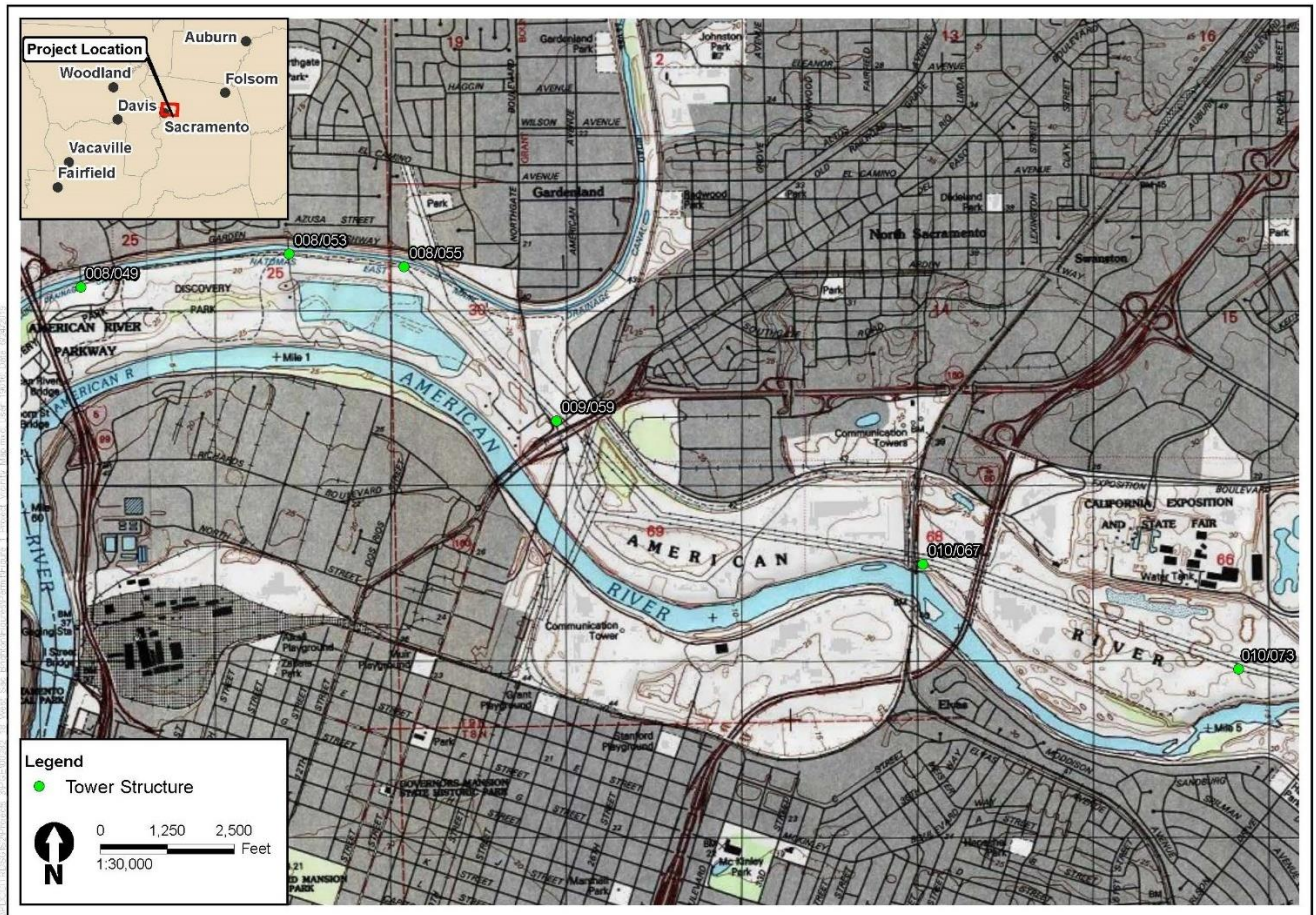


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 008/049



Figure 3: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 008/053



Figure 4: Impacts to Wetlands at Tower 009/059