This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), to analyze and disclose the environmental effects associated with the proposed GWF Outfall Removal (Project). The Project would authorize GWF Power Systems, L.P. (GWF or Applicant) to remove an existing outfall structure (i.e., piping, diffusers and timber pile markers) that is no longer in service, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the existing CSLC lease (PRC 7230.1).

The proposed Project is located on sovereign land in Suisun Bay connected by an easement to 555 Nichols Road, near Bay Point, in unincorporated Contra Costa County (see Figure ES-1). The property at 555 Nichols Road is a former GWF power plant that has been decommissioned and demolished. Removal and demolition of the outfall pipe is expected to occur from September 1 to October 31, 2014, and take approximately two consecutive weeks to complete, including mobilization, demolition, and demobilization.

The goal of the Project is the safe removal of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) piping, wood, and steel materials associated with the outfall structure that remain offshore within CSLC jurisdiction, while minimizing potential environmental impacts of the Project on the environment. The CSLC prepared an MND because it determined that, while the Initial Study (IS) identified potentially significant impacts related to the outfall removal activities, measures have been incorporated into the Project proposal and agreed to by GWF that avoid or mitigate those impacts to a point where no significant impacts would occur.

PROPOSED PROJECT

On August 10, 1988, the CSLC authorized a 30-year General Lease – Right-of-Way Use for the use and maintenance of three submerged pipe outfalls at three sites in Suisun Bay, named sites III, IV, and V. Of the three outfalls authorized, only the outfall at Site V was constructed. The outfall was used to discharge process wastewater from an electrical generating power plant in the unincorporated community of Bay Point, Contra Costa County. The outfall has been decommissioned since the power plant ceased operation in 2012 and, in 2013, the plant was demolished. On March 25, 2014, GWF submitted an application to the CSLC for the proposed removal of the outfall facilities and subsequent lease termination under the terms of the lease. The application includes the complete removal of in-water-HDPE pipe materials below mean high water (MHW), including steel and concrete ballast weight “baskets” and two wood pilings demarking the outfall landward of the Suisun Bay.
Executive Summary

GWF Outfall Removal

ES-2
July 2014

Project MND
Elements of the outfall structure to be removed include:

- An approximately 275-foot-long by 6-inch-diameter HDPE pipe running perpendicular to the shoreline into Suisun Bay with 15, 3-inch-diameter HDPE diffuser risers spaced at 30-inch intervals beginning at approximately 220 feet offshore; and

- Two 16-foot-high by one-foot-diameter wood piles on the shoreline below MHW, marking the point where the discharge pipe enters into Suisun Bay.

The piping will be removed in its entirety to the shoreline terminus at the MHW mark, where it connects to the onshore pipe. The two wood pile structures marking and protecting the outfall at the shoreline will be removed to at least 24 inches below the mud line. Removal activities will also include installation of a blind flange closure plate onto the land-portion terminus flange. None of the armor cover rock or bedding gravel will be removed from the pipe corridor and no other substrate fill, grade, levelling, or other restoration will be performed.

The removal activities will primarily be carried out from floating equipment staged from the water near the shoreline with the exception of a light utility work vehicle parked onshore that would be used to assist with servicing of equipment, providing equipment and support for cutting the wood piles, or for the expedient evacuation of an injured worker. This temporary vehicular access would use the existing 12-foot-wide levee road, shown in Figure ES-2. This existing road will also allow for access from onshore for the Applicant, its contractors, site monitors, agency representatives or other authorized personnel observing operations. The temporary access roadway is on private land and use is subject to authorization by the landowner (Honeywell International). All removal vessels, equipment and other materials would be removed at the Project completion.

Prior to initiating pipe removal, with the floating barge stationary (with anchor spuds in place) and securely moored adjacent to the pipe terminus, water jetting will be completed around the underside of the pipe, approximately five feet from the pipe terminus. A suitable, sturdy chain will be positioned around the pipe (a “choke”) to grip and enable lifting. The pipe will be lifted and peeled back (in 10- to 20-foot sections), and divers will relocate the choke/lifting chain along the pipe alignment as the pipe is recovered while working toward the shoreline. Water jetting activities are expected to occur only at the beginning of pipe removal activities. Divers will locate the diffuser section and install mechanical plugs into the top of the 3-inch vertical riser ports to contain the sediment.
The 6-inch HDPE submarine pipe will be disconnected from the land-portion aboveground steel pipe. This shoreline terminus of the 6-inch HDPE pipe will then be secured to the two timber pilings. A 100-foot-long semi-circular silt/turbidity curtain will be connected to the shoreline (east and west of the wood pilings) by driven stakes to encompass the wood pilings and outfall connection at the shoreline. An anchor will be placed near the apex of the semi-circle and at the end of each 50-foot section to hold the silt curtain in place.

Buoys will be affixed to the HDPE pipe section to help it float and keep it visible while securing the 6-inch outfall terminus to a larger buoy and mooring at the furthest point offshore. When the on-barge equipment is no longer able to "peel" the buried pipe off the bottom at the appropriate angle, the barge will be relocated closer to the shoreline and secured in place with the anchor spuds.

During low tidal cycles, particularly when working close to the shore in shallow water depths, the “peeling” back of the HDPE pipe from its corridor will be temporarily secured in order to recover the floating section of the pipe. The section of floating pipe will be lifted onto the deck of the barge. Mechanical “stopper” plugs will be placed at both ends of each pipe section to contain sediment.

