

1 **3.3.6 Geology and Soils**

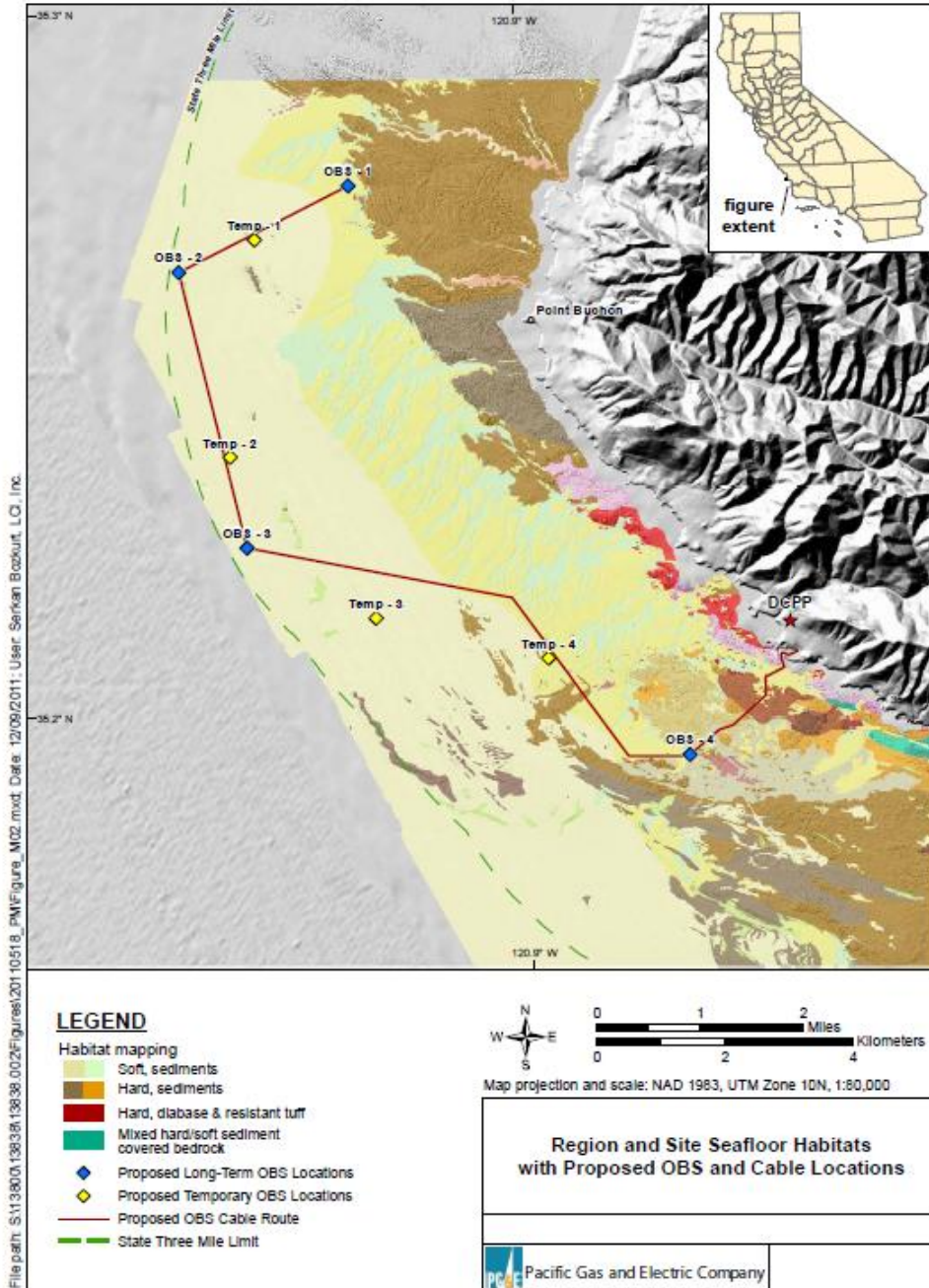
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.3.6.1 Environmental Setting**

3 **Region and Site Marine Geology.** The onset of glaciation during the Pleistocene  
4 Epoch caused several major oscillations in the sea level of more than 91 m (300 ft), as  
5 the polar ice caps formed and subsequently receded. The last major regression  
6 occurred about 17,000 years ago, and global sea levels dropped approximately 122 m  
7 (400 ft) (Fillon et al. 2004). Thus, sediments on the seafloor of the present-day  
8 continental shelf were exposed for several thousand years. Migrating rivers eroded  
9 sizeable channels when sea-level regressions exposed portions of the present seafloor.  
10 Sediments on the inner continental shelf in the Project area are consistent with recent  
11 deposition under turbulent, shallow water conditions. Sediments farther offshore consist  
12 of silty clays that settled out of suspension.

1 Substrate and habitat descriptions are provided here for the proposed 30 m- (100 ft-)  
 2 wide corridor for the cable designed to connect the four proposed long-term OBS units  
 3 on the seafloor offshore of DCPD with a land-based signal receiving station located in  
 4 the DCPD intake cove (see Figure 3.3.4-3). The geologic descriptions are based on  
 5 interpretive geologic maps constructed for PG&E from multibeam echosounder  
 6 bathymetry and backscatter data collected offshore of DCPD.

