

1 **6.0 OTHER REQUIRED CEQA SECTIONS**

2 **6.1 INTRODUCTION TO ADDITIONAL CEQA REQUIREMENTS DISCUSSED**
3 **IN THIS SECTION**

4 This Section discusses broader questions posed by the CEQA Guidelines. These
5 include significant effects that cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels,
6 irreversible/irretrievable commitment of resources, the balance between short- and
7 long-term uses of the environment, and growth-inducing impacts.

8 **6.2 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT**
9 **THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED AND CANNOT BE MITIGATED TO LESS THAN**
10 **SIGNIFICANT**

11 Effects on all environmental resources were evaluated to determine any impacts that
12 would remain significant after mitigation. There are significant and unavoidable
13 (Class I) impacts related to Air Quality, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Land
14 Use and Planning.

15 The Class I impact related to air quality is due to the exceedance of FRAQMD's
16 threshold for ROG during the construction of Line 407 East, the DFM, and Line 407
17 West. The Class I impact related to air quality is discussed in detail in Section 4.3 of
18 this Draft EIR.

19 The Class I impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials and Land Use and
20 Planning are safety risks to nearby land uses. Natural gas could be released from a
21 leak or rupture. If the natural gas reached a combustible mixture and an ignition
22 source was present, a fire and/or explosion could occur, result in possible injuries
23 and/or deaths. The Class I impacts related to safety risks are discussed in detail in
24 Sections 4.7 and 4.9 of this Draft EIR.

25 **6.3 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT**
26 **THAT WOULD BE IRREVERSIBLE IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS**
27 **IMPLEMENTED**

28 The CEQA Guidelines, sections 15126.2(c) and 15127, require that an EIR consider
29 significant irreversible environmental changes which would be involved in the
30 proposed actions should they be implemented. An impact would fall into this
31 category if:

- 32 • The project would involve a large commitment of nonrenewable resources
33 during the project;

- 1 • The primary and secondary impacts of the project would generally commit
2 future generations to similar uses (e.g., a highway provides access to a
3 previously remote area); or
- 4 • The project would involve uses in which irreversible damage could result from
5 any potential environmental accidents associated with the project.

6 Determination of whether the proposed Project would result in significant irreversible
7 effects requires a determination of whether key resources would be degraded or
8 destroyed with little possibility of restoring them.

9 The proposed Project would temporarily consume fossil fuel resources during the
10 10-month construction period, resulting in a commitment of nonrenewable
11 resources. Construction of the proposed Project is expected to require consumption
12 of 675 gallons of gas or diesel fuel per day or 81,000 gallons per year.

13 The Project would facilitate more efficient movement of natural gas in north Sutter
14 County, Yolo County, Sacramento County, and Placer County. As stated above, the
15 short-term energy consumption necessary for the implementation of the proposed
16 Project would result in long-term energy benefits including a more efficient
17 distribution system that expends less energy than the current distribution system.
18 While the Project would facilitate the delivery of non-renewable resources, these
19 resources would be exploited and expended now and in the near future regardless
20 of the proposed Project as the production of natural gas that would be distributed by
21 the Project has been, or would be, approved by permitting agencies. The operation
22 of the proposed Project would be consistent with Federal and State policies
23 encouraging competitive natural gas transportation services. For these reasons, the
24 limited irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments described above are
25 acceptable.

26 **6.4 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

27 The CEQA Guidelines require the consideration and discussion of growth-inducing
28 impacts of a proposed project in an EIR. As specified in section 15126.2(d) of the
29 CEQA Guidelines, an EIR would:

30 Discuss the ways in which the proposed Project could foster economic
31 or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either
32 directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this
33 are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a

1 major expansion if a wastewater treatment plant might, for example,
2 allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the
3 population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring
4 construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental
5 effects. Also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may
6 encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect
7 the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be
8 assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental,
9 or of little significance to the environment.

10 The following six criteria are used as a guide in evaluating the growth-inducing
11 potential of the proposed Project:

- 12 1. Would the Project foster growth or remove obstacles to economic or
13 population growth?
- 14 2. Would the Project provide new employment?
- 15 3. Would the Project provide new access to undeveloped or under developed
16 areas?
- 17 4. Would the Project extend public services to a previously unserved area?
- 18 5. Would the Project tax existing community services?
- 19 6. Would the Project cause development elsewhere?

20 **6.4.1 Economic or Population Growth**

21 As part of their 10-year investment plan, PG&E estimated demand for natural gas
22 consumption and the amount of gas that would be distributed through the new gas
23 pipelines. The base data used to support demand estimates was obtained from the
24 Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), as well as from local
25 newspaper reports and business trade reports. PG&E currently serves 675,000
26 customers in the Sacramento Valley Local Gas Transmission System (CSLC 2008).
27 PG&E reports average daily gas throughput of 416 million cubic feet (MMcf), 464
28 MMcf, and 561 MMcf for the years 2009, 2012, and 2020, respectively. From 2009
29 until 2020 gas throughput in the proposed Project gas lines would increase an
30 average of about 3.1 percent, and average annual residential gas consumption
31 would increase slightly less, at 2.9 percent per year. In addition, the new lines would
32 also need to supply gas to small commercial entities that are assumed by PG&E to

1 grow at constant rate of 2,167 MMcf per day, per year. Based on PG&E's residential
2 demand estimates, these changes in average daily throughput would accommodate
3 all of the anticipated residential growth, and all anticipated growth from small
4 commercial entities as projected by SACOG. The changes in average daily
5 throughout do not provide excess supply of gas that could be considered growth
6 inducing. The proposed Project would not foster growth or remove obstacles to
7 population or economic growth.

8 **6.4.2 New Employment**

9 The proposed Project would require temporary construction workers to complete
10 activities such as trenching, pipe laying, backfilling of trenches, and horizontal
11 directional drilling. The proposed Project would require 90 to 130 temporary
12 construction workers to accomplish these tasks over a 10-month period. However,
13 no new, permanent employment would be created, and the jobs to housing balance
14 would not be altered as discussed in Section 4.12, Population and Housing/Public
15 Services/Utilities and Service Systems.

16 **6.4.3 New Access**

17 The proposed Project would not result in new access to previously undeveloped or
18 under developed areas. The proposed Project would not require construction of new
19 permanent roads; only existing roads and temporary roads would be used to access
20 areas where pipeline construction and installation are needed. Any temporary
21 access roads would be re-graded and restored to their natural condition.

22 **6.4.4 Extend Public Services**

23 The proposed Project would directly extend natural gas services to an area not
24 previously served. PG&E currently has 675,000 residential customers in the
25 Sacramento Valley Local Transmission System and serves these customers with
26 existing gas lines. The Project would accommodate the SACOG growth projections
27 and as a result would not induce growth.

28 **6.4.5 Tax Existing Community Services**

29 The proposed Project would not result in an increase in population beyond that
30 which has already been anticipated in General Plans or Specific Plans in the
31 affected counties. During construction of the Project, existing police and fire
32 department personnel would respond to any Project-related emergencies. PG&E

1 would maintain routes for emergency service vehicles per their Traffic Management
2 Plans (TMP). Therefore, there would be no impacts to existing community services.

3 **6.4.6 Development**

4 The customers that could be served by the proposed pipeline would not be solely
5 dependent on the proposed Project for natural gas. Projected new residential
6 demand that would occur as a result of implementation of the Placer Vineyards and
7 Sutter Pointe Specific Plans have already been anticipated in the assumptions used
8 by PG&E to design the Project. As a result, the addition or lack of natural gas
9 associated with the proposed Project would not likely affect development in the
10 region.

11 **6.5 SUMMARY**

12 The proposed Project would result in an irreversible impact in that construction
13 related activities would consume 675 gallons of gas or diesel fuel per day. The
14 proposed Project would not remove obstacles to economic or population growth.
15 PG&E's planned increases in natural gas in Lines 406 and 407 would accommodate
16 demand for anticipated residential and small commercial entity gas consumption.
17 Average annual gas throughput and residential and small commercial demand for
18 gas would grow at an annual average of about 3 percent.

19 The proposed Project would not result in additional, permanent employment.
20 Existing PG&E employees would be responsible for operation and maintenance of
21 Lines 406 and 407. During the construction phase of the Project there would be 90
22 to 130 temporary employees working on the pipeline, and this phase would last
23 about 10 months.

24 The proposed Project would not result in new access since no permanent roads
25 would be constructed. Any temporary access roads built during the construction
26 phase of the Project would be re-graded and restored to their natural condition.

27 Nor would the proposed Project extend natural gas service to previously unserved
28 areas. The Sacramento Valley Local Transmission System already serves 675,000
29 customers in the affected counties.

30 The proposed Project would not tax community services. In the unlikely event of a
31 Project-related emergency, local fire and police departments would respond. PG&E
32 would ensure through the Project TMP that access for emergency vehicles is not
33 prevented by Project-related activities.

- 1 The proposed Project would accommodate other development in the region. As
- 2 previously stated, the growth in natural gas throughput corresponds with estimated
- 3 growth in residential demand, and must meet any increases in demand for natural
- 4 gas from small commercial entities.