

**Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting
for a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Date: October 28, 2025
To: Responsible/Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties
From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Long-Term North Central Region Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Master Streambed Alteration Agreement (MSAA) Project (Proposed Project) and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

NOP Public Review Period: October 31, 2025 – November 30, 2025

Public Scoping Meeting (Online Webinar Format)

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Scoping Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305758247>

A. Introduction

In accordance with Section 15168 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the CDFW, as the CEQA lead agency, will prepare an EIR for the issuance of an ITP and MSAA for the continued operations and maintenance (O&M) of specific covered activities (Covered O&M Activities) for PG&E's natural gas and electric facilities in CDFW's North Central Region of California, excluding San Joaquin County. The Covered O&M Activities will occur in the following counties or portions of these counties as noted in parentheses: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento (east of Interstate (I)-5), Sierra, Sutter, Yolo (north of I-80), and Yuba.¹ The CDFW's North Central Region boundary is split with the Bay Delta Region in Sacramento and Yolo counties. The boundary follows I-5 starting at the Stanislaus County/I-5 junction to the Legal Delta boundary north of I-80. The MSAA portion of the Proposed Project is related to development of a long-term agreement with PG&E to ensure compliance with Title 20, Section 1602 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) for those jurisdictional areas within CDFW's North Central Region where PG&E performs certain O&M activities. The Proposed Project applicant, PG&E, has filed an application with the CDFW for an ITP under California Fish & Game Code § 2081 (b); CCR, Title 14, §§ 783.2-783.8 to authorize potential take of giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) Central California Distinct Population Segment (DPS), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*) Feather River DPS, foothill yellow-legged frog North Sierra DPS, and foothill yellow-legged frog South Sierra DPS. PG&E is not seeking take coverage in San Joaquin County under this ITP because take coverage for giant garter snake and other covered species is already provided for San Joaquin County under a separate ITP

¹ Only portions of the following counties are included because the Permit Area aligns with PG&E's Multiple Region O&M Habitat Conservation Plan boundary: Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado.

(No. 2081-2008-001-00). The CDFW is serving as the lead agency in preparing an EIR and meeting obligations required under its certified regulatory program in compliance with CEQA for the issuance of the ITP and MSAA.

As required by CEQA, this NOP is being sent to the California Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, responsible and trustee agencies, members of the public, and interested parties who submitted a request for such notices. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CDFW is beginning preparation of a Draft EIR for the Proposed Project and to solicit comments concerning the scope and content of the environmental information, including information relevant to an agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Information that would be most useful at this time includes descriptions of the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures recommended to be explored further in the Draft EIR.

This NOP includes background information on the Proposed Project and the area under consideration for the ITP and MSAA (the Permit Area) (Section B), a description of the Proposed Project (Section C), a summary of potential project impacts (Section D), day and time of the virtual public scoping meeting (Section E), information on how to provide comments to the CDFW (Section F), and where documents are available for public review (Section G).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), there will be a 30-day comment period for this NOP beginning on **October 31, 2025** and ending on **November 30, 2025**. The CDFW welcomes agency and public input during the public review period. In the event that no response or well-justified request for additional time is received from any responsible, federal, or trustee agency by the end of the review period, the CDFW may presume that such agencies have no comments.

B. Background and Project Location

B.1 Background

PG&E operates a comprehensive network of approximately 10,500 miles of gas transmission and distribution pipelines, 24,800 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines, and 175 substations within CDFW’s North Central Region, encompassing Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento (east of I-5), San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo (north of I-80), and Yuba counties or portions of the counties. This network was primarily established between the 1950s and 1970s, well before the establishment of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and the Federal Endangered Species Act, which were enacted in 1970 and 1973, respectively, and continues to evolve and expand as needed to meet customer needs.

In addition to other relevant laws and regulations, operations and maintenance of the gas and electric system are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Maintenance and repair of the natural gas system is required by the CPUC General Order 112-F, which incorporates the United States (U.S.) Department of Transportation regulations provided by Title 49, Part 192 (Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline) of the Code of Federal Regulations. Maintenance of the electric system is required by CPUC General Order 95, which formulates requirements for overhead electric line maintenance and operation, as well as General Order 167-B, which enforces standards for the maintenance and operation of electric generating facilities.

