



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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

Date: January 9, 2019
Case No.: 2016.006868ENV
Project Title: SFPUC Reliable Power Project
Project Location: Portions of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Rights of Way in Stanislaus, Mariposa, and Tuolumne Counties
Zoning: Various
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
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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), containing 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 to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

Project Description: The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposes to implement the Reliable Power Project (proposed project) for maintaining the reliability of the SFPUC's electrical transmission system between the Holm and Kirkwood Powerhouses and the Warnerville Substation to address the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's reliability standard (FAC-003) and other regulatory requirements that seek to minimize the risk of power outages and fires from vegetation contact with transmission lines on or near the right-of-way for electrical transmission lines¹. In addition to implementation of the vegetation management program, the proposed project would include repairs and replacements for culverts associated with transmission line access roads and construction of a sand storage shed to stockpile sand for winter road treatments needed for access during winter months.

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would occur within existing SFPUC facility and right-of-way boundaries in Stanislaus County, Mariposa County, and Tuolumne County, and would not require the acquisition of new property. Project implementation involving vegetation management would be ongoing. Construction activities and duration for culvert repair and/or replacement would vary along the transmission corridor, but would be short-term in nature, generally a couple of days to a couple of weeks to complete. Construction of the sand storage shed would take approximately one month.

¹ More information available at:
<http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project-2010-07-1-Vegetation-Management.aspx>

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's SFPUC Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>). 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 **February 8, 2019**), 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 which specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$617 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.² 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: Lisa Gibson, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or emailed to lisa.gibson@sfgov.org. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$617.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2019.** 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 first 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.

² 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.