

May 16, 2007

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
8490 Occidental Road High Pressure Regulator (HPR) Box Replacement
Project
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B07033WNSO)

On April 12, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the 8490 Occidental Road High Pressure Regulator (HPR) Box Replacement Project located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes temporary impacts to 0.003 acres of seasonal wetlands within the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.11.

The proposed project is located approximately 1 mile southeast of the town of Graton, at 8490 Occidental Road, Sonoma County, California, (APN. No. 130-270-011000). The latitude and longitude is 38.4251°N and -122.8568°W. The purpose of the project is to replace and move a gas-line High Pressure Regulator (HPR) box; this activity will bring the regulator up to current safety and reliability specifications.

The proposed project will remove wetland vegetation and temporarily remove wetland soil in the process of removing the 17" by 30" HPR box and gas-line inspection. Approximately 7-12 cubic yards of material will be excavated from this area. The activities are planned in an approximately 25 foot by 25 foot area on the North side of Occidental Road. The existing HPR box will be replaced with a new 17" by 30" box placed 10 to 12 feet north of the current site. Moving this box to an upland location will reduce the likelihood that future maintenance and upgrade activities will impact wetlands.

The site's wetlands do not support any listed or special status plant species, based on a habitat survey conducted on January 17, 2007. A second survey is scheduled in June 2007. The habitat is a roadside drainage ditch adjoining a mowed rural yard. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the wetland delineation performed by Mr. Joel Gerwein, botanist, and determined that up to 0.003 acres of seasonal wetlands present on-site are considered isolated, and are therefore under the jurisdiction of the State (June 8, 2005, Corps File Number 400394N).

Compensatory mitigation for the temporary impacts associated with removal and construction onsite at a ratio of 1:1. The goals of revegetation would be to 1) temporarily stabilize the soil to prevent erosion, and 2) return the wetland area to vegetation similar to that present before project construction. The criteria for

success is to obtain 85% of the original vegetation cover, measured by ocular estimates and photo-documentation, within three years of initial revegetation activities.

Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. Construction activities are proposed to take place between August 1st and October 15th, 2007.

The PG&E 8490 Occidental Road High Pressure Regulator (HPR) Box Replacement Project is scheduled to begin Summer 2007 and end in Fall 2007. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov, or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.