In 2020, PG&E finalized the Multiple Region O&M Habitat Conservation Plan (MRHCP) and obtained federal take coverage for 36 species throughout the Central Coast, North Coast, and Sacramento Valley and Foothills regions, encompassing 34 counties. This list of 36 species includes giant garter snake, California tiger salamander Central California DPS, foothill yellow-legged frog Feather River DPS, and foothill yellow-legged frog North Sierra DPS, all of which are listed as threatened under CESA. The MRHCP also covers the foothill yellow-legged frog South Sierra DPS, which is listed as endangered under CESA. PG&E proposes to complement its MRHCP by pursuing a long-term ITP from the CDFW for its Covered O&M Activities in CDFW’s North Central Region. A long-term ITP and MSAA would provide an enhanced conservation strategy, ensure compliance with CESA, and reduce the administrative burden involved in processing project-by-project state ITPs and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements.

The ITP application was submitted to the CDFW on June 26, 2024 and was subsequently deemed complete on July 26, 2024. The long-term ITP application includes proposed authorization of incidental take of three threatened species—giant garter snake, California tiger salamander, and the Feather River and North Sierra DPSs of foothill yellow-frog—as well as one endangered species—foothill yellow-legged frog South Sierra DPS—during routine Covered O&M Activities in the Permit Area. Issuance of the ITP is the discretionary action that has triggered the preparation of an EIR in accordance with CEQA. The ITP, if issued, would authorize Proposed Project-related incidental take of giant garter snake, California tiger salamander, and three foothill yellow-legged frog DPSs (i.e., the Feather River, North Sierra, and South Sierra DPSs) subject to certain conditions under the CESA.

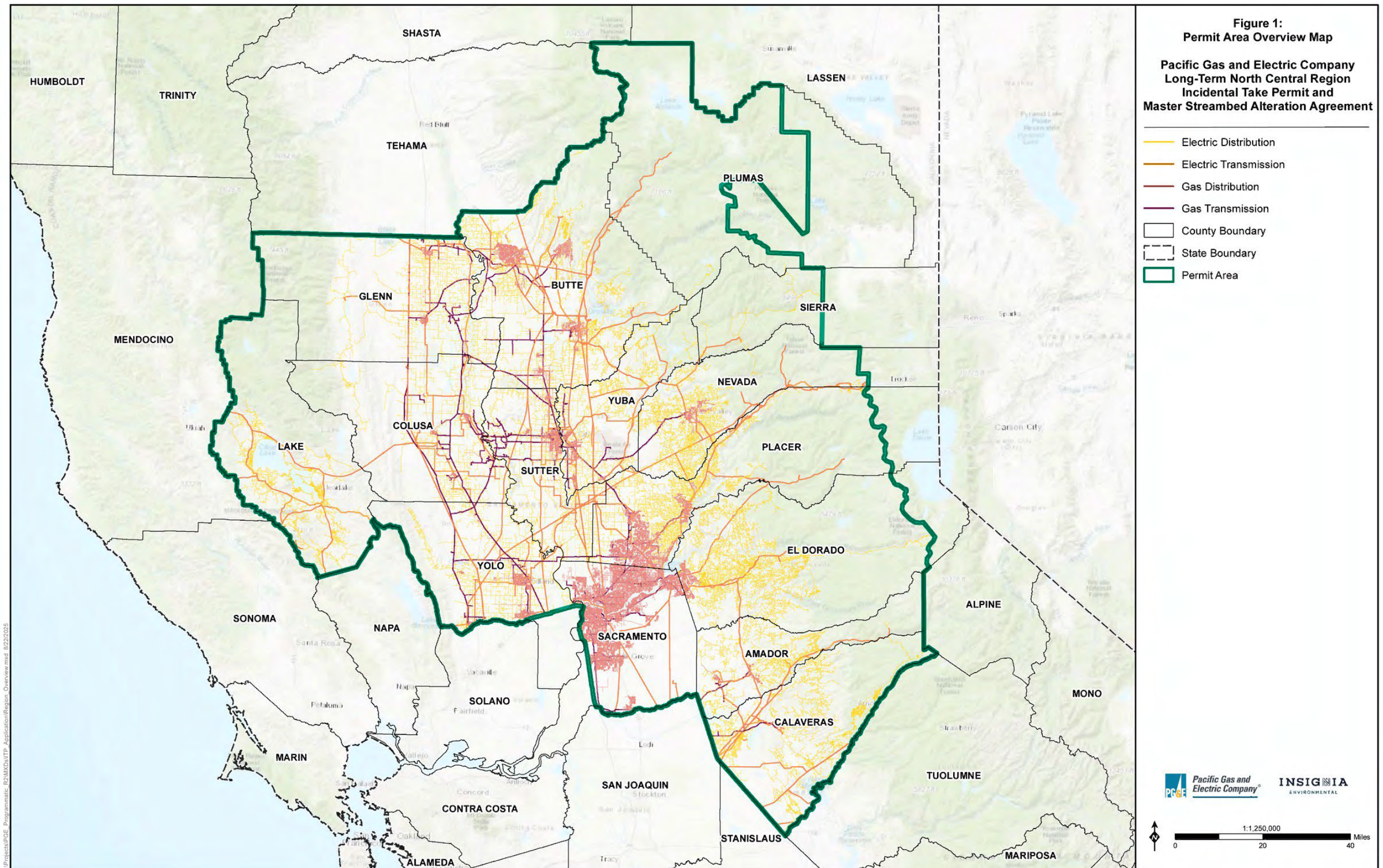
PG&E intends to develop an MSAA in partnership with the CDFW for certain Covered O&M Activities that may occur within the bed, bank, or channel of rivers, streams, or lakes to ensure compliance with the CDFW’s Lake and Streambed Alteration Program (the “LSA Program”) and California Fish and Game Code Section 1602.

