



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Notice of Availability of and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Date: September 9, 2015
Case No.: 2013.1761E
Project Title: PG&E Gas Transmission Line 109 Cañada Road, Bunker Hill, and
Crystal Springs Pipeline Replacement Project San Mateo County
Zoning: Resource Management
Block/Lot: Various
Project Sponsor: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
Kristina Zaccardelli
Lead Agency: San Francisco Planning Department
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To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project, as described below. The document is a preliminary mitigated negative declaration (PMND) that contains information about the possible environmental effects of the proposed project. The PMND documents the determination of the Planning Department that the proposed project could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of a mitigated negative declaration does not indicate a decision by the City and County of San Francisco to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

Project Description: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has requested temporary and permanent easements from the City and County of San Francisco to construct its Gas Transmission Line 109 Cañada Road, Bunker Hill, and Crystal Springs Pipeline Replacement Project. The proposed project would involve replacing a combined total of approximately 4.7 miles of existing underground natural gas pipeline across San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Peninsula Watershed lands within unincorporated San Mateo County. Specifically, the existing pipeline would be replaced with 24- and 30-inch-diameter pipe to facilitate future pipeline integrity testing using an automated in-line inspection tool. This pipeline replacement is part of PG&E's company-wide pipeline modernization and safety program to improve the reliability and facilitate future maintenance of its large transmission pipelines. PG&E initially proposed the project as described in a notification dated April 9, 2014, which covered only

the Cañada Road segment of the project. The pipeline replacement would occur in the following three segments:

- The Cañada Road segment, which includes two sections, separated by the Pulgas Balancing Reservoir, that run along the east side of Cañada Road and west of Interstate 280 (I-280) from just south of State Route (SR) 92 to just north of Edgewood Road.
- The Bunker Hill segment, which begins at the Half Moon Bay Valve lot just west of Lexington Avenue and White Plains Court, then continues across Bunker Hill Drive and terminates just west of Laurel Hill Drive.
- The Crystal Springs segment, which runs parallel to I-280, north of the San Mateo Creek Canyon to a point north of Black Mountain Road and Hayne Road intersection.

Pipeline replacement would occur primarily adjacent and parallel to the existing pipeline, with some offset along the Cañada Road segment to avoid impacting biological resources. The new pipeline would be installed via a combination of cut-and-cover open trench construction and horizontal directional drilling. The construction period is expected to last approximately 15 months for all three segments, approximately 5 to 7 months per segment.

The project sites and surroundings consist of undeveloped rolling hills covered in oak woodland, grassland, chaparral, and mixed evergreen forest. The project area is zoned RM (Recreation Management) and is designated as Parks/Open Space in the San Mateo County General Plan. Existing land uses in the vicinity of the proposed project include the Pulgas Balancing Reservoir, recreation and trails, utility corridors, roadways along all segments of the proposed project, and residential land uses adjacent to the Bunker Hill and Crystal Springs segments. The proposed project route is entirely within SFPUC Watershed lands—used for water collection, storage, and quality protection—that are off limits to the public, except along hiking trails that were jointly established by the SFPUC, U.S. Department of the Interior, California Department of Transportation, and San Mateo County.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's Negative Declarations and EIRs web page [<http://tinyurl.com/sfceqadocs>]. Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the ground floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, contact the Planning Department staff contact listed above. Within 30 calendar days following publication of the PMND (i.e., by 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2015), any person may:

1. Review the PMND as an informational item and take no action;
2. Make recommendations for amending the text of the document. The text of the PMND may be amended to clarify or correct statements and may be expanded to include additional relevant issues or to cover issues in greater depth. This may be done without the appeal described below; **OR**
3. Appeal the determination of no significant effect on the environment to the Planning Commission in a letter that specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$547 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.¹ An appeal requires the Planning Commission to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared based upon whether or not the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. Send the appeal letter to the Planning Department, Attention: Sarah B. Jones, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$547.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2015.** The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the PIC counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

In the absence of an appeal, the mitigated negative declaration shall be made final, subject to necessary modifications, after 30 days from the date of publication of the PMND. If the PMND is appealed, the Final Mitigated Negative declaration (FMND) may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The City's approval action, as identified in the Initial Study, would establish the start of the 30-day appeal period for the FMND pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 31.16(h).

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Commission or the Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.

¹ Upon review by the Planning Department, the appeal fee may be reimbursed for neighborhood organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months.

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