

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Pittsburg-Tesla 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, California.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is presenting for public review the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), including the Initial Study (IS), for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Pittsburg-Tesla 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project in Contra Costa County and Alameda County in California. **The public review and comment period for the MND will extend from October 21, 2011 to 12:00 noon on November 21, 2011.**

Background

In order to maintain service reliability and meet increasing electric load demands in the City of Pittsburg and surrounding areas in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, PG&E proposes to replace approximately 31 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Pittsburg and Tesla Substations. The line begins at Pittsburg Substation in the City of Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, California, which is located south of the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. After leaving the substation, the line runs south for approximately four miles, and then turns east-southeast for 13 miles, crossing Black Diamond Mines Regional Park, portions of the John Marsh State Historic Park, and Marsh Creek Reservoir and Dam. From there, the line turns southeast for 14 miles through Alameda County, where it crosses the western shore of Bethany Reservoir and Interstate 580 (I-580), and terminates at Tesla Substation in northern Alameda County. The project is located within or alongside areas with land uses which include industrial, residential, agricultural, recreational, and natural resource protection.

This project will minimize the potential for future power demand overloads and ensure service reliability to the East San Francisco Bay area. As part of this project, PG&E proposes to modify approximately 43 of 147 existing steel lattice towers. Of the 43 towers to be modified, approximately 4 towers will receive dead end conversions and approximately 39 towers will receive approximately 16.5 foot cage extensions. All modifications are above ground and no foundation improvements will be required. The work performed at the towers will be conducted by helicopter. Ground access to replace wire will take place at twelve areas along the existing rights-of-way. The

project is currently scheduled to begin construction in March 2012, with an estimated duration of approximately 19 months, completing in October 2013.

Determination

The MND describes and evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the Pittsburg-Tesla 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project. The MND establishes that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the State Water Board, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, with incorporated mitigation measures to avoid or mitigate potential significant impacts. All of the mitigation measures needed to avoid or minimize potentially significant impacts are set out in the MND.

Document Availability

Electronic copies of the Proposed MND/IS and public comments can be downloaded from the State Water Board Website:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/index.shtml

Hard copies of these documents may be requested from the State Water Board or may be viewed at the State Water Board offices at the address listed in the next section below. Please contact Clifford Harvey at (916) 558-1709 to make arrangements. A map and directions are available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>.

Submission of Written Comments

Interested persons may submit their comments, evidence, and other material by email, fax, or hard copy. In order to be fully considered, written materials must be received by **12:00 noon on November 21, 2011**. **Email comments are encouraged**, but must be less than 15 MB total size.

To ensure proper routing, all comment letters, regardless of the method of delivery, must have the following in the subject line: **"Comment Letter: Pittsburg-Tesla"**.

Please send comment letters to Clifford Harvey

by email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

by fax: (916) 341-5808

or by U.S. mail, addressed to:

Clifford Harvey
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be hand-delivered. Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel on the first floor of the Cal-EPA Building at the

above address. Questions on comment submittal may be directed to Mr. Harvey at (916) 558-1709.

Parking and Accessibility

For directions to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board website:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>

The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main (10th Street) entrance. Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

Future Notices

Staff intends to submit the final MND for adoption in November 2011. Notices will be posted on the State Water Board's website at

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/index.shtml. To be notified of future updates, interested parties may subscribe to the email list service located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

An interested party that does not have access to e-mail must contact the staff member listed below to request paper copies of future notices.

