

1 **SECTION 1 – PROJECT AND AGENCY INFORMATION**

2 **1.1 Project Title**

3 PG&E Point Buchon Ocean Bottom Seismometer Project

4 **1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address**

5 California State Lands Commission (CSLC)
6 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
7 Sacramento, CA 95825

8 Contact person:

9 Jennifer DeLeon, Environmental Program Manager
10 Division of Environmental Planning and Management
11 Jennifer.DeLeon@slc.ca.gov
12 (916) 574-0748

13 **1.3 Project Applicant Name and Address**

14 Jude A. Fledderman, Director, Strategic Projects
15 Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)
16 Diablo Canyon Power Plant
17 Mail Code: 104/6/602
18 P.O. Box 56
19 Avila Beach, CA 93424

20 **1.4 Project Location**

21 The proposed Project would be located in the waters of the Pacific Ocean offshore of
22 the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) along the south-central coast of California,
23 approximately 26 kilometers (km) (16 miles [mi]) west of the city of San Luis Obispo.
24 The Project area extends from the DCPP (located onshore), seaward to the State of
25 California jurisdictional limit, 3 nautical miles (nm) from the shoreline. The area includes
26 the marine waters located between Point Buchon and Point San Luis. Please refer to
27 Section 2 - Project Description, for further details on the proposed Project location.

28 **1.5 Organization of Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

29 This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is intended to provide the CSLC, as lead
30 agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other responsible
31 agencies with the information required to exercise their discretionary responsibilities
32 with respect to the proposed Project. The document is organized as follows.

- 1 • Section 1 provides the Project background, Agency and Applicant information,
2 Project Objectives and anticipated agency approvals, and a summary of the
3 public review and comment process.
- 4 • Section 2 describes the proposed Project including its location, layout,
5 equipment, and facilities. Section 2 also provides an overview of the Project's
6 operations and schedule.
- 7 • Section 3 provides the Initial Study (IS), including the environmental setting,
8 identification and analysis of potential impacts, and discussion of various Project
9 changes and other measures that, if incorporated into the Project, would mitigate
10 or avoid those impacts, such that no significant effect on the environment would
11 occur. The IS was conducted by the CSLC pursuant to section 15063 of the
12 State CEQA Guidelines.
- 13 • Section 4 includes an environmental justice analysis and discussion consistent
14 with CSLC Policy.
- 15 • Section 5 presents the Mitigation Monitoring Program
- 16 • Sections 6 presents information on report preparation and references.
- 17 • Appendices. The appendices include plans, data, and other information
18 submitted by the Applicant and analyzed in this MND.
 - 19 ○ Appendix A: specification sheet on the primary project vessel, the *MV*
20 *Michael Uhl*;
 - 21 ○ Appendix B: Spill Response Plan for the *MV Michael Uhl*;
 - 22 ○ Appendix C: air emissions calculations;
 - 23 ○ Appendix D: project-specific marine biological survey report;
 - 24 ○ Appendix E: project-specific seafloor habitat report;
 - 25 ○ Appendix F: background information on noise;
 - 26 ○ Appendix G: Essential Fish Habitat Assessment;
 - 27 ○ Appendix H: Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan; and
 - 28 ○ Appendix I: December 2011 ROV Survey - Summary Report.

29 **1.6 Project Background and Objectives**

30 Assembly Bill (AB) 1632 (Blakeslee, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2006) required the
31 California Energy Commission (CEC) to assess the potential vulnerability of existing
32 nuclear power plants within the State of California, including potential vulnerability from
33 seismic events or due to aging of the plant. The CEC (2008) subsequently prepared a
34 final report, which recommended that PG&E gather data on faults near the DCPD by
35 conducting various scientific studies and surveys.

1 The proposed Project would provide data to aid in this recommended assessment of
2 DCCP's vulnerability from seismic events. More specifically, the Project would provide
3 background (ambient) sound data from temporary Ocean Bottom Seismometer (OBS)
4 units and accurate real-time data of earthquakes in the region from long-term OBS units
5 as follows.

- 6 • The temporary OBS units would record ambient sound and seafloor movement
7 (termed "noise" in geophysical terms) to allow assessment of background
8 conditions.
- 9 • The long-term OBS units would record earthquake-generated ground movement
10 and sound data and continually transmit real-time data to an onshore facility for
11 up to 10 years.

12 These data may also be useful in emergency preparedness that could benefit the public
13 beyond the region and will be shared with public agencies, including but not limited to
14 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

15 **1.7 Public Review and Comment**

16 Consistent with the direction provided in the State CEQA Guidelines sections 15072
17 and 15073, the MND was circulated to local and state agencies and to interested
18 individuals. Responses to written comments received by the CSLC during the 30-day
19 public review period have been incorporated into this document. Prior to taking action
20 on adoption of the MND and approval of the Project, the CSLC will consider the MND
21 along with all comments received.

22 **1.8 Permits, Approvals and Regulatory Requirements**

23 In addition to the CSLC's leasing jurisdiction, the Project is subject to the authorities of a
24 number of other federal, state, and local entities with statutory and/or regulatory
25 jurisdiction over various aspects of the proposed Project. Prior to implementing the
26 proposed Project, PG&E will be required to seek permits and/or approvals from the
27 agencies listed in Table 1-1.

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Table 1-1. Federal, State, and Local Permitting Agencies

Permitting Agency	Anticipated Approvals, Authorizations, and Regulatory Requirements
Federal Agencies	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act Authorization
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Notice to Mariners
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) (also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS])	Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (with ACOE), Marine Mammal Protection Act, Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation, Nautical Chart updates
State Agencies	
California State Lands Commission (CSLC)	Tidelands Lease, CEQA Compliance
California Coastal Commission (CCC)	Coastal Development Permit
California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC)	California Endangered Species Act Consultation Authorization for Use of Marine Protected Area
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	Notification of proposed actions in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requirements.