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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2022040457

Project Title: Gates 500kV Dynamic Reactive Support Project

Lead Agency: California Public Utilities Commission

Contact Name: Boris Sanchez

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Project Location: Fresno County

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project would be located in unincorporated Fresno County upon and surrounded by rural agricultural lands with existing transmission infrastructure, utility-scale solar energy generation facilities, and scattered rural residences in the vicinity of the Project site. The Project would involve construction of the Orchard Substation containing two static synchronous compensator (STATCOM) units (devices used to regulate voltages for transmission networks and assist in ensuring reliable operation of transmissions systems in proximity to a substation) and ancillary components immediately north of and independently connected to the existing PG&E Gates Substation. The Project would support the regional transmission system by providing voltage support and grid stability, which would facilitate the reliable operation of the extra high voltage transmission system proximal to the Gates Substation. The purpose of the Project is to provide dynamic reactive support at the PG&E Gates Substation, a 500 kV and 230kV level regional substation. Connection to the PG&E Gates Substation would require PG&E to construct and operate two single-circuit 500 kV interconnection transmission lines from the Gates Substation 500 kV bus to the Orchard Substation 500 kV take-off towers.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

With implementation of measures proposed by the applicant and PG&E the majority of impacts identified in the Initial Study would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. Potentially significant effects requiring mitigation measures were identified for biological resources, geology, soils, and paleontology. In addition to measures proposed by the applicant, and PG&E, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will be implemented to ensure protection of San Joaquin kit fox during construction to reduce potentially significant impacts on wildlife. Mitigation for geology consists of a requirement for a pre-construction fault study (Mitigation Measure GEO-1), worker awareness training and monitoring (Mitigation Measure GEO-2), and protocols for paleontological resource monitoring and salvage (Mitigation Measure GEO-3). With implementation of the proposed measures and mitigation measures, all potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

None known.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPD)