

**CALENDAR ITEM
C82**

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R. B. Greenwood

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT ON
SOVEREIGN LANDS IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER,
SACRAMENTO AND SOLANO COUNTIES**

APPLICANT:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Attn.: Mr. Vince Hildebrand
5555 Florin Perkins Road, Room 128
Sacramento, CA 95827

BACKGROUND:

The geological survey permit would allow the gathering of data that will be used in an environmental impact report for and preliminary design of relocating three natural gas pipelines under the Sacramento River to accommodate the upcoming deepening of the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposed project involves nine rotary wash borings in the lower Sacramento River to a total depth of 100 feet below the base of the river. All borings will be located approximately 300 feet offset from the three existing pipeline crossing alignments. At each of three proposed alignments, single borings will be drilled approximately 500 feet waterward of the shoreline on either side of the river, with one mid-river boring—three borings per alignment. The maximum current water depth is approximately 34 to 46 feet deep. The drilling will be conducted over a period of two to three months. The deep geologic samples will be collected at locations, as depicted on Exhibit A (attached hereto), utilizing rotary wash drilling methods with down-hole sampling and testing from a self-contained barge.

Borings are anticipated to reach approximately 100 feet below the river bottom. The borings will be advanced using a 4½ to 5½ inch bit, with a water or bentonite clay drilling fluid in a closed circulation system that is completely isolated from

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the river waters. After drilling and sampling, the boreholes will be backfilled with clean cement grout. Drill cuttings, drilling fluid, and wash water will be retained for testing and proper offsite disposal.

The drilling barge, whose dimensions are 110 feet by 34 feet, will be secured by four anchors and by two 80 foot long spuds (24 inch diameter steel posts). The barge will be supported by a twin-screw tugboat and a smaller work skiff. Upon request, the California State Lands Commission will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

One year, beginning September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Required fees, expense deposit and other security have been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code section 6826.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905(e)(3).
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(3).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300; and Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905.

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370, et seq., but such activity will not affect the significant lands. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

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EXHIBIT:

- A. Permit Regions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDINGS:

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(3).

SIGNIFICANT LANDS:

Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370, et seq.

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance to Pacific Gas & Electric Company, of a Non-Exclusive General Permit to conduct Geological Surveys for the period September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012, at locations designated on Exhibit A, attached hereto.