

State Clearinghouse No. 2011081079



Established in 1938

ADDENDUM TO MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**POINT BUCHON OCEAN BOTTOM
SEISMOMETER PROJECT
REPAIR AND REDEPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

June 2016



CEQA Lead Agency:

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Project Proponent:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
245 Market Street, MCN4C
San Francisco, CA 94105



MISSION STATEMENT

The California State Lands Commission provides the people of California with effective stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through preservation, restoration, enhancement, responsible economic development, and the promotion of public access.

CEQA DOCUMENT WEBSITE

www.slc.ca.gov/Info/CEQA.html

Geographic Location

(Autonomous Ocean Bottom Seismometer [AOBS] sites):

AOBS Number	Latitude	Longitude
1	35° 16' 12.43338"N	-120° 56' 17.43618" W
2	35° 15' 21.54489"N	-120° 57' 45.53449" W
3	35° 13' 21.23439"N	-120° 56' 32.56787" W
4	35° 10' 33.51778"N	-120° 53' 56.23807" W

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

A	AOBS	Autonomous Ocean Bottom Seismometer
C	CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
	CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
	CSLC	California State Lands Commission
D	DCPP	Diablo Canyon Power Plant
	DEPM	Division of Environmental Planning and Management
G	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
	GPS	Global Positioning System
I	IS	Initial Study
K	km	kilometer
	knot	nautical mile per hour
M	MBNMS	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
	MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
O	OBS	Ocean Bottom Seismometer
P	PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
R	ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
S	SLOAPCD	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District

1 1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

2 The Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Point Buchon Ocean Bottom
3 Seismometer Project (Project) is located in the waters of the Pacific Ocean offshore of
4 the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) along the south-central coast of California,
5 approximately 16 miles (26 kilometers [km]) west of the City of San Luis Obispo. The
6 Project area extends from the DCPP (located onshore) seaward to the State of California
7 jurisdictional limit 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) from the mean high tide line. The area includes
8 the marine waters located between Point Buchon and Point San Luis.

9 On March 29, 2012, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) adopted a Mitigated
10 Negative Declaration (MND) for the original Project (State Clearinghouse No.
11 2011081079) and authorized a General Lease – Data Collection Use (PRC 8985.1) for
12 the installation and operation of an array of short- and long-term seismic activity
13 monitoring devices on the seafloor within the coastal zone offshore of San Luis Obispo
14 County. The approved Project at that time was comprised of two temporary autonomous
15 ocean bottom seismometer (AOBS) units, four long-term ocean bottom seismometer
16 (OBS) units, and an approximately 11.5 mile (18.5-km) cable, 2 inches (5 centimeters) in
17 diameter, which provided power to the long-term OBS units and transmitted data to the
18 shore-based facility within the DCPP.

19 The offshore Project components were installed in July, 2013; in November 2013, PG&E
20 recovered the two temporary AOBS units, which operated for 17 weeks as scheduled,
21 and made final adjustments to the system. PG&E accepted the fully adjusted system on
22 November 24, 2013. On February 11, 2014, PG&E submitted the As-Built Documentation
23 Report (Report) to the CSLC, which was required within 90 days of PG&E accepting the
24 system's final disposition, pursuant to Special Provision No. 5 of the lease. The Report
25 noted that the final installed location of the power/data cable had to be modified during
26 installation and was different than the original approval. PG&E subsequently submitted a
27 lease amendment application package to the CSLC to address the modified power
28 data/cable location.

29 On February 19, 2014, the long-term OBS system experienced initial failures; the entire
30 system became inoperable by April 1, 2014. In order to continue earthquake monitoring
31 while the long-term OBS system remained offline, four new AOBS units were installed on
32 November 4, 2014. The long-term OBS system was completely recovered and removed
33 on May 19, 2015, in order to better understand the causes for the failure and to evaluate
34 potential repair or replacement options. During the recovery of the long-term OBS system,
35 the four AOBS units were serviced. The units were serviced again on November 21, 2015.
36 The current locations of the AOBS units are shown in Figure 1.

1 **1.2 LEASE PRC 8985.1 MODIFICATION AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

2 Following a complete review of the cabled OBS system and a review of alternate designs
3 at the end of 2015, PG&E has determined that the cabled OBS system was non-
4 repairable and has opted not to reinstall the long-term cabled OBS system. As a result,
5 PG&E proposes to continue its operation of the four AOBS units so that earthquake
6 monitoring offshore of the DCPD can continue. Because the AOBS units do not require a
7 power/data cable, the units must be serviced every 6 months to recover data and
8 recharge the batteries. As a result, PG&E has requested an amendment to the approved
9 Project analyzed in the MND. Such amendment would reflect the installation of the four
10 AOBS units and removal of the cabled OBS system (which have already occurred as
11 discussed above), and biannual recovery, servicing, and redeployment activities
12 associated with the four AOBS units as summarized below and discussed in greater detail
13 in Section 2, Description of Lease Modification.

