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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 August 2017

Sam Danner  
Pacific Gas and Electric  
2730 Gateway Oaks Drive #220  
Sacramento, CA 95833

CERTIFIED MAIL  
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***NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC TABLE MOUNTAIN- TESLA & VACA- TESLA EMERGENCY TOWER PROJECT (WDID#5B07CR00195), SACRAMENTO AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES***

On 15 August 2017, Pacific Gas and Electric (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 15 December 2014 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 8 (General Certification Order). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Applicant and concurrence from the USACE, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the project qualifies for enrollment under this General Certification Order. The activity will permanently impact 0.001 acre of waters of the United States and temporarily impact 2.28 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations, subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the General Certification Order. This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the General Certification Order is enclosed. You can also find the General Certification Order on the State Water Resources Control Board's website at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8\\_sb14007in\\_cert.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8_sb14007in_cert.pdf)

The project must proceed in accordance with the requirements in the General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 15 August 2017, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the project (as described) is modified.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The 500kV, Vaca Dixon-Tesla Tower 31/132 and Table Mountain-Tesla Tower 109/429 are part of the backbone structure to the western electricity grid. The footings of these two towers have deteriorated and rotated distorting the main tower legs and tower braces. The footings could continue deteriorating and rotating, which would collapse the entire tower and disrupt power to tens of thousands of customers.

The project consists of retrofitting footings for temporary support, and conducting footing inspections and subsurface investigations. A total of four temporary support structures for each tower is required (Figures 2 – 3). Mats will be placed in work areas located in wetlands. The footing retrofits require two temporary support structures around the footings closest to the levee for each tower; for a total of four support structures. The support structures will consist of grout-injected steel piles.

Footing inspections at nearby towers 31/130, 109/427, 32/133, and 110/430 require placing plastic mats at locations within wetland areas and excavating a 2-foot-wide by 4-foot deep trench around each footing to expose the timber piles to be inspected (Figures 4 – 5). The excavation spoils will be used to backfill the trench once the inspections have been completed. The plastic mats will be removed once the inspections are complete.

Subsurface investigations will be conducted at the following tower sites: 31/132, 109/429, 31/130, 109/427, 32/133, and 110/430 by drilling eight borings, four on each side of the river (Figure 6). Each of the boring sites will be backfilled with concrete grout once the soil samples have been collected. Soil samples from the borings will be placed in steel drums and disposed of properly based on the results of analytical testing.

The Project will permanently impact 0.001 acre of waters of the United States and temporarily impact 2.28 acres of waters of the United States.

**APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

28 August 2017 through 15 November 2017

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Latitude: 38.0513° N and Longitude: 121.6916° W

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Peter Minkel, Engineering Geologist, at 916-464-4684 or [PeterG.Minkel@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:PeterG.Minkel@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original signed by Adam Laputz for*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location Map  
Figure 2: Footing Retrofits – Towers 31/132 and 109/429  
Figure 3: Project Work Area  
Figure 4: Footing Inspection Area - Towers 31/130 and 109/427  
Figure 5: Footing Inspection Area - Towers 33/133 and 110/430  
Figure 6: Subsurface Investigation Locations

cc: Jessica Neal (SPK-2017-00661)  
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**Figure 1 – Project Location Map**

### Table Mountain-Tesla 109/429 & Vaca Dixon-Tesla 31/132 Towers Emergency Project Temporary Support for Bent Tower Legs at Towers 31/132 and 109/429



Figure 2: Footing Retrofits – Towers 31/132 and 109/429



Figure 3 – Project Work Area

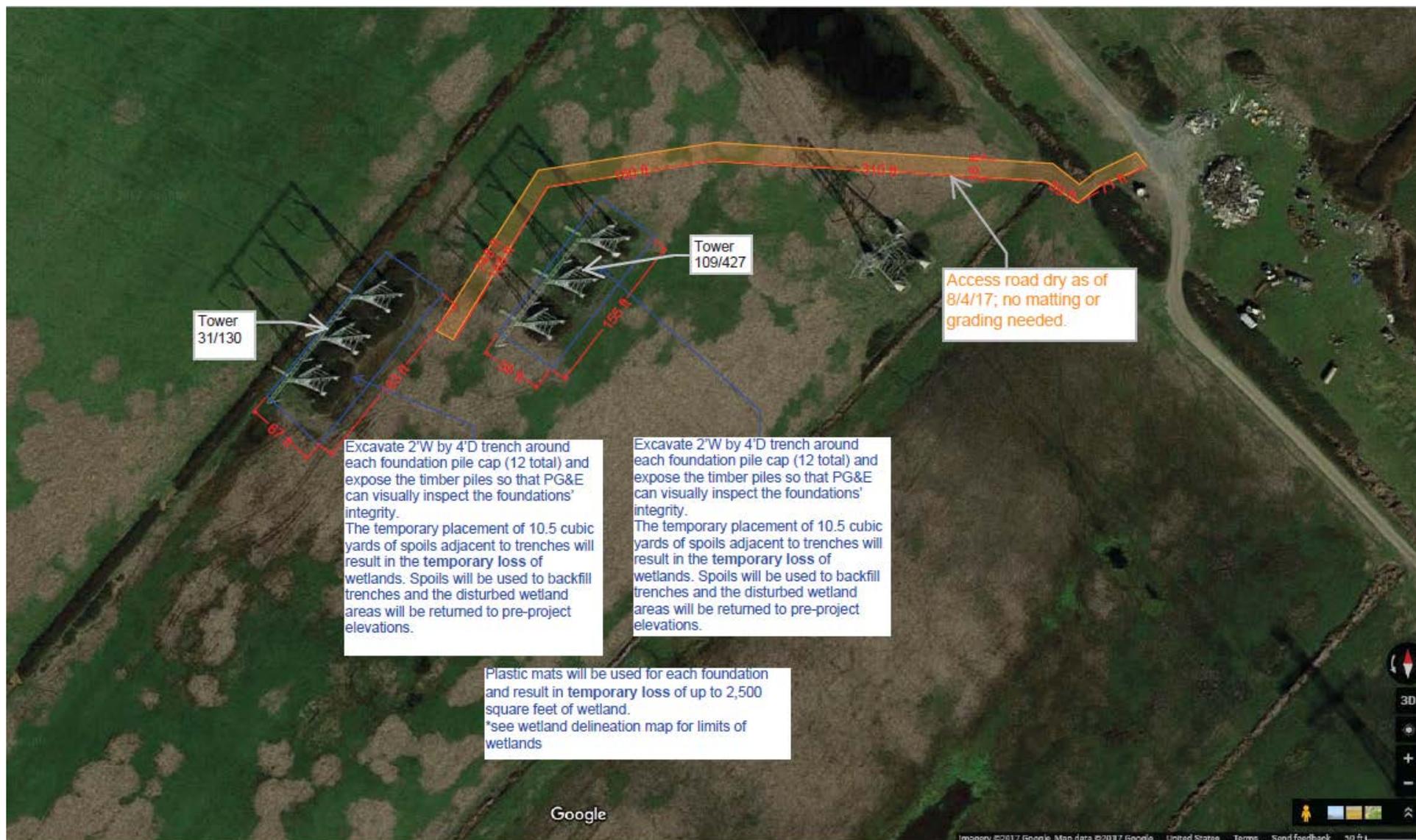


Figure 4: Footing Inspection Area - Towers 31/130 and 109/427

