

March 19, 2014

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

**Pacific Gas and Electric T-325-14 Hydrotest Project  
WDID No. 1B14018WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On March 4, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the PG&E T-325-14 Hydrotest Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands within the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00. The Project sites are located at approximately latitude 40.681287°N, and longitude 124.199888°W, 40.692851°N, and longitude 124.196748°W, 40.741624°N, and longitude 124.181982°W, 40.752794°N, and longitude 124.179055°W. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. are proposed. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 1.115 acres of wetlands.

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.

The proposed Project will have only temporary impacts to waters of the state. The applicant proposes to restore the project site to pre-project conditions including revegetation of disturbed areas. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to take place between May 2014 and September 2014.

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.

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.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water

Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are 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 submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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