



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



**California Environmental Quality Act NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Incidental Take Permit and
Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's
Southern California Desert Gas Pipeline Operation and Maintenance Activities**

LEAD AGENCY: California Department Fish and Wildlife
CONTACT: Ashley Rosales (760) 219-9452, Ashley.Rosales@wildlife.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Report pursuant to Sections 21092 and 21092.3 of the California Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15086 and 15087
SCH NO: 2021030571

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: August 29, 2022, through October 13, 2022

Project Location: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) conducts operation and maintenance (O&M) activities on approximately 645 miles of high-pressure gas pipelines and associated facilities in the Mojave Desert region in Southern California. The boundary of the natural gas transmission system in the Mojave Desert region is generally located from the City of Tehachapi east to the California border, approximately 15 miles southeast of Needles, and from the City of Ridgecrest south to the City of Victorville. The western extent of the study area is located southwest of the City of Mojave, and the eastern terminus of the study area is located adjacent to the Colorado River, approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Needles, California, in San Bernardino and Kern Counties (refer to Figure 1, PG&E Facility Overview Map).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in response to the request for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to authorize take of Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), as well as for the expected request for the issuance of one or more Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreements (collectively, "the permits") for PG&E's Southern California desert gas pipeline O&M activities.

Due to the need to provide safe and reliable services, and to meet regulatory requirements, PG&E conducts O&M activities on its gas transmission pipelines and associated facilities. The pipeline system has been in place for more than 70 years, and O&M activities have been conducted since the pipeline system was installed. The gas transmission system consists of gas pipelines; compressor stations; associated gas transmission and distribution facilities; rights-of-way; areas up to 0.25 miles beyond the rights-of-way, where needed; and their related equipment and facilities. Since 2017, PG&E has been gathering data on temporary and permanent disturbance resulting from its O&M activities. Therefore, the type, number, and frequency of ongoing O&M activities would continue to be a part of the baseline conditions in the O&M study area. Overall, PG&E expects that total impacts over the 30-year ITP term would be in line with the baseline ranges described in the EIR.

The Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts that may result directly or indirectly from CDFW's issuance of the ITP and the expected LSA Agreements. The Draft EIR has been prepared to provide the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies with information about these potential environmental effects related to issuance of the permits conditioning PG&E's ongoing O&M activities under the California Fish and Game Code.

Location of Environmental Impact Report Available for Public Review. The EIR may be viewed online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.

Public Comment Period: By this notice, CDFW is announcing the opening of the 45-day comment period (August 29, 2022, through October 13, 2022). All written comments must be received by October 13, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. (end of the 45-day public review period).

Commenting on Environmental Impact Report: Written comments on the EIR must be addressed to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Deserts Region

Attention: Ashley Rosales, Project Manager

Mailing Address: 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, California 91764

OR via email: Ashley.Rosales@wildlife.ca.gov
(subject line: "PG&E O&M Draft EIR Comments").

PG&E's O&M activities are not located on any list of places formally recorded as containing hazardous materials.