B.2 Permit Area

The Permit Area encompasses PG&E’s natural gas and electric facilities in CDFW’s North Central Region of California as depicted in Figure 1: Permit Area Overview Map. The Covered O&M Activities in CDFW’s North Central Region would occur in the following 15 counties: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento (east of I-5), Sierra, Sutter, Yolo (north of I-80), and Yuba counties, totaling approximately 10,162,133 acres (7,420,043 acres of which are in natural vegetation). All of the Covered O&M Activities would occur within the following types of areas, all of which will be analyzed in the EIR:

- PG&E gas and electrical transmission and distribution rights-of-way (ROWs) and lands where PG&E has other relevant land rights;
- the lands owned by PG&E in fee;
- access routes associated with PG&E’s routine maintenance;
- a buffer around the ROW; and
- mitigation areas acquired to compensate for impacts resulting from the Covered O&M Activities.

Figure 1: Permit Area Overview Map



C. Project Description

The Proposed Project involves O&M activities within CDFW's North Central Region, which encompasses approximately 35,000 miles of combined natural gas and electric facilities. The gas transmission system consists of gas distribution pipelines and ROWs extending from 5 feet to 150 feet wide. The electric transmission system consists of transmission lines supported by lattice towers or poles, substations, and ROWs that vary in width, according to the system voltage, terrain, the number of lines per ROW and other factors. The proposed Covered O&M Activities include specific outlined O&M activities for both natural gas and electric facilities, as follows:

- **Maintenance tasks associated with Covered O&M Activities for both natural gas and electric facility O&M:** Activities include those related to Proposed Project road access; staging large vehicles, equipment, or materials; clearing vegetation and/or obstacles to safely conduct maintenance or construction; grading to create flat working surfaces for large Covered O&M Activities; erosion control to observe best management practices; trenching and excavating; crossing; cleanup and restoration; incidental vegetation removal necessary to complete Covered O&M Activities; and emergency work.
- **Natural Gas Covered O&M Activities:** Activities include repair, replacement and maintenance, protective measures, and upgrades to pipelines and associated facilities.
- **Electric System Covered O&M Activities:** Activities include replacement, repair, and maintenance of electric towers and poles, access boardwalks, and equipment; line reconductoring; and upgrades or expansions to facilities.
- **Other Covered O&M Activities:** Activities include those associated with biological monitoring, surveying, and handling, and management of land purchased or conserved for mitigation.

