April 8, 2014

In the Matter of

Water Quality Certification

for

Pacific Gas and Electric T-325-14 Hydrotest Project

WDID No. 1B14018WNHU

APPLICANT:	Pacific Gas and Electric
RECEIVING WATER:	Wetlands
HYDROLOGIC UNIT:	Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00
COUNTY:	Humboldt
FILE NAME:	PG&E T-325-14 Hydrotest Project

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On September March 4, 2014, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) (Applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the PG&E T-325-14 Hydrotest Project (Project). The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on March 19, 2014, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board's website. We did not receive any public comments on the Project. The Project sites are located at approximately latitude 40.681287°N and longitude 124.199888°W, latitude 40.692851°N and longitude 124.196748°W, latitude 40.741624°N and longitude 124.181982°W, latitude 40.752794°N and longitude 124.179055°W. The Project will result in no permanent

impacts to waters of the US. The project will temporarily impact approximately 1.115 acres, waters of the US, Wetlands within the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

2. The primary purpose of the Project is to strength test a segment of gas pipeline to certify that it is operating within safe limits. The Project includes, access, staging, dewatering and excavation to install temporary bypass lines and facilitate access to the pipeline being tested within wetlands/waters of the US. Geo-textile or similar mats will be laid down at the site to facilitate access while minimizing disturbance to wetlands in the work area.

3. The Project is planned to take place between April and September 2014. Work is proposed to last approximately 90 days.

4. The Project will have only temporary impacts to waters of the US. The applicant proposes to restore the project site to pre-project conditions within one year of Project completion. The applicant has submitted a revegetation plan for restoration of temporarily disturbed areas. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

5. The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, Nationwide Permit No. 12.

6. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15301 (class 1b) Existing Facilities, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

7. Pursuant to Regional Water Board Resolution R1-2004-0087, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment-Impaired Receiving Waters within the North Coast Region (Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy), the Executive Officer is directed to "rely on the use of all available authorities, including existing regulatory standards, and permitting and enforcement tools to more effectively and efficaciously pursue compliance with sediment-related standards by all dischargers of sediment waste."

8. The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the State and federal antidegradation policies. This

Order is consistent with applicable federal and State antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater.

9. 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 water quality certification. (Weblink below)

Receiving Water:	Wetlands, Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00
Filled or Excavated Area:	Permanent impact to waters of the US: None Temporary impact to waters of the US: 1.115 acres of wetlands
Channel and Shoreline:	None
Fill Volume:	317 cubic yards
Latitude/Longitude:	40.681287°N / 124.199888°W 40.692851°N / 124.196748°W 40.741624°N / 124.181982°W 40.752794°N / 124.179055°W
Expiration:	April 8, 2019

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the PG&E T-325-14 Hydrotest Project (WDID No. 1B14018WNHU), 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:

All conditions of this order apply to the Applicant (and all their employees) and all contractors (and their employees), sub-contractors (and their employees), and any other entity or agency that performs activities or work on the Project as related to this Water Quality Certification.

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. The validity of this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the Applicant.

4. The proposed Project will have only temporary impacts to waters of the US. The applicant proposes to restore the project site to pre-project conditions within one year of project completion. The applicant shall implement the revegetation plan, *Restoration of temporarily disturbed areas* submitted with the application on March 4, 2014. Results of monitoring of the restored areas will be reported to the Regional Water Board. Reports shall summarize data collected, any remedial action necessary and whether success criteria are met. Reports are due by December 31, 2015.

5. Applicant shall prioritize the use of wildlife-friendly 100% biodegradable erosion control products/BMPs whenever feasible. For purposes of this Order, photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting or materials for permanent erosion control (i.e., erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the Project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, the Applicant shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. Applicant shall remove any remaining synthetic netting or materials remaining at the end of two years, or sooner.

6. BMPs shall be implemented as proposed in the application materials. 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. Severe and unseasonal rain events are becoming more frequent due to the effects of climate change. Therefore, BMPs shall be immediately available for deployment at all times to prevent discharges to waters of the state.

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.

8. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the Project site to document compliance with this certification.

9. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, lakes, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated Project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. 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.

10. 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. 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 action(s).

11. All Project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan. 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.

12. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies) conducting work on the Project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the Applicant to the Regional Water Board.

13. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the Project.

14. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the State including dry portions of the shoreline. At no time shall the Applicant or its contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

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. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, 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 for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State 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 Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.

17. 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. 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).

18. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on April 8, 2019. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order 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 Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.

Original signed by Fred Blatt for

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Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Weblink: 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 can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Original to: Mr. Chuck Morton, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 6111 Bollinger Canyon Road, Office 3230-D, San Ramon, CA 94583

Electronic copy to: Laurie Monarres, US Army Corps of Engineers, Laurie.A.Monarres@usace.army.mil