

August 31, 2012

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

**Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Gas Line 002 Dig Site at Shiloh Road  
WDID No. 1B12109WNSO**

Sonoma County

On June 6, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jim Sherar of Garcia and Associates on behalf of Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities with exploration and repair of a detected anomaly in a gas line in Windsor. Project is located adjacent to Pool Creek, near intersection of Shiloh Road and Golf Course Drive, Windsor, Sonoma County, latitude 38.52755°N, longitude 122.80002°W. The proposed project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 0.072 acres, of riparian wetlands of Pool Creek, Mark West Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.23, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is required to inspect and repair natural gas pipelines on a regular basis as mandated by Code of Federal Regulation 49, Part 192 Applicable Code Requirement: Part 192 Subpart "O": Pipeline integrity Management (192 through 192.951). In keeping with these regulations, PG&E has conducted an internal inspection of the pipeline and identified a pipe anomaly at this location. The purpose of this project is to repair this anomaly as needed, based on visual inspection.

PG&E proposes to excavate the pipeline and inspect the anomaly, in keeping with pipeline safety requirements. The excavation site is located about 100 feet from the south bank of Pool Creek within a riparian wetland area and will be accessed via overland route from Shiloh Road. PG&E will use a backhoe (or excavator) to expose the existing pipeline with an initial excavation measuring 8 feet wide and 12 feet long, and up to 12 feet deep. Additional excavations, up to 35 feet from the marked location, may be needed to locate the anomaly. The total maximum area of disturbance would be 35 feet wide and up to 70 feet long. Soils will be stockpiled adjacent to the trench with materials placed on tarps to reduce impacts to underlying vegetation. Following inspection, repairs to the pipe may be required and would take place before backfilling. In the event that the excavation would require dewatering, ground water will be treated for sediment and discharged into an upland area. Rock may be placed in the trench if groundwater is present for worker safety. Following inspection and repairs, the excavation would be backfilled with native soils and compacted in place. The soil will be stabilized with erosion control measures such as fiber rolls or jute netting. The inspection should be completed in three to five working days. PG&E plans to use the following equipment on the site: a backhoe (or excavator), work trucks, compressor,

and hand tools. PG&E proposes to excavate this site during the dry season, between June and October 15, 2012.

PG&E will restore area to original condition to extent possible, and plant replacement trees/shrubs, or agency approved equivalent, within the disturbed area. A restoration/replanting plan shall be submitted within 120 days of issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, will submit a Notice of Exemption for Categorical Exemption 15301(b)-Existing Facilities concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, and will file it with the State Clearinghouse, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification No. 1600-2012-0114-R3, from the California Department of Fish and Game. The Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit.

Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible since the extent of the anomaly in the gas line is unknown and to reduce the threat to public health and safety. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of public health and safety associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.