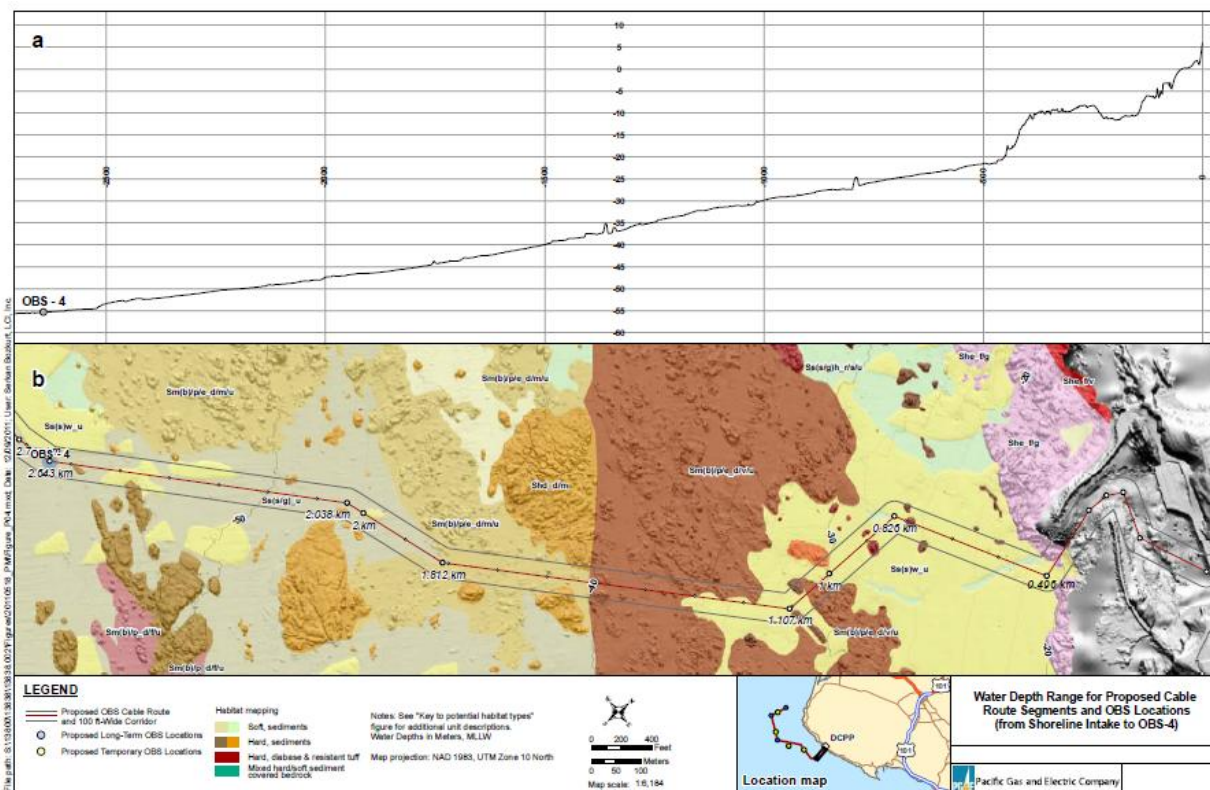
7 **Figure 3.3.6-1. Region and Site Seafloor Habitats with Proposed OBS and Cable**  
 8 **Locations**



1 The corridor described here is an 18.3 km- (11.4 mi-) long, four-segment route that  
 2 extends from the receiving station to OBS-1 (see Figure 3.3.6-1). Segment 1 runs from  
 3 the receiving station to OBS-4, Segment 2 from OBS-4 to OBS-3, Segment 3 from  
 4 OBS-3 to OBS-2, and Segment 4 from OBS-2 to OBS-1 (see Figures 3.3.6-2 through  
 5 3.3.6-5). Two of the cable segments are sinuous, with Segment 1 having four bends  
 6 (route direction changes) and five separate tangents and Segment 2 having three bends  
 7 with four separate tangents. Segments 3 and 4 are straight without bends, and so not  
 8 broken down into tangents. In Figures 3.3.6-2 through -6, each tenth of a kilometer  
 9 along the cable is shown depicted as a small, filled circle to facilitate location and  
 10 description of seafloor habitats. Each bend, OBS site, even-numbered kilometer mark  
 11 (KM) or position of a particular feature of interest, too is shown as a large, filled circle  
 12 and labeled with the cumulative distance from shore in kilometers. The locations of the  
 13 long-term and temporary OBS units are shown in close-up views with the seafloor  
 14 habitat (see Figure 3.3.6-6).

15 **Cable Segment 1** (KM 0.496 – KM 2.643) - This 2.144 km-long segment is sinuous,  
 16 with four bends that divide the segment into five tangents, and ranges in depth from ~20  
 17 m to 53 m (66 to 174 ft) at OBS-4, a depth differential of ~35 m (115 ft). Most of the  
 18 cable route crosses relatively smooth, flat sediment seafloor, but short stretches are  
 19 within hard bedrock exposures. (See Figure 3.3.6-2).

20 **Figure 3.3.6-2. Seafloor Habitat and Bathymetry for Cable Segment 1**



1            *Tangent 1 (KM 0.496 – KM 0.826)* – The eastern end of Segment 1, tangent 1 is  
2 located in ~20 m (66 ft) water depth on a soft, mobile, unconsolidated sand sheet that  
3 covers the southern tip of a hard bedrock (diabase) exposure; the exposure crops out to  
4 the north of KM 0.496 and appears to form an ~10 m-high rock face at the entrance to  
5 DCPD intake bay. At KM 0.570, one of many troughs (depressions) of unconsolidated  
6 rippled sand and gravel is exposed on the seafloor and is probably ephemeral, as  
7 mobile sand sheets that migrate through this area periodically cover the substrate at the  
8 base of depressions like this one. From KM 0.570 to where the route bends to the south  
9 at KM 0.826, the seafloor within the cable corridor is composed of a soft, mobile,  
10 unconsolidated sand sheet habitat with locally exposed, small, hard bedrock outcrops  
11 and boulders. At KM 0.795, the center of the cable corridor crosses an ~3 m-high  
12 boulder or bedrock exposure with three other rock outcrops present within the cable  
13 corridor at approximately KM 0.610, 0.750 and 0.820. The end of this tangent is at ~27  
14 m (89 ft), giving an overall depth range of 7 m (23 ft) for the 0.327 km (0.2 mi) stretch  
15 (1.23 degree slope or 2.14 percent grade).

16            *Tangent 2 (KM 0.826 – KM 1.107)* - The cable corridor along this tangent is  
17 located mainly on soft, mobile, unconsolidated sand sheets with local exposures of  
18 bedrock or sediment-covered bedrock. A small scour depression of soft,  
19 unconsolidated, rippled sand and gravel is located just to the west of the bend at KM  
20 0.826, and may be covered in the future by the migrating mobile unconsolidated sand  
21 sheets that are prominent in this area. At KM 0.900, the center of the cable corridor  
22 splits two bedrock exposures that rise several meters above the seafloor, then crosses  
23 a boulder at KM 1.010 in ~28 m (92 ft) water depth. Further along this segment,  
24 between KM 1.010 and 1.070, the cable corridor is composed of soft, mobile,  
25 unconsolidated sand sheets that locally cover bedrock with small, scattered hard  
26 bedrock outcrops, producing a fairly varied and rugose seafloor. The end of this tangent  
27 is located at ~29 m (95 ft) water depth, giving an overall depth differential of 2 m for the  
28 0.281 km length of the tangent (0.40 degree slope or 0.71 percent grade).

29            *Tangent 3 (KM 1.107 – KM 1.182)* - The most complex benthic habitat types of  
30 Segment 1, and the entire cable route, exist within tangent 3. From KM 1.180 to 1.300  
31 in ~32 m (105 ft) water depth on a flat seafloor, the centerline of the proposed cable  
32 corridor skirts along the southern margin of hard bedrock exposure that is locally  
33 covered with sediment. The northern half of the corridor is located mostly in hard,  
34 differentially-eroded bedrock that is mixed with locally unconsolidated sediment pockets,  
35 while the southern half is located on mobile, unconsolidated sand sheets. Then, from  
36 KM 1.300 to 1.500, the cable corridor is located on differentially-eroded bedrock  
37 exposures that are locally covered with unconsolidated sediment, pebbles and boulders.  
38 Two closely-spaced (~20 m [66 ft] peak to peak) rock pinnacles, one rising 1 m (3 ft) off  
39 the seafloor and the other 2.5 m- (8.2 ft-) high, are crossed by the centerline of the  
40 proposed cable corridor between KM 1.50 and 1.53 in 37 m (121 ft) water depth.

1 A lithologic contact exists in 40 m (131 ft) water depth. The proposed cable corridor  
2 crosses a fairly flat sediment covered bedrock seafloor from KM 1.500 to the end of the  
3 tangent at KM 1.812, with the centerline crossing over several small, hard, rock  
4 boulders or pinnacles; the most prominent one, located at KM 1.76, rises ~1 m (3 ft) off  
5 the 44 m- (128 ft-) deep seafloor.

6 Tangent 3 varies in depth from ~32 m to ~45 m (105 to 148 ft), a range of 13 m (43 ft)  
7 along a 0.705 km (0.437 mi) stretch (1.06 degree slope or 1.84 percent grade). This  
8 tangent is nearly equal to the slope and grade of Tangent 1, the steepest of all the  
9 segments.

10 *Tangent 4 (KM 1.812 – KM 2.038)* - The entire proposed cable corridor along this  
11 tangent crosses flat scoured sediment (rippled sand and gravel) substrate with the  
12 exception of the stretch between KM 1.980 and 2.000, where the centerline crosses the  
13 front of a small mobile unconsolidated sand sheet and the southern edge of the corridor  
14 skirts several hard outcrops of differentially eroded sedimentary bedrock. Water depth  
15 ranges from about 45 m to about 47 m (148 to 154 ft), a differential of 2 m (6 ft) for the  
16 0.226 km (0.140 mi) length of the tangent (0.51 degree slope, 0.89 percent grade).

