



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837
www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield**



April 8, 2015

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has submitted an application for the renewal of an existing 12 kV electric distribution powerline right-of-way. The existing powerline is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands located in Sections 3, 10, and 11, T. 11 N., R. 28W., SBBM. The project location within the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) as well as within the existing Russell Ranch Oil Field.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide PG&E with the ability to continue to operate and maintain their existing distribution powerline, and to supply energy resources to the American public. The need for the proposed action is to respond to the right-of-way application submitted by the proponent to conduct operations on public lands administered by the BLM Bakersfield Field Office.

This action conforms and is within the scope of the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan signed April 10, 2010. All stipulations and standard operating procedures will be followed as set for in this plan.

A draft Categorical Exclusion document (CX) has been prepared to consider the potential impacts on humans and the environment, and to formulate mitigating measures.

Enclosed are a copy of the draft Categorical Exclusion document (CX) and a map of the existing PG&E powerline. Should you have any comments or are aware of any extraordinary circumstances that would make this project need an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), please send your comments to Christina Castellon at ccastellon@blm.gov before the 15 day comment period ends. The comment period will begin April 13, 2015 and end April 27, 2015.

If you should have any additional questions please feel free to contact me at (661) 391-6093.

Sincerely,

/s/
Johna Hurl
Monument Manager

Enclosures

Categorical Exclusion Documentation
DOI-BLM-CA-C069-2015-0080-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Bakersfield Field Office, LLCAC06900

Case File #:

CACA 55672 formerly CARI 0004324

Project Title: PG&E 12 kV power line renewal

Location:

CACA 55672:

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 11 N., R. 28 W.,

sec. 3, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 11, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Description of the Proposed Action, including any Stipulations

Applications have been filed for the renewal of an existing power line right-of-way from Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The existing right-of-way, CACA 55672, was granted pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1911. The act of March 4, 1911 (36 Stat. 1423) has been repealed and the current authority for issuing right-of-way grants is Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976. Therefore the proposed action will also include authorizing the existing 12 kV power line right-of-way, CACA 55672, under the Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976, as amended.

No new construction is proposed. The existing right-of-way would be maintained as it has been in the past. The proposed action is to approve the renewal of the power line right-of-way as described below for PG&E.

CACA 55672- The existing 12 KV power line is 3514 feet in length, 20 feet in width, and contains 1.613 acres.

The proposed action is to approve the renewal of the existing power line right-of-way for PG&E, under the authorization of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. Standard rights-of-way guide stipulations are shown as **Exhibit B**.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This action conforms to the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan, approved in 2010 because it is clearly consistent with the RMP objectives and decisions as follows:

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan, as required by 43 CFR 1610.5 and has been found to be in conformance with the objectives for this management area.

Goal LR-2(P): All realty actions such as rights-of-way, land use permits, and other realty actions within the Monument would comply with the overall purposes of the Monument Proclamation.

Objective LR-5(P): Manage all existing authorizations within the Monument in keeping with overall purposes of the Monument Proclamation while respecting valid existing rights.

Allowable Use LR-2(I*): Right-of-way applications would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, such as applications for research or scientific rights-of-ways, or existing roads for private lands within the Monument. If granted, rights-of-way would contain terms and conditions to protect resources, such as any listed species and their habitat, other wildlife and their habitat, significant geologic features, and paleontological and cultural resources.

C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E(9):

“Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the following extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply.

EXHIBIT B STIPULATIONS

The right-of-way is subject to all valid existing rights.

The holder shall coordinate all maintenance and termination activities with the oil and gas leaseholder, grazing leaseholder, Underground Service Alert, and holders of rights-of-way on the subject lands, in order to avoid conflicts with existing operations. The name, address, and phone number of the holder(s) are available from the authorized officer.

Any new surface disturbing activities, including maintenance will require notification to the BLM, and may require a BLM approved cultural resource survey prior to the issuance of a notice to proceed for the activity. A cultural monitor may be required, at the discretion of BLM, during the surface disturbing activities.

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object or human remains) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation, maintenance and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

Holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer.

All vehicle use by the holder or the holder's contractors during construction, inspection or maintenance shall be confined to existing roads. No new vehicle routes shall be created or cleared by the holder or the holder's contractor. No off-road vehicle travel is authorized unless prior written approval is given by the authorized officer.

Except rights-of-way expressly authorizing a road after construction of the project is completed, the holder shall not use the right-of-way as a road for purposes other than routine maintenance as determined necessary by the authorized officer in consultation with the holder.

A site-specific weed control Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) must be completed before any use of pesticides on BLM lands. This can be a lengthy process and requires specific information, public notification, and review by the BLM State Office. In addition, any use of pesticides shall comply with all applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides shall only be used in accordance with their registered uses, must be on the list of pesticides approved for use on California BLM lands, and used within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Applicators of herbicides must have completed pesticide certification

training and have a Certified Pesticide Applicator's License. A Pesticide Use Report (PUR) must be completed within 48 hours of all herbicide applications and pesticide application records for the areas and acres treated must be submitted to the Authorized BLM Officer each year.

The record information must be recorded no later than 14 calendar days following the pesticide or herbicide application and must be maintained for ten years.

Rights-of-way sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

The holder shall meet Federal, State, and local emission standards for air quality.