- 14 • The four AOBS units would be retrieved and brought to shore to transfer data and
15 recharge each unit's batteries approximately every 6 months or following any
16 large-scale seismic event.
- 17 • Immediately following, the AOBS units would be redeployed offshore to continue
18 seismic data collection activities. The AOBS units have been and would continue
19 to be redeployed to their previous approved locations, which are characterized as
20 soft-bottom habitat (no sensitive hard-bottom habitat) areas.
- 21 • All retrieval and redeployment activities would be performed with high-precision
22 onboard navigational support.

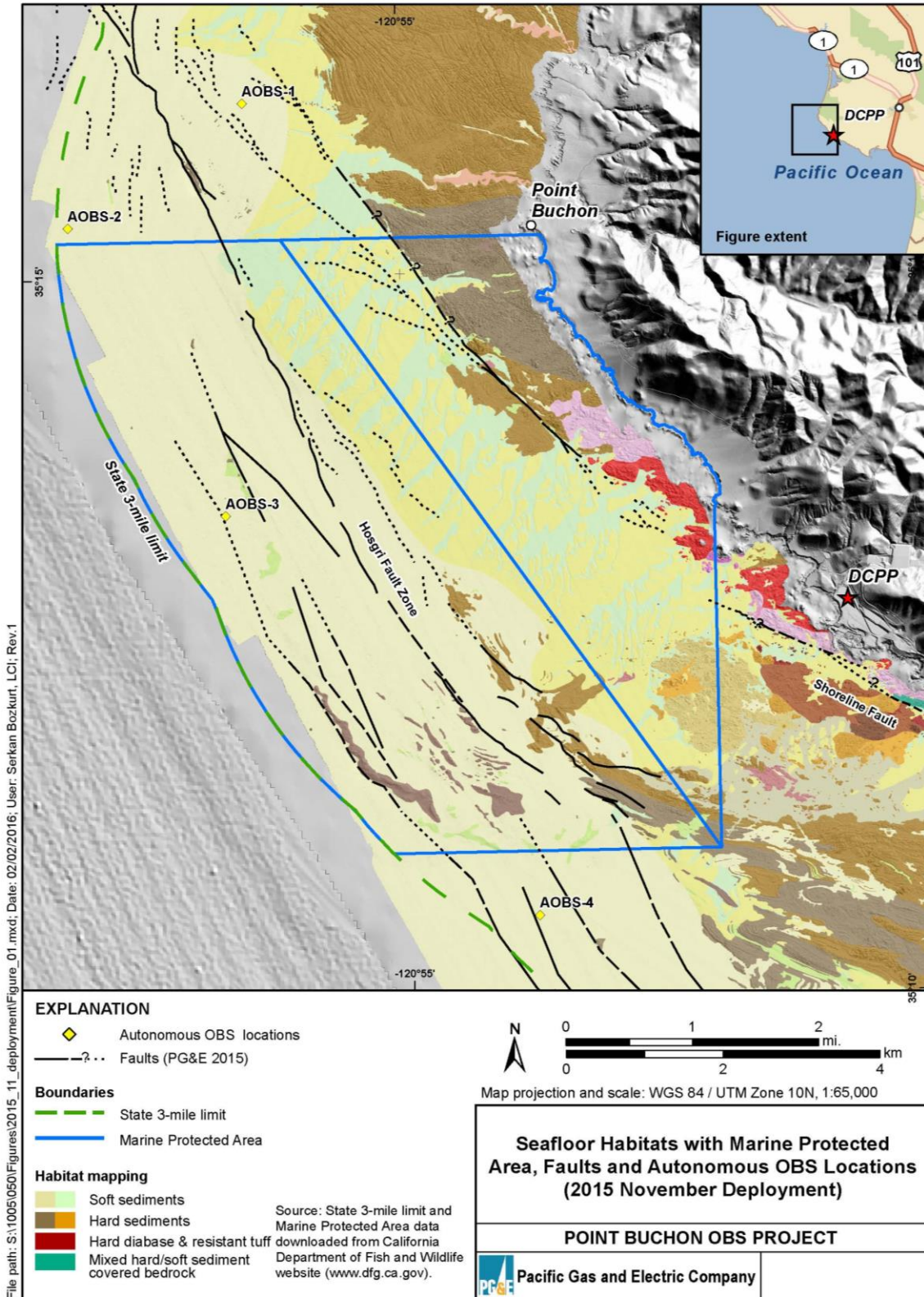


Figure 1. Project Location

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF LEASE MODIFICATION

1 2.1 ADDENDUM PURPOSE AND NEED

2 Per section 15164 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines,
3 once a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been adopted for a project, no
4 subsequent document shall be prepared unless the lead agency determines certain
5 specific circumstances are present. These circumstances only occur when there is the
6 involvement of a new significant impact or a substantial increase in a previously identified
7 impact. If the proposed changes do not involve a new or substantially increased
8 significant impact resulting from a change in the project or a change in the circumstances
9 under which a project would occur, but instead reflect minor modifications or additions,
10 the lead agency is to prepare an addendum to the CEQA document, in this case, the
11 previously adopted MND for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Point Buchon
12 Ocean Bottom Seismometer Project (Project).

13 The purpose of this Addendum to the adopted MND is to verify that the modifications to
14 the Project would not cause significant, adverse impacts to the environment. As
15 presented below, none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines section
16 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent environmental document has occurred.
17 As a result, an addendum is the appropriate CEQA document for analysis and
18 consideration of the Project.

19 Circulation of an addendum for public review is not necessary (State CEQA Guidelines,
20 § 15164, subd. (c)); however, the addendum must be considered in conjunction with the
21 previously adopted MND for the project by the decision-making body (State CEQA
22 Guidelines, § 15164, subd. (d)).

23 2.2 COMPONENTS OF PROJECT MODIFICATION

24 The revised Project includes the permanent removal of four previously installed Ocean
25 Bottom Seismometer (OBS) units, including a power/data cable, and replacement with
26 four Autonomous OBS (AOBS) units that do not require a power/data cable. Although