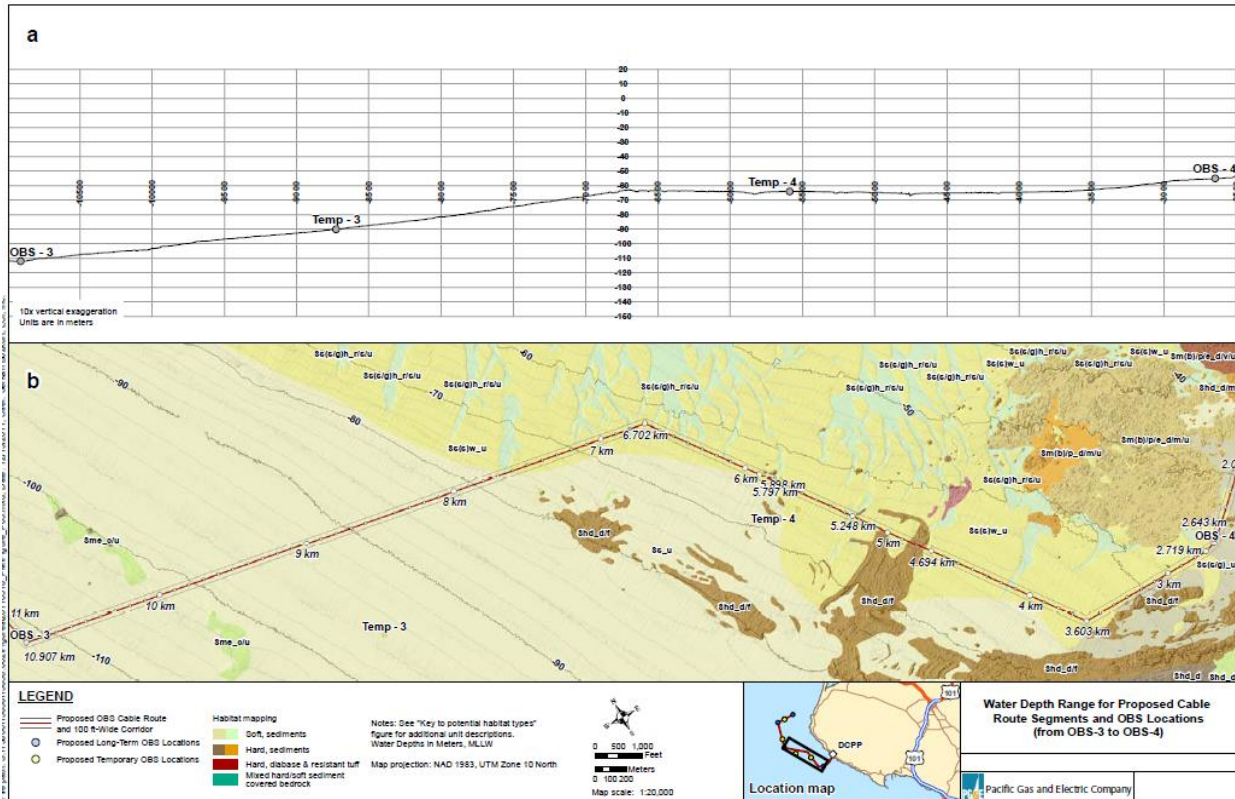
17 *Tangent 5 (KM 2.038 – KM 2.643)* - With the exception of four small, hard  
18 bedrock outcrops at KM 2.038 (located along the southern margin of the corridor), KM  
19 2.850 (located along the southern margin of the corridor), KM 1.160 (located along the  
20 northern margin of the corridor), and KM 2.690 (located in the southern half of the  
21 corridor and partially underlying the centerline), this tangent crosses soft unconsolidated  
22 sediment. Most of the route is in scoured substrate of rippled sand and gravel, while  
23 from KM 2.280 to 2.400, the centerline skirts the front of a mobile unconsolidated sand  
24 sheet that covers most of the northern half of the corridor. Also, from KM 2.420 to 2.52  
25 at a general depth of 50 m (164 ft), the corridor crosses a mobile, unconsolidated sand  
26 sheet. Water depth along this tangent ranges from ~47 to ~55 m at OBS-4 (154 to 180  
27 ft) along the 0.605 km (0.375 mi) length, a depth differential of 8 m for the tangent (0.76  
28 degree slope, 1.32 percent grade).

29 **Cable Segment 2 (KM 2.643 – KM 10.907)** - This segment extends from OBS-4 (~55 m  
30 [180 ft] deep) to OBS-3 (~113 m [371 ft] deep) (8.264 km- [5.124 mi-] long). Segment 2  
31 has 4 tangents with 3 bends and a total length of 8.264 km (5.124 mi). The most  
32 sinuous part of the segment is located along its southern half which, is oblique to the  
33 coast and isobaths for a short distance (1.032 km [0.640 mi]), then parallels the coast.  
34 The northern half, however, is oriented nearly east-west as one straight tangent, oblique  
35 to the coastline and obliquely crossing isobaths (see Figure 3.3.6-3).

36 *Tangent 1 (KM 2.643 – KM 2.719)* - All of tangent 1 skirts the southeastern front  
37 of an unconsolidated, mobile sand sheet and is located on flat, current-scoured, rippled  
38 sand and gravel substrate. For the 0.076 km (0.047 mi) length of the tangent, depth  
39 varies from ~55 m (181 ft) water depth to ~56 m (184 ft) water depth, a 1 m (3 ft)  
40 differential (0.75 degree slope, 1.316 percent grade).



1 **Figure 3.3.6-3. Seafloor Habitat and Bathymetry for Cable Segment 2**



2

3 *Tangent 2 (KM 2.719 – KM 3.603)* - This tangent crosses a flat seafloor  
 4 composed primarily of soft, unconsolidated, mobile sand sheets, with a finger of  
 5 scoured sand and gravel substrate at the northeastern end of the tangent (from KM  
 6 2.719 to 2.800). The remainder of this segment is located on and at the front of an  
 7 unconsolidated, mobile sand sheet, the only hard bedrock outcrops located between  
 8 KM 3.200 and 3.250 and at KM 3.320. Depth along this 0.884 km- (0.548 mi-) long  
 9 tangent varies from ~55 m to ~63 m (180 to 207 ft), ~8 m (27 ft) difference (0.52 degree  
 10 slope, 0.900 percent grade).

11 *Tangent 3 (KM 3.603 – KM 6.702)* - This tangent is primarily located on soft,  
 12 mobile, unconsolidated sand sheets that migrate over scoured unconsolidated rippled  
 13 sand and gravel substrate, with occasional local exposures of hard flat bedrock. The  
 14 fronts (east-facing) of the mobile sand sheets locally obtain 1 m (3 ft) in height. From the  
 15 bend at KM 3.603 to ~4.780, the benthic habitat is composed of soft, mobile,  
 16 unconsolidated sand with one narrow stringer of scoured, rippled sand and gravel  
 17 substrate located between KM 4.140 and 4.160. From KM 4.780 to 4.860, the proposed  
 18 cable corridor crosses a hard, deformed (folded) bedrock outcrop. Then, from KM 4.800  
 19 to 5.200, the tangent's corridor is located in unconsolidated, mobile sand sheets with  
 20 small, isolated hard bedrock located within the 30 m (100 ft) wide corridor at KM 5.240  
 21 and between KM 5.900 and 6.000. In addition, the cable corridor crosses the distal ends  
 22 of narrow stringers of rippled, scoured depressions floored with sand and gravel substrate

1 at KM 5.248 to 5.280, KM 5.800 to 5.860, KM 6.150, 6.360, 6.850, 6.450, 6.570 and  
2 6.750. Tangent 3 ranges in depth from ~63 m to ~62 m (206 to 203 ft), ~1 m (3 ft)  
3 difference along its 3.099 km (1.921 mi) length (0.018 degree slope, 0.32 percent grade).