All vehicle use by the holder or the holder's contractors during inspection or maintenance shall be confined to existing roads. No new vehicle routes shall be created or cleared by the holder or the holder's contractor. No off-road vehicle travel is authorized.

Where necessary, and unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, any existing power lines or power line structures that are modified, replaced or repaired shall be done in accordance to standards outlined in "Reducing Avian Collisions with Powerlines: The State of the Art in 2012" Edison Electric Institute and APLIC, 2012. The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "avian safe." Such proof shall be provided by an avian expert approved by the authorized officer. The BLM, in consultation with the holder, reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all new power line structures placed on this right of way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

Holder shall comply with the Endangered Species Act in the operation, maintenance and termination of the facilities, including any surface disturbance such as pole or insulator replacement or right-of-way maintenance. The holder shall contact the Bakersfield Field Office Biologist, prior to commencement of any surface disturbing operations to receive guidance on how impacts from such activity must be minimized, including any requirements for compliance with any Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation.

All design, material, operation, maintenance, and termination practices shall be in accordance with safe and proven engineering practices.

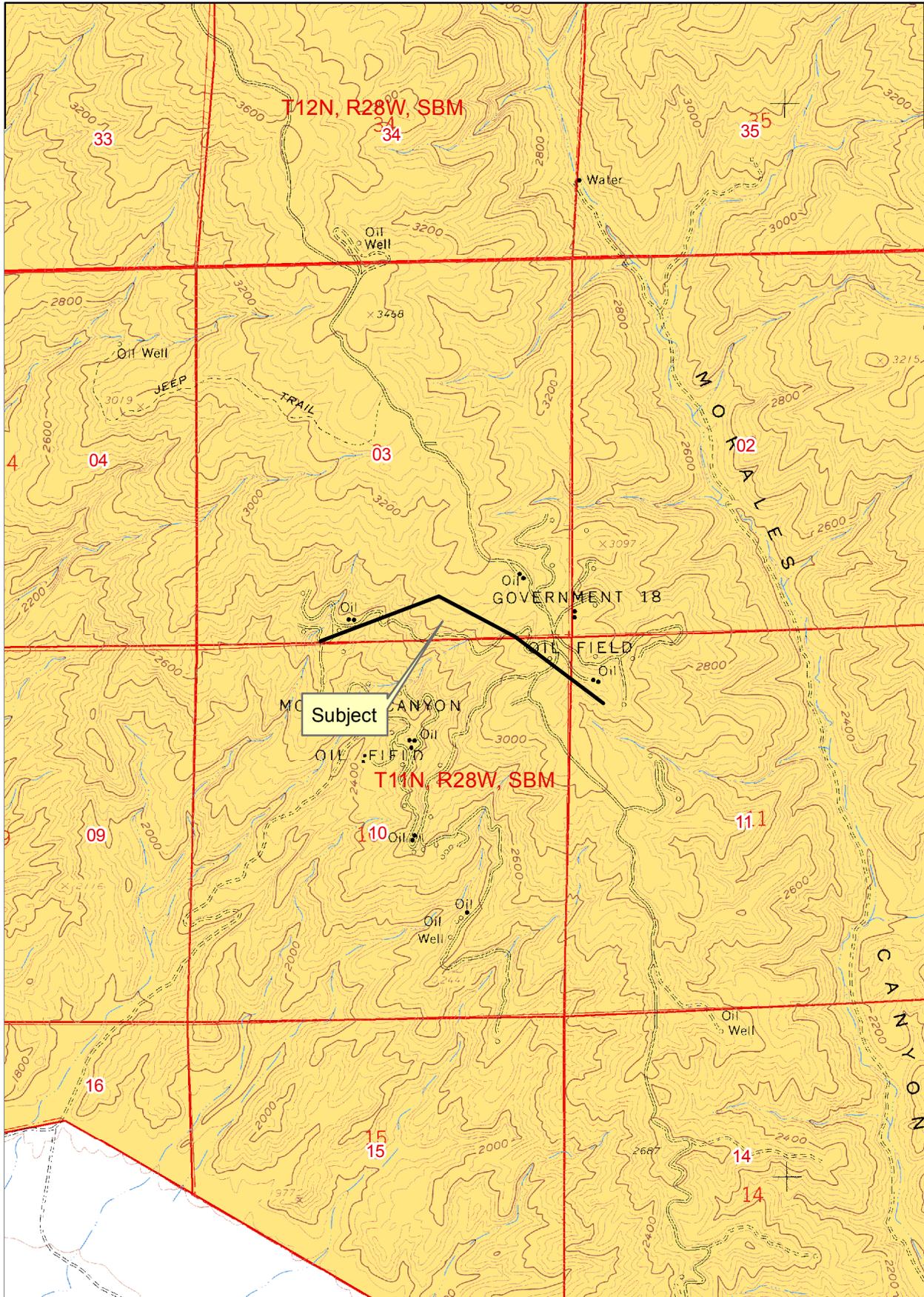
No routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support the equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of six (6) inches deep the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support the equipment.

Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a pre-termination conference. This conference will be held to review the termination provisions

of the grant. The authorized officer may require the removal and rehabilitation of certain structures or facilities in order to protect public health and safety and/or the environment.

CARI 4324

10/23/14



Caliente Mountain USGS Quad 1:24,000
Sections 3, 10, 11, T. 11 N., R. 28 W., San Luis Obispo County, CA.