27 removal of the OBS units and cable and placement of the existing AOBS units occurred
28 in 2015, operation and biannual servicing of these AOBS units would continue. The AOBS
29 units would be permanently removed no later than March 28, 2023, consistent with Lease
30 PRC 8985.1. A summary of the Project's components is provided below.

31 2.2.1 Transportation and Retrieval/Redeployment Methodology

32 **Equipment Requirements.** The M/V *Surveyor*, a 30-meter (100-foot) long, steel-hulled
33 vessel owned and operated by Maritime Logistics would be used for AOBS retrieval and
34 redeployment activities. The M/V *Surveyor* is equipped with two twin-screw 600

1 horsepower diesel engines, an A-frame, and a hydraulic crane with a 5-ton capacity. The
 2 *M/V Surveyor* has a cruising speed of up to 8.5 nautical miles per hour (knots).

3 **AOBS Specifications.** The four AOBS units are self-contained and comprised of
 4 digitizers, data loggers, and lithium ion batteries. The footprint of each unit, including the
 5 acoustic retrieval system, is approximately 4 feet by 2 feet (1,260 by 593 millimeters)
 6 (Figures 2 and 3). Each unit weighs approximately 100 kilograms (220 pounds).

7 **Retrieval/Redeployment Activities.** To recover and service the four AOBS units, the
 8 *M/V Surveyor* would mobilize to the offshore Project site from Morro Bay Harbor. Each
 9 unit would be located with an onboard Global Positioning System (GPS) using the
 10 coordinates recorded during a post-installation remotely operated vehicle (ROV) survey
 11 (Table 1). No anchoring would occur during AOBS retrieval or redeployment activities.

12 **Table 1. Coordinates of AOBS Units (NAD83)**

Autonomous OBS No.	Latitude	Longitude
AOBS - 1	35° 16' 12.43338"N	-120° 56' 17.43618" W
AOBS - 2	35° 15' 21.54489"N	-120° 57' 45.53449" W
AOBS - 3	35° 13' 21.23439"N	-120° 56' 32.56787" W
AOBS - 4	35° 10' 33.51778"N	-120° 53' 56.23807" W

13 To recover each unit, the unit's acoustic release would be signaled, which would release
 14 a buoy attached to the cylindrical container on the AOBS frame (Figures 2 and 3). Once
 15 the deck crew retrieves the buoy, the onboard winch would be used to attach a line to the
 16 ring on top of the unit. The AOBS unit would then be lifted from the seafloor and placed
 17 onboard the *M/V Surveyor*. The Applicant anticipates that approximately two AOBS units
 18 would be recovered each workday, with the *M/V Surveyor* returning to Morro Bay each
 19 evening. The recovered AOBS units would then be offloaded at Morro Bay in order to
 20 download data and recharge batteries; data transfer and battery recharge would occur at
 21 the dock. The Applicant anticipates that it would take 2 days to retrieve the four AOBS
 22 units and approximately 2 days for servicing and data recovery. Recovery of the AOBS
 23 units will not result in debris left on the seafloor.