4 *Tangent 4 (KM 6.702 – KM 10.907)* - The shallow part of this tangent crosses  
5 benthic habitats of soft, mobile, unconsolidated sand sheets, interspersed with scoured  
6 depressions of rippled sand and gravel. The scour depressions are located within the  
7 corridor at approximately KM 6.770 to 6.800, 7.180 and 7.670. As these features are  
8 mobile and ephemeral, they may not be present in these locations in the future. The  
9 mobile sand sheets appear to die out below a depth of ~78 m (256 ft) near KM 7.700.

10 From KM 7.700 to the end of the tangent at OBS-3, the proposed corridor cuts across  
11 the Hosgri fault zone and is located within undifferentiated, unconsolidated sediment  
12 (possible mud and sand habitat) on a gently sloping seafloor. No fault scarps or bedrock  
13 exposures were identified within the proposed corridor along this part of the tangent,  
14 although the possibility exists that an occasional isolated boulder or pinnacle may be  
15 present. Tangent 4 ranges in water depth from ~62 m to ~113 m (203 to 371 ft) for its  
16 4.205 km (2.607 mi) length, a depth variation of ~51 m (167 ft) (0.70 degree slope,  
17 1.213213 percent grade). The seafloor is generally smooth and soft with a very gently  
18 inclination.

19 **Cable Segment 3 (KM 10.907 – KM 15.384)** - This segment extends from OBS-3 (~113  
20 m [371 ft] deep) to OBS-2 (~97 m [318 ft] deep) (4.384 km- [2.718 mi-] long).

21 Segment 3 consists of one long tangent, oriented north-south from the proposed OBS-3  
22 location to proposed OBS-2 location (see Figure 3.3.6-4).

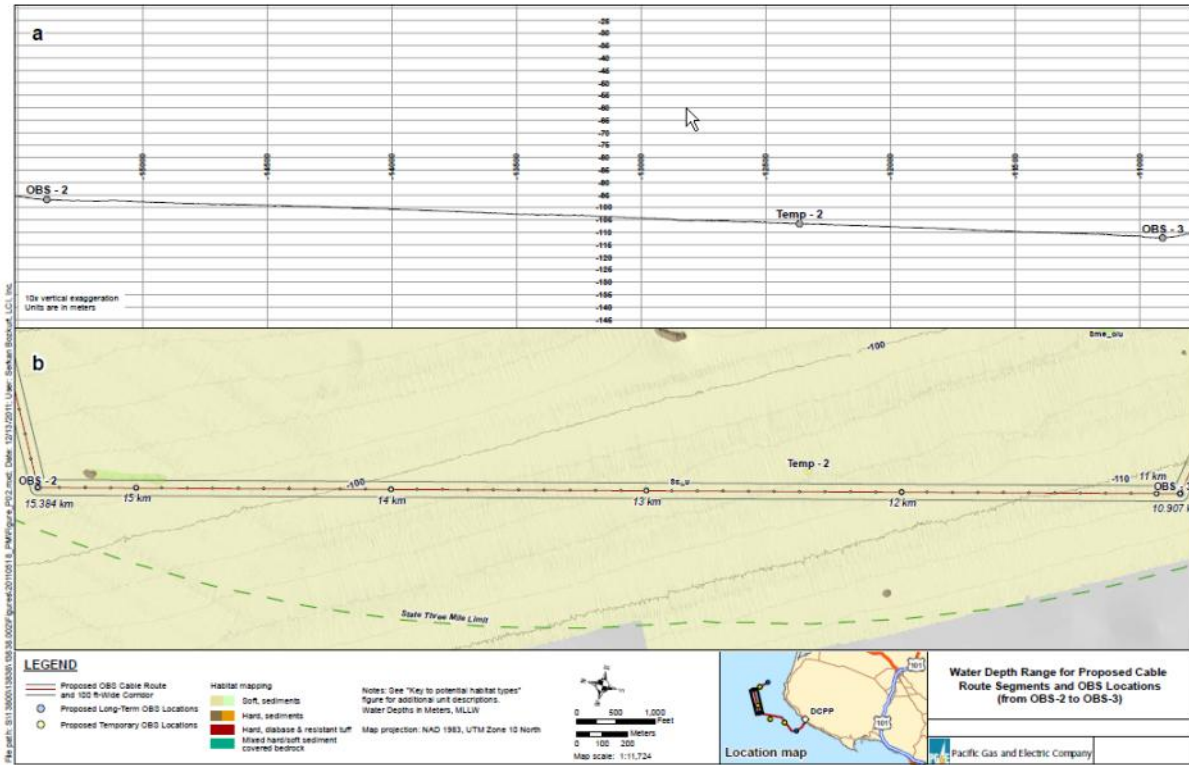
23 The majority of the proposed cable corridor route is located on flat, smooth, soft,  
24 unconsolidated sediment (mud and sand) habitat; however, a boulder or bedrock  
25 pinnacle with a scour moat and down-current soft, hummocky, sediment depression is  
26 present at KM 15.2 in about 97 m (318 ft) of water, located just outside of the eastern  
27 margin of the corridor. This linear, hummocky, soft-sediment, comet-shaped mark is  
28 oriented parallel to the proposed cable route, extending along the eastern margin of the  
29 corridor from the boulder at KM 15.2 to KM 14.9, 300 m (984 ft) in length.

30 The difference in depth along this 4.384 km- (2.718 mi-) long segment range from ~113  
31 m (371 ft) at OBS-3 location to ~97 m (318 ft) at OBS-2 location, a total of ~16 m (53 ft)  
32 for the 4.384 km-long Segment.

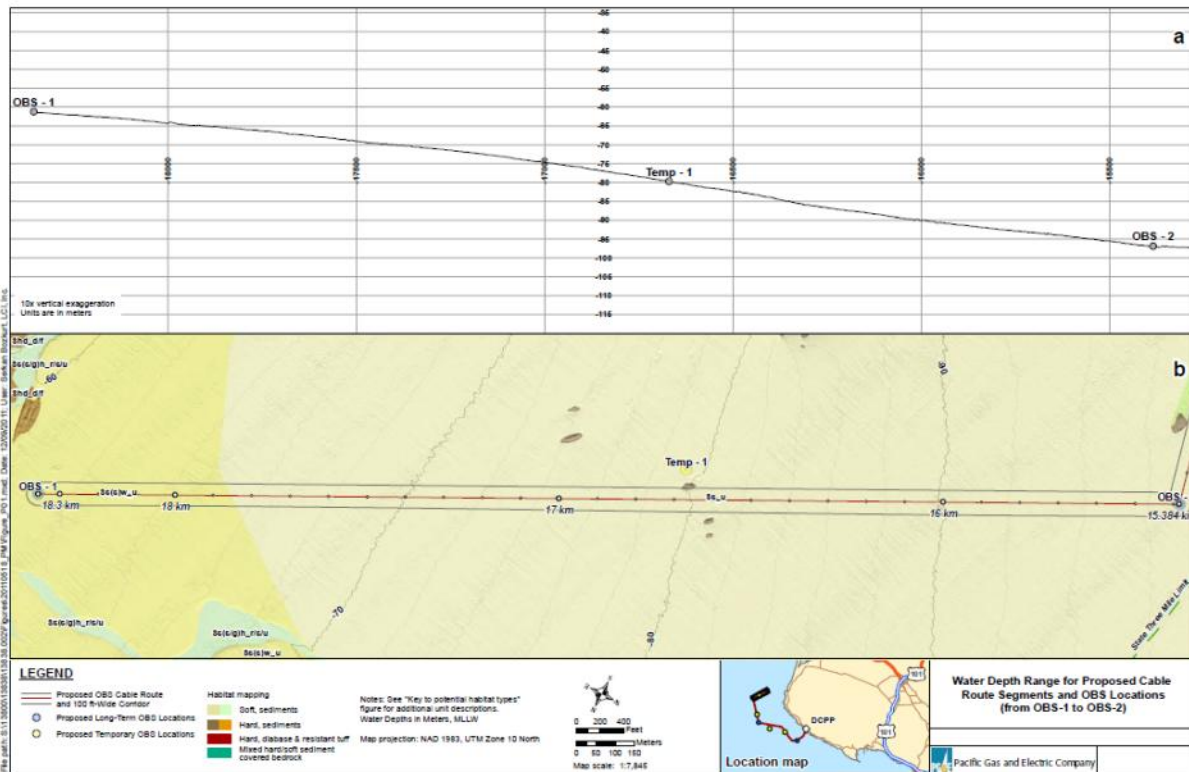
33 **Cable Segment 4 (KM 15.411 – KM 18.300)** - From OBS-2 (~97 m [318 ft] deep) at KM  
34 15.411 to OBS-1 (~62 m [203 ft] deep) at KM 18.300 (2.916 km- [1.808 mi-] long)

35 Segment 4 is oriented nearly east-west, extending from the bend at KM 15.384 at the  
36 proposed location of OBS-2 in ~97 m (318 ft) water depth to the end of the cable route  
37 at KM 18.383 at proposed OBS-1 position in ~62 m (203 ft) water depth (see Figure  
38 3.3.6-5), an ~35 m (115 ft) difference in water depth (0.69 degree slope, 1.200 percent  
39 grade).

1 **Figure 3.3.6-4. Seafloor Habitat and Bathymetry for Cable Segment 3**



2 **Figure 3.3.6-5. Seafloor Habitat and Bathymetry for Cable Segment 4**



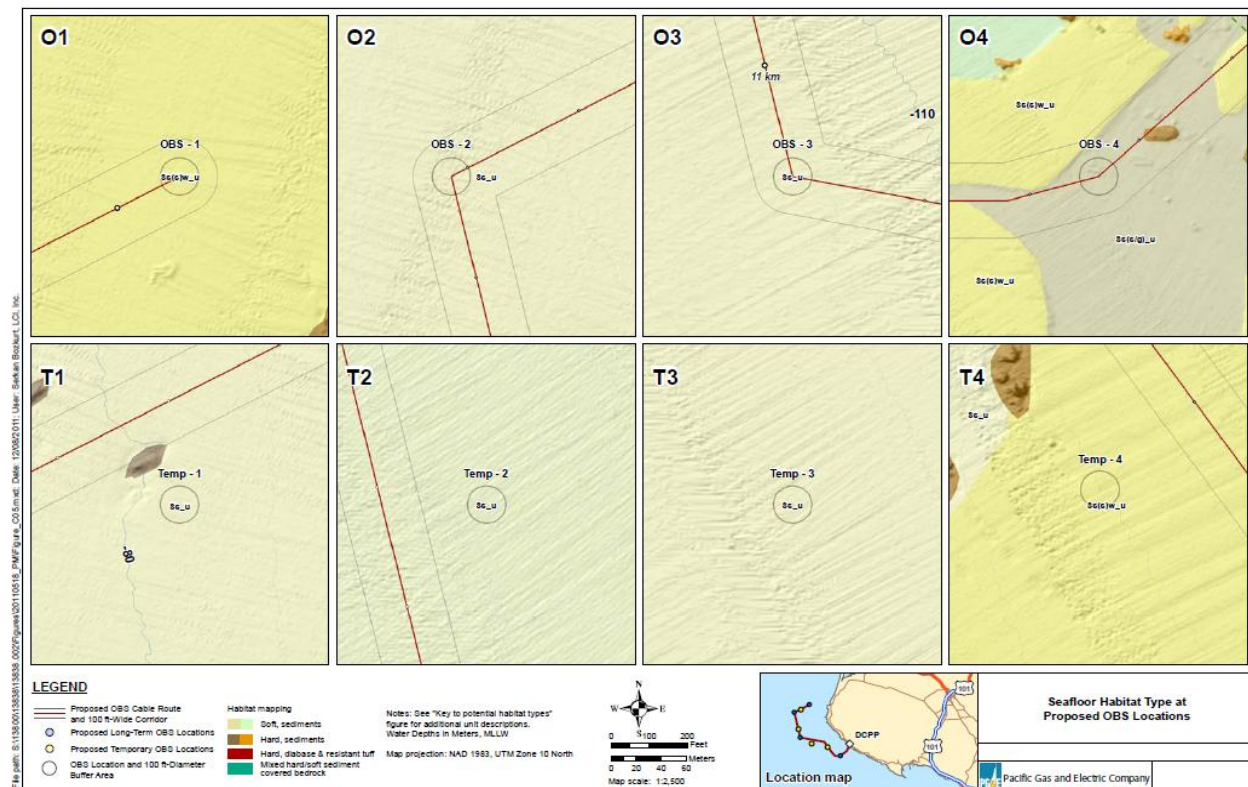
3



1 This segment is almost exclusively in soft sediment, crossing soft, unconsolidated (mud  
 2 and sand) habitat from KM 15.384 to 17.880; however, the stretch between KM 16.600  
 3 and 16.700 in 80 m (262 ft) water depth runs between several small rockier areas.  
 4 Then, from KM 17.880 to the end of the segment at KM 18.300, the cable corridor is  
 5 located in a soft, mobile, unconsolidated sand sheet.

6 **OBS-1.** The proposed location of OBS-1 is on an ephemeral, mobile unconsolidated  
 7 sand sheet that may move in the future (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No other habitat type such  
 8 as hard bedrock exposures or pinnacles is present within a 15 m (50 ft) radius of the  
 9 proposed OBS position.

10 **Figure 3.3.6-6. Seafloor Habitat for OBS Unit Locations**



11  
 12 **OBS-2.** The proposed location of OBS-2 is within soft unconsolidated sediment (mud  
 13 and sand) habitat with no hard rock or other habitat type located within a 15 m (50 ft)  
 14 radius of the location (see Figure 3.3.6-6). A single small bedrock outcrop is located 0.2  
 15 km (0.1 mi) southeast of the OBS site. The OBS location is the turn point at KM 15.384,  
 16 in a water depth of ~97 m (318 ft).

17 **OBS-3.** The proposed location of OBS-3 at KM 10.907, at a water depth of ~113 m (371  
 18 ft), is located in homogeneous, undifferentiated, soft, unconsolidated seafloor habitat of  
 19 mud or sandy mud (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No hard rock outcrops, pinnacles or boulders  
 20 appear to exist anywhere within a 15 m (50 ft) radius. The closest rock outcrop is  
 21 located 0.8 km (0.5 mi) northeast of the OBS location.

1 **OBS-4.** The proposed location of OBS-4 is flat, current-scoured, rippled sand and  
2 gravel substrate, near but down-current of the front of a mobile, unconsolidated sand  
3 sheet (see Figure 3.3.6-6). The sand sheet is an ephemeral feature and could migrate  
4 across the proposed OBS location and expose underlying substrate or bedrock. No  
5 bedrock outcrops or other hard habitat type is located within a 15 m (50 ft) radius of the  
6 location. A small bedrock exposure is located 0.17 km (0.11 mi) east of the OBS  
7 location, with scattered rocks present 0.17 km (0.11 mi) away north of the OBS location.

8 **Temporary OBS-1.** The proposed location for temporary OBS-1 is in soft,  
9 unconsolidated mud and sand on flat seafloor (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No other habitat  
10 type exists within a 15 m-(50 ft) radius of the proposed position.

11 **Temporary OBS-2.** The proposed location for temporary OBS-2 is in soft,  
12 unconsolidated mud and sand on flat seafloor (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No other habitat  
13 type exists within a 15 m-(50 ft) radius of the proposed position.

14 **Temporary OBS-3.** The proposed location for temporary OBS-3 proposed location is in  
15 soft, unconsolidated mud and sand on flat seafloor (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No other  
16 habitat type exists within a 15 m-(50 ft) radius of the proposed position.

17 **Temporary OBS-4.** Temporary OBS-4 would be located on flat seafloor in a soft,  
18 unconsolidated, mobile sand sheet (see Figure 3.3.6-6). No other habitat type exists  
19 within the 15 m (50 ft) radius around the proposed OBS position; however,  
20 approximately 45 m (148 ft) northwest of the proposed OBS location is a small,  
21 differentially-eroded sedimentary bedrock exposure. Migration of the sand sheet may  
22 expose the underlying substrate of gravel and bedrock.

23 **Faulting and Seismicity.** The Project area is located in a seismically active region and  
24 has experienced numerous historic seismic events resulting from movement along  
25 onshore and offshore faults. The Hosgri Fault Zone, the southernmost component of the  
26 complex San Gregorio-San Simeon-Hosgri fault system, extends about 113 km (70 mi)  
27 from Point Pedernales to near San Simeon, trending to the northwest and remaining  
28 offshore for its entire length. The Hosgri fault is primarily a strike-slip fault, with a  
29 subordinate amount of dip slip that varies along strike. The California Geological Survey  
30 (CGS) defines a fault as active if it has had surface displacement within the Holocene  
31 period (approximately the last 11,000 years). Several studies (i.e., Lettis et al. 2004, and  
32 Bryant 2005) have indicated that the Hosgri fault is active. The proposed OBS units and  
33 cable would extend across the Hosgri Fault Zone in the vicinity of the DCP (Figure 2-  
34 2).