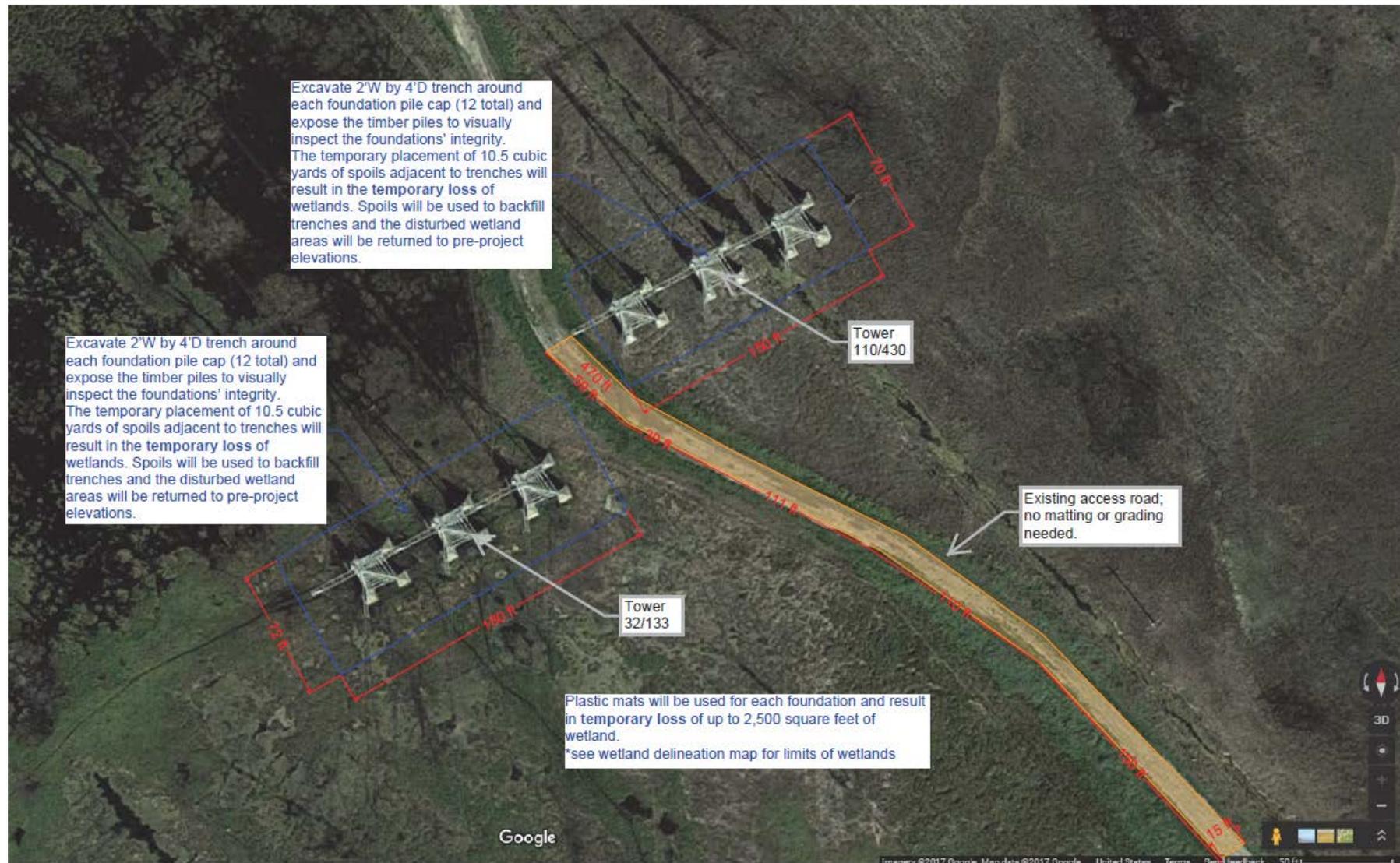


Figure 5: Footing Inspection Area - Towers 33/133 and 110/430

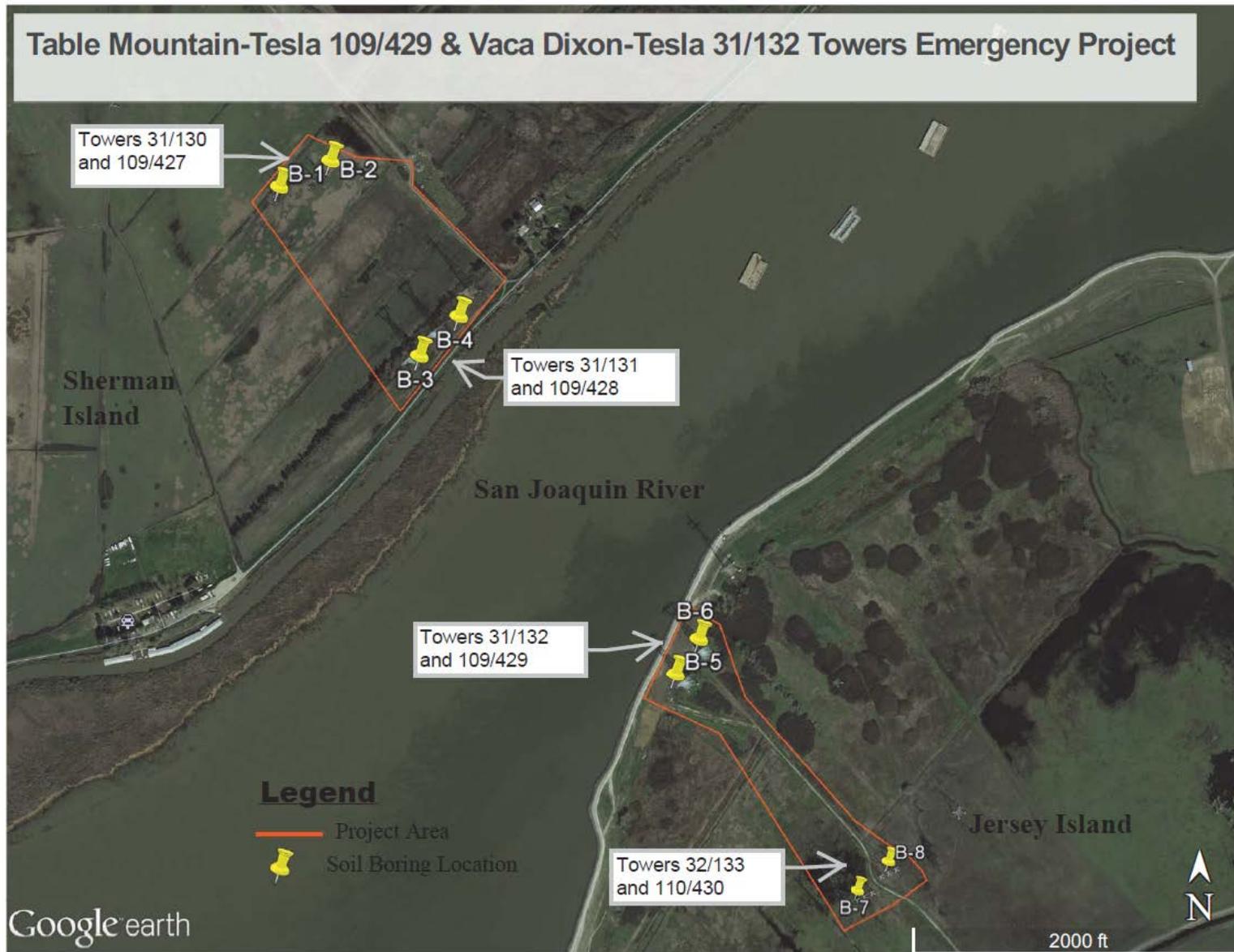


Figure 6: Subsurface Investigation Locations