24 When the AOBS units are ready to be redeployed, the *M/V Surveyor* would mobilize to
 25 the offshore Project site. Similar to recovery operations, each deployment location would
 26 be verified by the onboard GPS. Each AOBS unit would then be rigged on the vessel's
 27 A-frame and lowered to the seafloor. The seafloor position for each unit would be verified
 28 with an Ultra Short Base Line tracking system using a tracking pinger mounted directly
 29 above the acoustic release system on the AOBS unit to record and ensure the accuracy
 30 of each unit's redeployment location. Each AOBS unit would be returned to its previous
 31 soft-bottom habitat location, and no additional seafloor habitat disturbance would occur.
 32 The Applicant anticipates that it would take approximately 2 days to redeploy the four
 33 AOBS units.

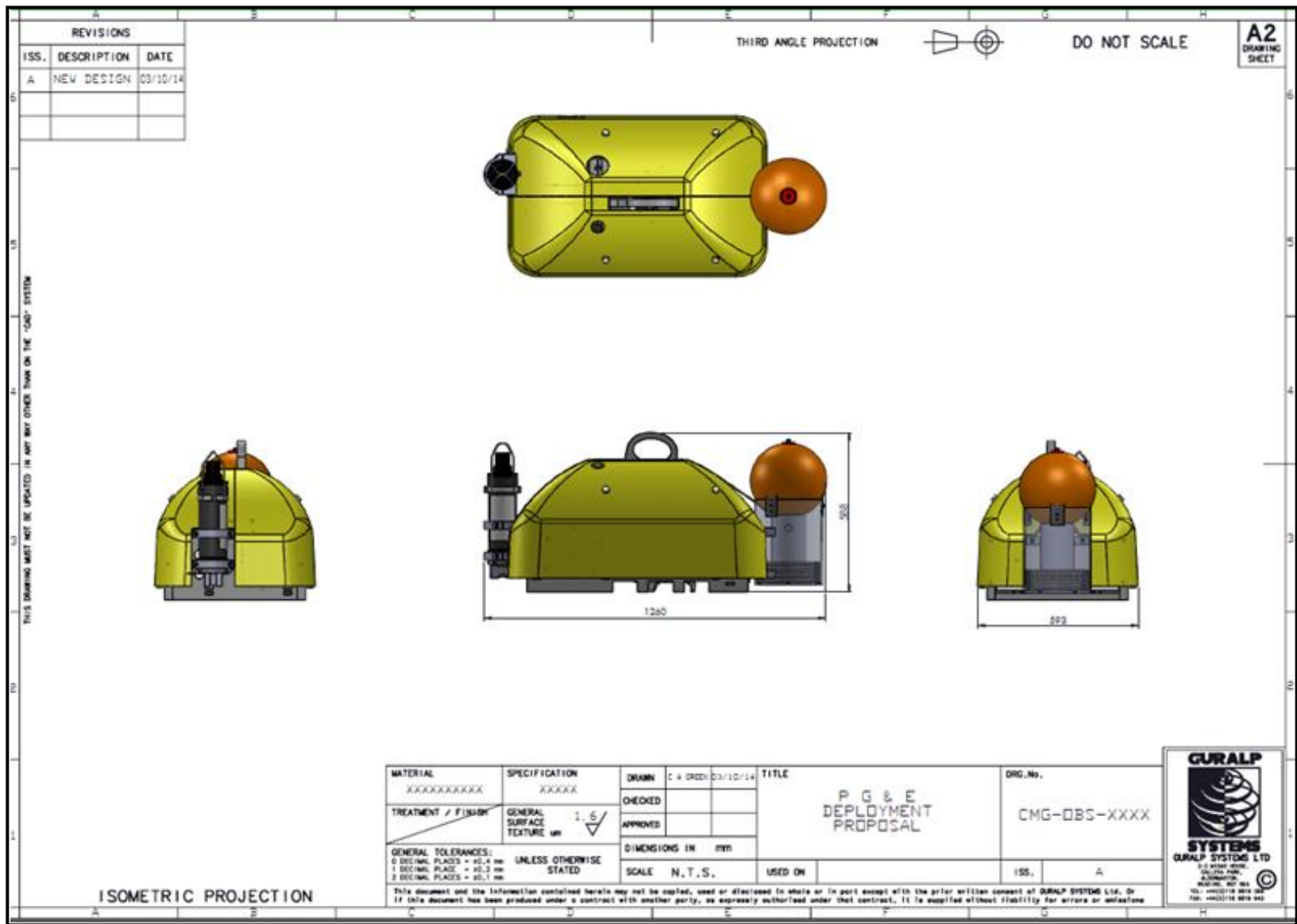


Figure 2. AOBS Unit with Release System

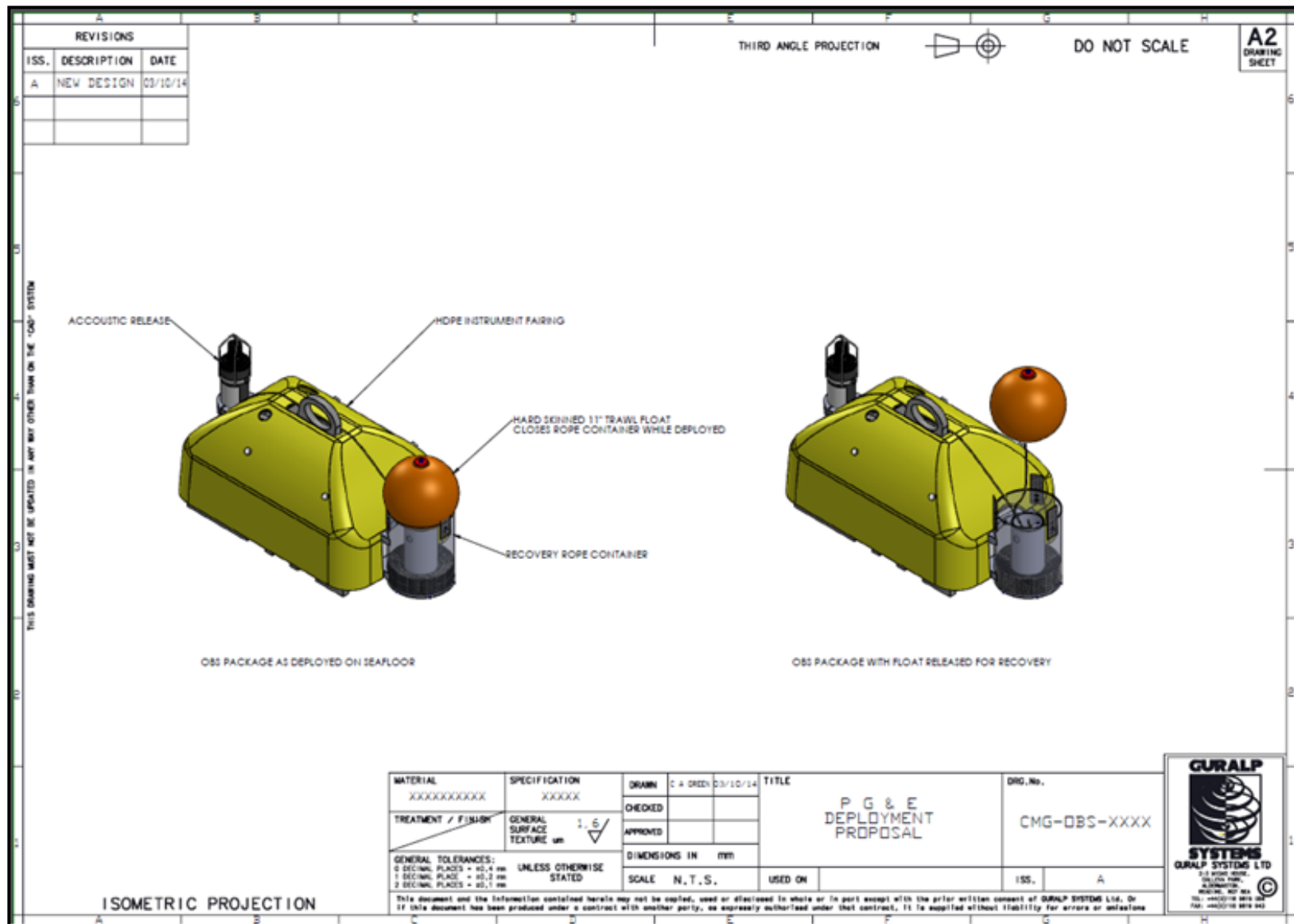


Figure 3. A OBS Unit Showing Trawl Float Release

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1 The following comparative analysis was undertaken to analyze whether the revised Point
2 Buchon Ocean Bottom Seismometer Project (Project) proposed by Pacific Gas and
3 Electric Company (PG&E) would have any significant environmental impacts that were
4 not addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) adopted by the California
5 State Lands Commission (CSLC) in 2012 for the Project. The comparative analysis (1)
6 discusses whether impacts are increased, decreased, or unchanged from the conclusions
7 discussed in the MND, and (2) addresses whether any changes to mitigation measures
8 are required. The MND and this Addendum found no impacts to occur to the following
9 environmental issue areas: Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, and
10 Population and Housing; therefore, they are not discussed further in this Addendum.

11 3.1 AESTHETICS

12 As with the original Project, all offshore operations would occur during daytime hours, and
13 the revised Project would not result in an increase in offshore nighttime lighting.
14 Therefore, no new impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures are
15 required.

