SECTION 1 – PROJECT AND AGENCY INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title
PG&E Point Buchon Ocean Bottom Seismometer Project

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address
California State Lands Commission (CSLC)
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Contact person:
Jennifer DeLeon, Environmental Program Manager
Division of Environmental Planning and Management
Jennifer.DeLeon@slc.ca.gov
(916) 574-0748

1.3 Project Applicant Name and Address
Jude A. Fledderman, Director, Strategic Projects
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)
Diablo Canyon Power Plant
Mail Code: 104/6/602
P.O. Box 56
Avila Beach, CA 93424

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

1.5 Organization of Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is intended to provide the CSLC, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other responsible agencies with the information required to exercise their discretionary responsibilities with respect to the proposed Project. The document is organized as follows.
1. Project and Agency Information

• Section 1 provides the Project background, Agency and Applicant information, Project Objectives and anticipated agency approvals, and a summary of the public review and comment process.

• Section 2 describes the proposed Project including its location, layout, equipment, and facilities. Section 2 also provides an overview of the Project’s operations and schedule.

• Section 3 provides the Initial Study (IS), including the environmental setting, identification and analysis of potential impacts, and discussion of various Project changes and other measures that, if incorporated into the Project, would mitigate or avoid those impacts, such that no significant effect on the environment would occur. The IS was conducted by the CSLC pursuant to section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

• Section 4 includes an environmental justice analysis and discussion consistent with CSLC Policy.

• Section 5 presents the Mitigation Monitoring Program.

• Sections 6 presents information on report preparation and references.

• Appendices. The appendices include plans, data, and other information submitted by the Applicant and analyzed in this MND.

  o Appendix A: specification sheet on the primary project vessel, the MV Michael Uhl;

  o Appendix B: Spill Response Plan for the MV Michael Uhl;

  o Appendix C: air emissions calculations;

  o Appendix D: project-specific marine biological survey report;

  o Appendix E: project-specific seafloor habitat report;

  o Appendix F: background information on noise;

  o Appendix G: Essential Fish Habitat Assessment;

  o Appendix H: Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan; and

  o Appendix I: December 2011 ROV Survey - Summary Report.

1.6 Project Background and Objectives

Assembly Bill (AB) 1632 (Blakeslee, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2006) required the California Energy Commission (CEC) to assess the potential vulnerability of existing nuclear power plants within the State of California, including potential vulnerability from seismic events or due to aging of the plant. The CEC (2008) subsequently prepared a final report, which recommended that PG&E gather data on faults near the DCPP by conducting various scientific studies and surveys.
The proposed Project would provide data to aid in this recommended assessment of DCPP’s vulnerability from seismic events. More specifically, the Project would provide background (ambient) sound data from temporary Ocean Bottom Seismometer (OBS) units and accurate real-time data of earthquakes in the region from long-term OBS units as follows.

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

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

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

1.8 Permits, Approvals and Regulatory Requirements
In addition to the CSLC’s leasing jurisdiction, the Project is subject to the authorities of a number of other federal, state, and local entities with statutory and/or regulatory jurisdiction over various aspects of the proposed Project. Prior to implementing the proposed Project, PG&E will be required to seek permits and/or approvals from the agencies listed in Table 1-1.
### Table 1-1. Federal, State, and Local Permitting Agencies

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