In general, routine Covered O&M Activities would result in temporary disturbance in areas already previously disturbed, such as along existing ROWs and existing access roads. The majority of the Covered O&M Activities in the Permit Area would result in temporary and short-term impacts to expose the natural gas and/or electric facilities for inspection or repair, or to access a given facility. The Covered O&M Activities proposed would not result in large new permanent disturbance areas.

O&M activities have been conducted for the pipeline and electric systems for decades and PG&E expects the same Covered O&M Activities would continue at a similar frequency. Therefore, the type, number, and frequency of ongoing Covered O&M Activities would continue to be a part of the baseline conditions in the Permit Area. The amount of ground disturbance would vary each year depending on the type and number of Covered O&M Activities scheduled. Table 1: Estimated Impacts from Covered O&M Activities details the estimated loss and take for each species.

PG&E would perform all Covered O&M Activities in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental, safety, and construction regulations and standards. Where applicable, PG&E would also conduct the work in accordance with landowner agreements. Typical Covered O&M Activities, as well as the typical area of disturbance, duration, and frequency of activities in the Permit Area are presented in Table 2: Summary of Covered O&M Activities.

Table 1: Estimated Impacts from Covered O&M Activities

Species	Estimated Acres of Habitat Impacts						Individual Take ² per Year	Maximum Individual Take Over 30 Years
	Temporary Loss per Year	Permanent Loss per Year	Total Loss per Year*	Temporary Loss Over 30 Years	Permanent Loss Over 30 Years	Total Loss Over 30 Years*		
California tiger salamander (central California DPS) breeding habitat	0.98	0.20	1.18	29.13	5.91	35.04	18	540
California tiger salamander (central California DPS) upland habitat	38.19	8.29	46.48	1,145.71	248.81	1,394.51		
Giant garter snake aquatic habitat	3	0.43	3.43	90.00	12.75	102.75	10	300
Giant garter snake upland habitat	10	1.27	11.27	300.00	38.01	338.01		
Giant garter snake potential aquatic habitat (ricelands)	10	1.68	11.68	300.00	50.48	350.48		
Foothill yellow-legged frog (Feather River DPS, North Sierra DPS, and South Sierra DPS) breeding habitat	0.33	0.06	0.39	9.88	1.69	11.57	15	450
Foothill yellow-legged frog (Feather River DPS, North Sierra DPS, and South Sierra DPS) dispersal habitat	3.96	0.67	4.63	118.76	20.23	138.99		
Total Habitat Loss*	66.46	12.6	76.06	1993.48	377.88	2371.36	--	--

*Due to rounding, totals may not sum.

² “Take” is defined as direct mortality.

Table 2: Summary of Covered O&M Activities

Covered Activity	Typical Annual Frequency ³	Typical Activity Dimensions (feet)	Estimated Permanent Impacts		Estimated Temporary Impacts	
			Impacts per Activity ⁴ (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)	Impacts per Activity (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)
Gas						
G3a. Remedial Maintenance – Fencing	4	50 by 50	0.06	0.24	0.06	0.24
G3a. Remedial Maintenance – ERCON Mats	1	50 by 50	0.15	0.15	0.5	0.5
G3b. Internal Pipeline Inspection	19	Depends on the length and location of pipeline	–	–	0.06	1.14
G4. Compressor Station Upgrades and Maintenance	1	20-foot-wide	–	–	0.28	0.28
G6. Valve Maintenance	3	No additional activity dimensions if conducted as part of G10 or G11	–	–	–	–
G7. Valve Maintenance – Replacement or Automation	6	150 by 150 for worksite 50 by 50 for laydown	–	–	0.57	3.42
G8. Pipeline Cathodic Protection	32	2-foot-wide	–	–	0.02	0.64
G9. Pipeline Lowering	1	20-foot-wide	–	–	4.26	4.26
G10. Pipeline Coating Replacement	1	20-foot-wide	–	–	2.42	2.42

³ These numbers represent the average annual frequency; the number of activities conducted annually will vary.

⁴ These numbers represent the average area of impact; the impact area for an activity will vary. Activities with no values typically result in less than 0.001 acre of impact.