16 3.2 AIR QUALITY

17 The recovery of the long-term ocean bottom seismometer (OBS) units and associated
18 power/data cable was completed in accordance with the requirements outlined in the
19 original Project approvals. No impacts to air quality resulted beyond those identified in the
20 original MND.

21 Air quality emissions associated with the revised Project may be different than those
22 analyzed in the previously adopted MND. During retrieval and redeployment of the four
23 existing Autonomous Ocean Bottom Seismometers (AOBSs), the revised Project would
24 generate emissions via vessel trips to and from the offshore Project site. Onshore,
25 emissions would be generated by vehicles used by workers/crew members commuting
26 to and from the local harbor where the Project vessel would be docked.

27 The M/V *Surveyor*, which would be used for retrieval and redeployment activities, is
28 similar to the vessel analyzed in the MND, but with a greater horsepower capability. The
29 increased horsepower would result in greater air emissions; however, no onshore work
30 or diver support vessels would be required, which would effectively lower the amount of
31 offshore emissions analyzed within the MND. Total emissions for the revised Project
32 would likely be similar to those analyzed previously. Project mitigation measures, as
33 required by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD), would
34 remain in place and would continue to mitigate emissions. As a result, no new mitigation
35 measures would be required.

1 **3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

2 The long-term cabled OBS system was completely recovered from the seafloor on May
3 19, 2015. A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) was used during system recovery to
4 ensure operations did not adversely impact sensitive hard-bottom resources along the
5 power/data cable route. A subsequent ROV survey was conducted to document any
6 biological impacts from these operations. As discussed in a Biological Survey Report that
7 analyzed the results of removing the cabled OBS system (Padre 2015; Appendix A),
8 based on information provided in the video from the ROV surveys and information
9 collected during an associated diver survey, the presence and removal of the four long-
10 term OBS units and approximately 11.5 miles (18.5 kilometers) of cable did not
11 substantially impact seafloor habitats or biota over which the cable crossed. In addition,
12 no Project-associated debris was observed within the surveyed corridor. The Biological
13 Survey Report concluded that no adverse impacts to sensitive resources occurred during
14 recovery operations. CSLC staff has reviewed the Report and concurs with this
15 conclusion. Furthermore, the replacement of the OBS units with AOBS units removed the
16 need for a power/data cable connecting the units to the shore. Therefore, any previously
17 analyzed potential impacts to biological resources from cable placement are no longer
18 applicable to the revised Project. One AOBS unit would continue to be located within the
19 Point Buchon Marine Protected Area; PG&E has obtained a scientific collecting permit
20 from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for this unit.

21 Periodic servicing of the AOBS to transfer data and recharge batteries would not result in
22 any changes to the location of the AOBS units. The AOBS units would remain in areas
23 previously analyzed and identified as sedimentary habitat (see Appendix A), and no
24 anchoring would be required during AOBS retrieval or redeployment activities. No new
25 impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures are required. Because the
26 AOBS units do not require a power/data cable, the revised Project would result in a net
27 decrease in potential impacts to biological resources.

28 **3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

29 The recovery of the long-term OBS system was completed in accordance with the
30 requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no impacts to cultural
31 resources were observed. Prior to deployment of the AOBS units, the California Historical
32 Resources Information System and the California Shipwrecks database were queried to
33 ensure that the locations of the AOBS units would avoid areas of potentially submerged
34 shipwrecks or cultural resources. In addition, an ROV survey was completed prior to
35 deployment to confirm that the locations were soft-bottom habitat and clear of debris. The
36 revised Project would continue to use the current locations of the AOBS units, and the
37 proposed periodic servicing of the AOBS units would not result in any changes to the
38 unit's locations. No new impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures
39 are required.

1 3.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

2 The recovery of the long-term OBS system was completed in accordance with the
3 requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no impacts to geologic
4 resources were observed. No impacts to hard-bottom substrate or geologic features were
5 noted during surveys conducted following the removal of the power/data cable (see
6 Appendix A). The revised Project would not result in significant geology or soils impacts
7 and no new mitigation measures are required.

8 3.6 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

9 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
10 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals. As with the
11 original Project, the only greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the revised
12 Project would be from short-term vessel and personnel vehicle trip emissions during the
13 retrieval and redeployment of the AOBS units. However, the revised Project's short-term
14 GHG emissions would be below the SLOAPCD's threshold of 1,100 metric tons per year
15 for non-stationary source emissions, and these vessel-related GHGs would be further
16 reduced by the continued implementation of Project-design measures typically required
17 by the SLOAPCD.

18 In April 2015, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-30-15, which established a
19 California GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 in order to
20 reduce global climate change (see <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938>). One
21 effect of GHG-generated climate change is sea-level rise. According to the National
22 Research Council (2012), the Project area is projected to experience sea-level rise
23 between 0.4 to 2.0 feet (12 to 61 centimeters) above year 2000 baseline levels by 2050.
24 According to the Safeguarding California Plan (California Natural Resources Agency
25 [CNRA] 2014), which provides policy guidance for state decision-makers and is part of
26 California's continuing efforts to reduce impacts and prepare for climate risks, higher sea
27 levels and storm surges can result in increased coastal erosion, more frequent flooding,
28 and increased property damage. As discussed in the Oceans and Coastal Resources and
29 Ecosystems Sector Plan of Safeguarding California (CNRA 2016), the CSLC is committed
30 to incorporating sea-level rise into its decision-making processes, for example, by
31 implementing actions such as the following (CNRA 2016):

32 *Consider how to reduce the potential for adverse sea-level rise impacts to the*
33 *resources and values protected by the Public Trust Doctrine, including impacts to*
34 *public access, and the potential for hazard creation via damaged structures and/or*
35 *inundation of facilities. Decisions incorporate management practices such as*
36 *acquisition of rolling easements and boundary determinations to protect the landward*
37 *migration of the public-private property boundary.*

1 As noted above the Project would result in short-term vessel emissions. Given the limited
2 number of vessel trips and short-term duration of such trips, impacts related to GHG
3 emissions associated with the Project are not expected to be significant, and the Project
4 is not inconsistent with any current applicable plans, policies, or regulations. No new
5 mitigation measures are required.

6 **3.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

7 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
8 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
9 release of hazardous materials resulted from the operations.

10 As with the original Project, the potential for the release of hazards and hazardous
11 materials would be limited to the use of a Project vessel for retrieval and redeployment
12 activities. Although unlikely, the release of petroleum or other substances into the marine
13 environment from the Project vessel or equipment could result in potentially significant
14 impacts to water quality (discussed below) and marine biota, particularly avifauna and
15 early life stage forms of fish and invertebrates. The potential for a Project-related release
16 of diesel fuel, gasoline, or other hazardous substance would be slightly greater than that
17 analyzed in the MND because the AOBS units would need to be serviced every 6 months
18 or following any significant seismic event. However, this slight increase in risk would be
19 mitigated through the implementation of existing regulations, standard offshore
20 construction industry standards for the containment and recovery of spills (the Oil Spill
21 Contingency Plan maintained by the survey vessel), and the implementation of the
22 original Project's Applicant Proposed Measures. No additional mitigation measures are
23 required.

24 **3.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

25 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
26 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
27 impacts to water quality were observed.

28 Similar to the discussion provided above (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), the use of
29 a Project vessel for retrieval and redeployment activities has the potential to impact ocean
30 water quality. The potential for a Project-related release of diesel fuel, gasoline, or other
31 hazardous substance would be slightly greater than that analyzed in the original MND
32 because the AOBS units need to be serviced every 6 months or following any significant
33 seismic event. However, this slight increase in risk would be mitigated through the
34 implementation of the original Project's Applicant Proposed Measures. No additional
35 mitigation measures are required.

1 **3.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING**

2 The revised Project would not result in any changes to the proposed land uses that were
3 outlined in the MND. No new impacts have been identified and no new mitigation
4 measures are required.

5 **3.10 NOISE**

6 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
7 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
8 noise related impacts were observed.

9 The revised Project includes servicing four AOBS units every 6 months in order to transfer
10 data and recharge batteries, resulting in an increase in the frequency of offshore vessel
11 use. Project activities are estimated to require 4 days of offshore work (2 days for retrieval
12 and 2 days for redeployment, not including approximately 2 days for servicing and data
13 recovery onshore).

14 Due to the Project's location, the possibility exists that some individuals would be within
15 the Project area on recreational or commercial vessels during AOBS retrieval and
16 redeployment activities. However, noise generated by the vessel and onboard equipment
17 would not be substantial and would not adversely affect persons on nearby boats.
18 Therefore, this short-term noise impact would not be significant. In addition, PG&E has
19 agreed to provide the required Local Notice to Mariners to the U.S. Coast Guard, which
20 would specify vessel type, location, operation, and contact information prior to in-water
21 operations so that commercial and recreational vessels are aware of Project activities and
22 can avoid the area around the Project vessel. The increased use of a Project vessel two
23 times per year would not result in a significant noise impact. No new mitigation measures
24 are required.

25 **3.11 PUBLIC SERVICES**

26 The Project would not result in an increase in demands on public services. No new
27 impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures are required.

28 **3.12 RECREATION**

29 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
30 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
31 impacts to recreational resources were observed.