The two timber piles located along the shoreline (next to the 6-inch steel flange connection) will be extracted and/or cut to 24 inches below the mud-line, floated and recovered onto the barge, and cut into manageable pieces as necessary. The timber piles are assumed to be coated with creosote residue and will be transported and properly disposed at Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg.

Several environmental controls to be implemented include (but are not limited to):

- All engine-powered equipment used and operated upon and from the deck of the barge will use drip-pans or other means to retain fluids beneath the equipment.
- Only approved and certified fuel cans with “no-spill” spring loaded lids will be used when fueling up diesel or gas engines. Engines will be turned OFF and fueling will not be done over the water. A spill kit with absorbent diapers will be readily available next to each filling area.
- A continuous floating oil-absorbent sock will be deployed and maintained around the entire barge to contain any accidental leakage of fuel or hydraulic fluids.
- A turbidity curtain (100 linear feet) shall be installed and maintained around the shoreline terminus flange of the pipe to maximize sediment containment that may discharge from the pipe and/or be resuspended from the water bottom during removal. Additionally, turbidity will be minimized by removing the pipe with slow, controlled movements. Sawdust generated during timber piling cutting and
removal will also be contained in this curtain and/or skimmed and removed if floating in water (and disposed of in plastic bags).

- Cutting and removal of the timber piles 24 inches below the mudline will follow the methods identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in its Best Management Practices for Pile Removal (dated March 1, 2007) to control turbidity and sediments re-entering the water column during pile removal, capture debris, and dispose of removed piles and debris.

- Native bay mud will be repositioned to accommodate wood pile cutting and will be replaced within the minor voids after cutting and piling removal is complete.

- The piles will be placed in a containment basin on the barge to capture any adhering sediment immediately after the pile is removed from the water. Piles will be cut into manageable lengths.

- The Project will use U.S. Coast Guard compliant stationary barge mooring equipment, including marker flags and nighttime illumination and flashers.

- A plastics recycling company will be hired by the Applicant to transport an estimated as 1,950 pounds (275 linear feet at 7.09 pounds per linear foot) of HDPE pipe materials. In the event recycling is not feasible, the pipe materials will be delivered to an off-site landfill.

The work will be scheduled during a time of year that minimizes effects to sensitive ecological resources, including threatened and endangered species as designated by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (further described in Section 3.4, Biological Resources). Onshore activities will be designed to avoid disturbance of tidal marsh habitat (identified in Section 3.4, Biological Resources).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The proposed Project is located in Suisun Bay, in unincorporated Contra Costa County approximately 0.6 mile east of the Concord Naval Weapons Station Military Ocean Terminal, 0.8 mile south of Middle Ground Island, 3 miles west of the mouth of the Sacramento River, and 0.9 mile north of Port Chicago Highway. The general Project area is located on approximately 4 acres of ungranted sovereign lands, including an approximately 200-foot buffer surrounding the outfall/diffuser, which has an “actual” footprint of 0.003 acre (139.5 square feet). The Project will remove approximately 275 feet of HDPE pipe. The Project area of disturbance used for analyzing impacts is approximately 0.06 acre of waters of the United States and State of California (i.e., 275 feet by 10-foot corridor).
The Project site is located primarily offshore, with the only onshore portion being an existing levee road that may provide onshore access for emergency services. The contractor’s shore base is anticipated to be at an existing marina facility no more than 10 miles from the Project site.

The outfall is the terminus of an existing 6-inch steel discharge pipe which begins at the site of the now demolished power plant. It runs northerly on footings where it becomes aboveground, along relatively level ground berm above an aluminum sulfate pond and further north, a widespread coastal marsh with only small topographic changes as the land uses change from industrial, on a berm past the depressed aluminum sulfate pond, through coastal marsh, and to the shoreline. The Project does not include removal of this 1,400-foot, aboveground, 6-inch-diameter carbon steel pipe, as it is located entirely on private property not under the control of the Applicant.

There is no safe access to the Project site from upland locations. To the south of the Project is ChemTrade – Bay Point Works. The facility occupies approximately 26 acres, and is an operating sulfuric acid plant. Access to the property is controlled at the gate. Honeywell property is adjacent to the property and is an additional industrial use. To the west, the federally-controlled Port Chicago Military Ocean Terminal property is adjacent to the GWF pipe right-of-way.

The Contra Costa General Plan designates the area for Heavy Industrial and Public/Semi-Public land use which previously included the now demolished GWF power plant. Public/Semi-Public land is located to the southwest of the Project site within which is active use by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). Residential uses are located more than 1 mile away. There are no sensitive land uses such as hospitals, retirement communities, or schools located adjacent to or within 1 mile of the Project site. Open Space surrounds the Project site, however, this Open Space designation serves as a conservation measure for the coastal marsh that is prevalent in the area, and is generally not accessible to the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

The environmental factors checked below in Table ES-1 would be potentially affected by this Project; a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “Potentially Significant Impact” except that the Applicant has incorporated Project revisions, including the implementation of mitigation measures (MMs), that reduce the impact to “Less than Significant with Mitigation,” as detailed in Section 3 of this MND. Table ES-2 lists proposed MMs designed to reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts. With implementation of the proposed MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to less than significant.
Table ES-1  Environmental Issues and Potentially Significant Impacts

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Table ES-2  Summary of Proposed Project Mitigation Measures (MM)

**Biological Resources**

- MM BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- MM BIO-2: Work Windows
- MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
- MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances
- MM BIO-5: Confine Vehicle Use to Established Roadway.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

- MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
- MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances

**Hydrology and Water Quality**

- MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
- MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances