



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
Bob Anderson, Chairman**

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Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

August 12, 2009

In the Matter of  
Water Quality Certification  
for  
Mr. Bob Donovan  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Line 21E Dig Sites Project  
WDID No. 1B09071WNSO

APPLICANT: Bob Donovan, Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
RECEIVING WATER: Seasonal wetlands  
HYDROLOGIC AREA: Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, Russian River  
Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00  
COUNTY: Sonoma County  
FILE NAME: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Line 21E Dig Sites  
Project

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. June 3, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Michele Barlow of Insignia Environmental, on behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Line 21E Dig Sites Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. A fee in the amount of \$2,181.00 was received on the same day. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on June 8, 2009, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board's website. No comments were received.
2. The purpose of the Project is to meet Department of Transportation standards by investigating and repairing possible weak points in existing underground pipeline. The Project involves assessing and repairing anomalies in underground pipeline at three sites, located at 108 and 388 Lytton Station Road, southeast of the Town of Geyserville, and involves three separate locations at latitude 38.663961° N and longitude 122.873119° W; latitude 38.666139° N and longitude 122.873739° W; and 38.667739° N and longitude 122.874169° W. The Project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 0.56 acres of waters of the State associated with seasonal

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wetlands in the Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

3. The Applicant will expose the pipeline at each of the three sites by excavating an area of no more than 20 feet by 50 feet with a depth of approximately 12 feet. This will allow for the installation of shoring and possible repairs, which may include the placement of sleeves or mechanical bands on weak points. The excavations will be surrounded by approximately 100 foot by 100 foot square work areas which will be temporarily disturbed by equipment movement and sidecast soils. The Applicant will backfill all three excavations with the original native soil. The upper 12 inches of topsoil will be removed first, stored separately and replaced after the subsoil has been returned to the excavated areas. An approximately ten foot wide strip of land will be disturbed along the access paths to the three sites, totaling approximately 0.03 acres. A small temporary bridge will be placed over a drainage ditch to allow access to one of the three sites.
4. Compensatory mitigation consists of returning all three sites to preconstruction conditions. Applicant will re-apply the top layer of soil, bearing the wetland plants and seeds, back onto the disturbed areas after project excavation is complete. The Applicant will reseed or revegetate with native vegetation as necessary. There shall be no permanent impacts to delineated wetlands.
5. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be employed during construction to minimize sediment production and prevent the movement of loose soil off-site. Work activities will be conducted during the dry season. Ground disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary and all disturbed ground will be allowed to revegetate naturally by stockpiling the top 12 inches of soil from the excavation and replacing it at each finished excavation site. Silt fences or other erosion control measures will be used as necessary to avoid delivery of sediment into sensitive areas during construction. Additionally, all required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.
6. No special status plant or wildlife species were found on site and the Biological Survey conducted on February 27, 2009, determined that this project will be unlikely to cause impacts to the continued existence of such species.
7. Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit, Number 12, Utility Line Activities.
8. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, 15301. Existing Facilities, in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062.

9. Because the Project involves construction that may adversely affect waters of the State, the Regional Water Board has regulatory jurisdiction under Water Code Section 13269.

Receiving Water: Seasonal wetlands  
Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.25  
Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: 0.56 acres of temporary impacts

Latitude/Longitude: 38.663961° N and 122.873119° W; latitude 38.666139° N and 122.873739° W; and 38.667739° N and 122.874169° W

Expiration: August 12, 2014

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Line 21E Dig Sites Project (WDID No. 1B09071WNSO), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review; including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. This certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 2200, and owed by the Applicant.
4. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Order (Enclosed).
5. The Russian River watershed is identified on the State of California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. The Russian River is listed as impaired for sediment and temperature. Activities that impact the riparian zone and riparian vegetation are

identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures in the watershed. At present, there are no watershed specific total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of this Order, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of this Order to address actions identified in such action plans.

6. The Regional Water Board shall be notified in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.
7. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area. No rubbish shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any stream.
8. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities or any other project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water.
9. All activities and BMPs shall be implemented according to the submitted application and the conditions in this certification.
10. A copy of this Order and the application documents submitted by the Applicant for this certification shall be provided to all contractors and subcontractors conducting the work, and shall be in their possession at the work site.
11. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
12. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.
13. Prior to implementing any change to the project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the

Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

14. All project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
15. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
16. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.
17. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable State or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the Regional Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
18. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the Applicant, the Applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, and the address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board. The request must also describe any changes to the project proposed by the

successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the project as described in this Order.

19. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the Applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).
20. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on August 12, 2014. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

If you have any questions or comments please call Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.

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Catherine Kuhlman  
Executive Officer

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**Certified Return Receipt**

Enclosure: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ

Original to: Mr. Bob Donovan, Pacific Gas and Electric Company,  
245 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-1702

Copies sent to: Mr. Reynaldo Basurto, 108 Lytton Station Road,  
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