Contact Information

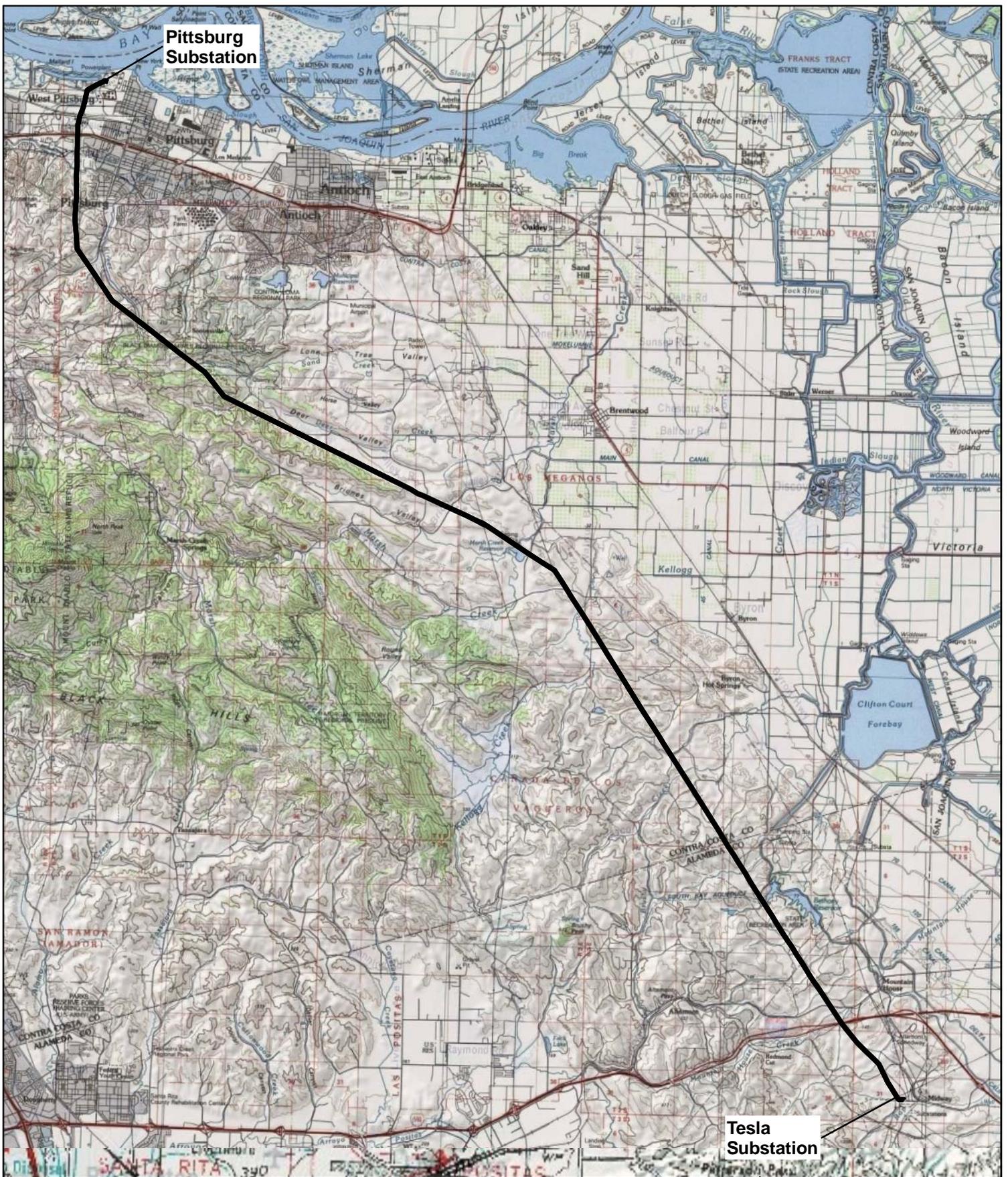
Please direct questions to Clifford Harvey at (916) 558-1709, or charvey@waterboards.ca.gov. Updates and additional information are also available at the project website at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/index.shtml.

Sincerely,



Clifford Harvey
Environmental Scientist
401 Certification and Wetland Program

October 21, 2011
Date



Pittsburg Substation

Tesla Substation



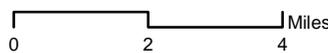
Project Features

— 230kV Transmission Line



Project Location

Source: ESRI; GANDA GIS 2011



PG&E Pittsburg-Tesla
230kV Reconductor
Project Location
February 2011
Alameda and Contra Costa
Counties, CA