35 In 2009, seismic studies identified a coast-parallel, near-shore bedrock fault zone that  
36 lies within the epicentral uncertainty of the seismicity lineament called the Shoreline  
37 fault zone. The Shoreline fault zone is divided into three segments based on differences  
38 in the geologic and geomorphic expression of surface and near-surface faulting,  
39 intersections with other mapped structures, features observed in the high-resolution

1 magnetic field data, and variations in the continuity, trend, and depth of the seismicity  
2 along the lineament.

3 Regional onshore faults include the Edna, Los Osos and Oceanic faults, approximately  
4 8 km (5 mi), 11.2 km (7 mi), and 20.8 km (13 mi) to the east respectively, and the San  
5 Andreas fault, approximately 75 km (47 mi) to the northeast at its closest point.

#### 6 3.3.6.2 Regulatory Setting

7 **Federal.** There are no federal regulations related to geology and soils relevant to the  
8 Project.

9 **State.** California is a highly geologically-active area, and therefore has substantial  
10 relevant regulatory requirements. The regulations listed below are at least partially  
11 applicable to the Project.

12 **Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act of 1972** (Pub. Resources Code, §§  
13 2621-2630). This act (formerly known as the Special Studies Zoning Act) requires that  
14 "sufficiently active" and "well-defined" earthquake fault zones be delineated by the state  
15 geologists and prohibits locating structures for human occupancy across the trace of an  
16 active fault. This act does not specifically apply to marine installations like the Project,  
17 but it does help define areas where fault rupture is most likely to occur onshore.

18 **California Building Code (CBC).** The CBC contains requirements related to  
19 excavation, grading, and construction. According to the CBC, a grading permit is  
20 required if more than 50 cubic yards (38.2 m<sup>3</sup>) of soil are moved. Chapter 33 of the CBC  
21 contains requirements relevant to the construction of pipelines alongside existing  
22 structures. The California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 3301.2 and 3301.3  
23 contain the provisions requiring protection of the adjacent property during excavations  
24 and require a 10-day written notice and access agreements with the adjacent property  
25 owners. The CBC does not specifically apply to offshore marine installations.

26 **California Seismic Hazards Mapping Act of 1990** (Pub. Resources Code, § 2690 and  
27 following as Division 2, Chapter 7.8) **and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Regulations**  
28 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Div. 2, ch. 8, art. 10). Designed to protect the public from the  
29 effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, other ground failures, or other  
30 hazards caused by earthquakes, the act requires that site-specific geotechnical  
31 investigations be conducted identifying the hazard and formulating mitigation measures  
32 prior to permitting most developments designed for human occupancy. Special  
33 Publication 117, Guidelines for Evaluating and Mitigating Seismic Hazards in California  
34 (CGS 2008), constitutes the guidelines for evaluating seismic hazards other than  
35 surface fault rupture and for recommending mitigation measures as required by Public  
36 Resources Code section 2695, subdivision (a). This act does not specifically apply to  
37 marine cable installations like the Project.

38 **Local.** There are no local regulations related to geology and soils relevant to the  
39 Project.

1 3.3.6.3 Impact Analysis

2 The Project would not result in changes to existing power generation operations or  
 3 facilities at the DCP. This evaluation of potential geology and soils impacts considers  
 4 possible effects related to the seismic monitoring equipment that would be provided by  
 5 the Project, which consists of temporary and long-term OBS units, associated  
 6 power/data transfer cable, and a new cable conduit.

7 **a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects,**  
 8 **including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**

9 **i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent**  
 10 **Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State**  
 11 **Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a**  
 12 **known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special**  
 13 **Publication 42.**

14 **ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?**

15 **iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**

16 **iv) Landslides?**

17 The Project objective is to deploy seismic monitoring equipment that would be used to  
 18 gather accurate real-time data regarding seismic events that occur in the Project area.  
 19 To accomplish this objective, proposed temporary and long-term OBS units, and  
 20 associated power/data transfer cable would be deployed in offshore locations within the  
 21 Hosgri Fault Zone. Although the monitoring equipment could be adversely affected if  
 22 earthquake-related ground rupture or ground shaking were to occur, such effects would  
 23 not result in a substantial risk of loss, injury or death. Therefore, potential ground  
 24 rupture and ground shaking impacts to proposed seismic monitoring equipment are less  
 25 than significant.

26 Proposed OBS units and cable would be located offshore in generally level areas.  
 27 Therefore, the seismic monitoring equipment would not be subject to significant effects  
 28 resulting from ground failure, liquefaction or landslides. The proposed power/data  
 29 transfer cable would come ashore at the DCP facility and would be located in a new  
 30 cable conduit to be provided on an existing rock rip area. The new conduit would have  
 31 no impact on the geologic hazards such as ground rupture, ground shaking, ground  
 32 failure or landslides.

33 **b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**

34 The Project would not result in any ground disturbing activities at the DCP facility and  
 35 would not result in any soil erosion or loss of topsoil impacts.

36 **c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become**  
 37 **unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site**  
 38 **landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

1 See response below.

2 **d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform**  
3 **Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?**

4 The only onshore component of the Project would be a new cable conduit to be located  
5 on top of a rock rip-rap area. Therefore, the Project would not result in any structural  
6 development that could be adversely affected by soil-related hazards such as  
7 landslides, subsidence, liquefaction or expansive soil.

8 **e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or**  
9 **alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available**  
10 **for the disposal of waste water?**

11 The Project would not result in any development that would increase the generation of  
12 wastewater or require the use of an individual waste water treatment or disposal  
13 system.

14 3.3.6.4 Mitigation and Residual Impact

15 **Mitigation.** The Project would not result in significant geology or soils impacts and no  
16 mitigation measures are required.

17 **Residual Impacts.** The Project would have no significant geology or soils impacts. No  
18 mitigation is required and no residual impacts would occur.