Covered Activity	Typical Annual Frequency ³	Typical Activity Dimensions (feet)	Estimated Permanent Impacts		Estimated Temporary Impacts	
			Impacts per Activity ⁴ (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)	Impacts per Activity (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)
G11. Pipeline Replacement	6	100 by 50 for new valve equipment 20-foot-wide for worksite	1	6	3	18
G13b. Pipeline Access Road Management	2	45 by 10	0.51	1.02	2.05	4.1
G14. Gas Pressure-Limiting Station Construction (Gas Lots)	1	250 by 100 for facility footprint 100 by 100 for laydown 100 by 100 for construction corridor	0.55	0.55	1	1
G15. Pipeline Extension	1	125 by 20	2.42	2.42	0.06	0.06
Subtotal Gas	–	–	–	10.38		36.06
Electric						
E5. Outage Repair	190	22 by 22	–	–	<0.01	0.19
E6a. Tower Replacement or Repair (including attachments)*	149	25 by 40	<0.01	0.15	0.02	2.98
E6b. Access Boardwalk Repair and Replacement*	6	10-foot-wide	–	–	<0.01	<0.01
E7. Facility Installations (Shoo-Flies)	38	25 by 100	–	–	0.06	2.28
E8a. Pole Equipment Repair and Replacement*	181	8 by 8	–	–	<0.01	0.29
E8b. Utility Wood Pole Replacement	181	7 by 10	–	–	<0.01	0.29
E9. Line Reconductoring – Transmission*	4	50 by 100 for smaller pull sites 350 by 1,250 for larger pull sites	<0.01	0.14	21.36	85.44

Covered Activity	Typical Annual Frequency ³	Typical Activity Dimensions (feet)	Estimated Permanent Impacts		Estimated Temporary Impacts	
			Impacts per Activity ⁴ (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)	Impacts per Activity (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)
E9. Line Reconductoring – Distribution*	91	50 by 100 for smaller pull sites 350 by 1,250 for larger pull sites	–	–	<0.01	0.21
E10a. Veg. Mgmt.—Routine Maintenance	8	30-foot-wide	0.2	1.6	–	–
E10b. Veg. Mgmt.—Pole Clearing	37	10-foot radius	–	–	–	–
E10c. Veg. Mgmt.—Removal Activities	10	4,350 square feet	0.1	1	–	–
E10d. Veg. Mgmt.—Transmission Vegetation/ROW Management	4	25-foot-wide vegetation removal 75-foot-wide vegetation pruning	3.03	12.12	1.88	7.52
E10e. Cage Clearing—Electric Transmission Structures	4	1,600 square feet	–	–	0.04	0.16
E10f. Fee Strip Maintenance—Electric Transmission Line ROW	1	30-foot-wide	–	–	3.03	3.03
E12. Distribution and Transmission Line Construction, Extension or Relocation	1	Ten 10 by 10 work sites 50 by 50 pull site 75 by 75 staging area 1,000 by 10 access road	0.23	0.23	0.25	0.25
E13. Tower Line Construction	1	200-foot-wide ROW Ten 25 by 100 work sites Three 50 by 150 pull sites 100 by 100 laydown area	0.29	0.29	0.26	0.26

Covered Activity	Typical Annual Frequency ³	Typical Activity Dimensions (feet)	Estimated Permanent Impacts		Estimated Temporary Impacts	
			Impacts per Activity ⁴ (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)	Impacts per Activity (acres)	Annual Impacts (acres)
E14. Minor Substation Expansion	1	Typically 360 by 360 Up to 660 by 660	3	3	–	–
E15. Underground Line Construction	36	50-foot-wide	0.02	0.66	12.12	432.12
Subtotal Electric	–	–	–	19.19	–	535.03
Other						
Management of Lands Purchased or Conserved for Mitigation	30	467 by 467	–	–	5	150
Subtotal Other	–	–	–	–	–	150
Total Gas, Electric, and Other	–	–	–	29.57	–	721.09

*Due to rounding, totals may not sum. These table values are estimates only and project impacts are generally calculated once projects are completed.