32 The revised Project includes servicing the AOBS units every 6 months in order to transfer
33 data and recharge batteries, resulting in an increase in the frequency of offshore vessel
34 use. However, fewer vessels would be required to complete these work activities. During

1 offshore vessel activities, for safety purposes, recreational boaters would not be allowed
2 within the immediate retrieval or redeployment area. However, because Project activities
3 are expected to only require an additional 4 days of survey vessel work (2 days for
4 retrieval and 2 days for redeployment, not including approximately 2 days for servicing
5 and data recovery onshore) every 6 months, in addition to the fact that Project work areas
6 are small (a work radius of approximately 50 meters [164 feet) and limited to the area
7 immediately surrounding the Project vessel, this would not cause a significant increase in
8 recreational restrictions. Furthermore, the AOBS units would be located within areas of
9 sedimentary seafloor habitat, and recreational activities such as fishing and diving are
10 more common in areas of rocky substrate. As a result, the increase in potential impacts
11 to recreational resources would be minimal. No new mitigation measures are required.

12 **3.13 COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

13 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
14 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
15 impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries resources were observed.

16 The revised Project would cause short-term impacts to recreational and commercial
17 fishing operations within the immediate area of the Project vessel during AOBS retrieval
18 and redeployment activities. These impacts would be temporary (less than 2 hours at
19 each AOBS recovery and redeployment site) and less than significant due to the short
20 duration and small preclusion area around the Project vessel. In addition, the AOBS units
21 are placed outside of the trawling limits; therefore, the AOBS units will not result in any
22 “snag” hazards to commercial fishing gear. A Local Notice to Mariners would be submitted
23 to the U. S. Coast Guard and all applicable agencies would be notified prior to the start
24 of the Project. As a result, the increase in potential impacts to commercial and recreational
25 fisheries would be minimal. No new mitigation measures are required.

26 **3.14 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

27 The recovery of the long-term OBS units and associated power/data cable was completed
28 in accordance with the requirements outlined in the original Project approvals, and no
29 adverse impacts to location vessel operations were observed.

30 The revised Project includes servicing the AOBS units every 6 months in order to transfer
31 data and recharge batteries, resulting in an increase in the frequency of offshore vessel
32 use. During offshore vessel activities, other vessels would not be allowed within the
33 immediate retrieval or redeployment area for safety purposes, thus somewhat limiting
34 offshore transportation within the immediate area. However, because Project activities
35 are expected to only require an additional 4 days of survey vessel work (2 days for
36 retrieval and 2 days for redeployment not including approximately 2 days for servicing
37 and data recovery onshore) every 6 months, in addition to the fact that Project work areas
38 are small (a work radius of approximately 50 meters [164 feet]) and limited to the area

1 immediately surrounding the survey vessel, no significant increase in transportation
2 corridor restrictions would result.

3 Onshore, the increase in commuter traffic to and from local harbors would be minimal and
4 limited only to the crew members necessary to staff the survey vessel and to retrieve and
5 redeploy each AOBS unit (approximately 4 days for recovery and redeployment activities,
6 including vessel mobilization/demobilization, and 2 days while OBS servicing and data
7 recovery occur onshore. No new mitigation measures are required.

8 **3.15 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

9 The Project would not result in an increase in the demands on utilities and service
10 systems. No new impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures are
11 required.

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4.0 DETERMINATION/ADDENDUM CONCLUSION

1 As detailed in the analysis presented above, this Addendum to the Mitigated Negative
2 Declaration (MND) adopted by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) in March
3 2012, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), supports
4 the conclusion that the changes to the overall Point Buchon Ocean Bottom Seismometer
5 Project (Project) would not result in any new significant environmental effects.
6 Specifically, the CSLC has determined, based on substantial evidence in the light of the
7 whole record, that none of the following circumstances exists:

- 8 • Substantial changes proposed in the Project which will require major revisions of
9 the previous MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects
10 or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects
11 (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15162, subd. (a)(1)); or
- 12 • Substantial changes that will occur with respect to the circumstances under which
13 the Project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous MND
14 due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial
15 increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects (State CEQA
16 Guidelines, § 15162, subd. (a)(2); or
- 17 • New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not
18 have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous
19 MND was adopted by the CSLC (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15162, subd. (a)(3).

20 The Project is consistent with State CEQA Guidelines section 15164 in that only minor
21 changes have been made to the Project, and none of the conditions described in State
22 CEQA Guidelines section 15162 has occurred. Therefore, the CSLC has determined that
23 no subsequent or supplemental document is required.

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5.0 ADDENDUM PREPARATION SOURCES AND REFERENCES

1 5.1 ADDENDUM PREPARERS

2 California State Lands Commission

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