

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ANALYSIS

1 This section contains the Initial Study (IS) that was completed for the proposed Pacific
2 Gas and Electric (PG&E) (PG&E or Applicant) Line 114, Line 114-1, and Line SP4Z
3 Pipeline Decommissioning Project (Project) in accordance with the requirements of
4 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS identifies site-specific conditions
5 and impacts, evaluates their potential significance, and discusses ways to avoid or
6 lessen impacts that are potentially significant. The information, analysis, and
7 conclusions included in the IS provide the basis for determining the appropriate
8 document needed to comply with CEQA. For the Project, based on the analysis and
9 information contained herein, California State Lands Commission (CSLC) staff has
10 found that the IS shows that there is substantial evidence that the Project may have a
11 significant effect on the environment, but revisions to the Project would avoid the effects
12 or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment
13 would occur. As a result, the CSLC has concluded that a Mitigated Negative Declaration
14 (MND) is the appropriate CEQA document for the Project.

15 The evaluation of environmental impacts provided in this IS is based in part on the
16 impact questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; these
17 questions, which are included in an impact assessment matrix for each environmental
18 category (Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources,
19 etc.), are “intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts.” Each question is
20 followed by a check-marked box with column headings that are defined below.

- 21 • **Potentially Significant Impact.** This column is checked if there is substantial
22 evidence that a Project-related environmental effect may be significant. If there
23 are one or more “Potentially Significant Impacts,” a Project Environmental Impact
24 Report (EIR) would be prepared.
- 25 • **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** This column is checked when the
26 Project may result in a significant environmental impact, but the incorporation of
27 identified Project revisions or mitigation measures would reduce the identified
28 effect(s) to a less than significant level.
- 29 • **Less than Significant Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would
30 not result in any significant effects. The Project’s impact is less than significant
31 even without the incorporation of Project-specific mitigation measures.
- 32 • **No Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any
33 impact in the category or the category does not apply.

34 The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project;
35 a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “Potentially Significant
36 Impact” except that the Applicant has agreed to Project revisions, including the

1 implementation of mitigation measures, that reduce the impact to “Less than Significant
2 with Mitigation.”

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forest Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Major Areas of Concern: Environmental Justice		

3 Detailed descriptions and analyses of impacts from Project activities and the basis for
4 their significance determinations are provided for each environmental factor on the
5 following pages, beginning with Section 3.1, Aesthetics. Relevant laws, regulations, and
6 policies potentially applicable to the Project are listed in the Regulatory Setting for each
7 environmental factor analyzed in this IS.

8 **AGENCY DETERMINATION**

9 Based on the environmental impact analysis provided by this Initial Study:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.



June 4, 2015
Date

10 Signature

11 Cynthia Herzog, Senior Environmental Scientist
12 Division of Environmental Planning and Management
13 California State Lands Commission