As previously discussed, PG&E intends to develop a MSAA in partnership with the CDFW for certain Covered O&M Activities that may occur within the bed, bank, or channel of rivers, streams, or lakes to ensure compliance with the CDFW's LSA Program and California Fish and Game Code Section 1602. PG&E is including a subset of Covered O&M Activities in the MSAA that may necessitate notification through CDFW's LSA Program when those activities have the potential to result in impacts to CDFW-jurisdictional waters.

The Covered O&M Activities proposed for inclusion in the submitted MSAA notification include:

- the gas and electric access road maintenance program;
- gas and electric temporary crossings for access;
- the vegetation management/maintenance program;
- erosion control solutions; and
- certain gas and electric O&M activities as described herein.

The measures specified for Covered O&M Activities in the submitted MSAA notification include:

- Best Management Practices for erosion control and sedimentation associated with stormwater, for applicable Covered O&M Activities;
- relevant Field Protocols and wetland-specific Avoidance and Mitigation Measures included in PG&E's MRHCP; and
- additional avoidance and minimization measures proposed by PG&E hereafter called applicant-proposed measures (APMs) that will be identified in the EIR and will be implemented for Covered O&M Activities requiring coverage under the ITP and/or MSAA.

D. Potential Environmental Effects

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a), the CDFW has elected to proceed with the preparation of a Draft EIR. After conducting a significance determination, the following sections were deemed to have no impact and will not be included in the Draft EIR: Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Public Services. The impacts analysis in the EIR will be conducted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines and will provide a response to each threshold question that can be found in Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form. An example of the Environmental Checklist Form can be found at the following website: https://califaep.org/docs/2019-Appendix_G_Checklist.pdf. This link is provided to assist the public and agencies in preparing written scoping comments.

Potential issues and impacts to the existing environment to be analyzed in the Draft EIR include the following environmental topics:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils (including Paleontological Resources)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire

The EIR will evaluate potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project, including PG&E's best management and standard practices, as well as APMs, during the environmental evaluation. Where needed, mitigation measures will be proposed to avoid and/or substantially lessen any significant adverse effects identified in the EIR's impact analysis.

The EIR will also address the cumulative environmental consequences of the Proposed Project in combination with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area. This will serve to satisfy CEQA requirements regarding regional cumulative effect concerns.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, the EIR will describe and evaluate the comparative merits of a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project. The EIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered but rejected by the lead agency as infeasible and briefly explain the reasoning. The EIR will provide an analysis of the no project alternative and will also identify the environmentally superior alternative. The alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR will be developed during the environmental review process and will consider input received during public scoping.

E. Public Scoping Meeting

Rather than conducting an in-person meeting, Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 allows state agencies to hold meetings via teleconferencing while still meeting state transparency requirements. Therefore, the CDFW will conduct the public scoping meeting online through a webinar-type format. The scoping meeting will involve a presentation about the Proposed Project and the environmental review process and schedule. The purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the receipt of written comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The scoping meeting is for information gathering, is not a public hearing, and no public testimony will be taken. No decisions about the Proposed Project will be made at the public scoping meeting. The meeting date, time, and website of the Proposed Project's scoping meeting are as follows:

- **Date: November 17, 2025**
- **Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**
- **Scoping Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305758247>**

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the teleconference online to express their concerns about the Proposed Project and to offer suggestions regarding the Proposed Project, including alternatives.

F. Submitting Comments

At this time, the CDFW is soliciting comments on the NOP regarding your views on how the Proposed Project may affect the environment. This information will be considered when preparing the Draft EIR's discussion of environmental topics, significant effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives. Because of time limits mandated by state law, comments should be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 30, 2025** (i.e., the end of the 30-day comment period).

You have several options for submitting comments: (1) online during the scoping meeting, (2) by U.S. mail, or (3) by electronic mail (email). Comments provided by email should include "PG&E O&M ITP - NOP Scoping Comments" in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter should be contained in the body of the email.

Please send all comments to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attention: CEQA Program

Mailing Address: 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

OR via email: [mailto: R2CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R2CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov), include "PG&E O&M - NOP Scoping Comments" in the subject line

All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR, which is anticipated to be available for public review in **March 26, 2026**.

G. Location of Documents Available for Public Review

The NOP and all public review documents for the Proposed Project will be available for review online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Notices>.