



**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
LINE 057A-1 MCDONALD ISLAND TO PALM  
TRACT PIPELINE DECOMMISSIONING  
PROJECT**

May 2021



**Lead Agency:**

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

**Applicant:**

Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
5555 Florin Perkins Road, Room 128D  
Sacramento, CA 95826



### **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 based on the principles of equity, sustainability, and resiliency, through preservation, restoration, enhancement, responsible economic development, and the promotion of public access.

### **CEQA DOCUMENT WEBSITE**

[www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/](http://www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/)

### **Geographic Location (Western Bank)**

Latitude: 37°58'6" N  
Longitude: 121°34'25" W  
WGS84 Datum

Cover Photo:  
(Photo courtesy of Google Earth)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and has prepared this Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that analyzes and discloses the environmental effects associated with the proposed Pacific Gas & Electric Company Line 057A-1 (L-057A-1) McDonald Island to Palm Tract Pipeline Decommissioning Project (Project). The Project would authorize the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E or Applicant) to decommission and remove four segments of the previously retired L-057A-1 natural gas pipeline at the Latham Slough, Mildred Island, Middle River, and Old River crossings. The Project site is approximately 126.5 acres and consists primarily of tidally influenced river crossings (Latham Slough, Middle River, and Old River) and associated levees that protect agricultural lands on McDonald Island, Bacon Island, and Palm Tract in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Figure ES-1).

The CSLC has prepared this MND because it determined that, while the IS identifies potentially significant impacts related to the Project, mitigation measures (MMs) incorporated into the Project proposal and agreed to by the Applicant would avoid or mitigate those impacts to a point where no significant impacts occur.

### PROPOSED PROJECT

PG&E is proposing to remove a majority of the remaining submerged pipeline segments of L-057A-1 between McDonald Island and Palm Tract. For planning purposes, the Project has been divided into four discrete segments (Figure ES-2). A summary of the four segments and their proposed final dispositions are provided below.

- **Segment 1 – Latham Slough Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately 712 feet of 14-inch-diameter pipeline): The approximately 79-foot-long segment of pipeline underneath the waterside slope of the McDonald Island Levee would be filled with cement slurry and abandoned in place thereby avoiding unnecessary disturbance to the levee. If present, articulated concrete mats located on top of the pipeline crossing would be removed. The remaining 633 feet of the pipeline that crosses Latham Slough and the Mildred Island Levee would be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments with shallow depth of burial and the potential for future exposure.
- **Segment 2 – Mildred Island Submerged (Originally Terrestrial) Pipeline Segment** (approximately 8,113 feet of 18-inch-diameter pipeline): Segment 2 would be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments that are currently exposed or under shallow depth of burial and to eliminate the potential risk of the pipeline segments floating to the surface and creating a public safety hazard.

- Segment 3 – Middle River Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately 551 feet of 14-inch-diameter pipeline): The segment of pipeline landing underneath the waterside slope of the Bacon Island levee would be filled with cement slurry and an approximately 48-foot-long segment abandoned in place to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the levee. The remaining 503 feet of the crossing across Middle River and across the Mildred Island Levee would be removed in its entirety, eliminating segments with shallow depth of burial.
- Segment 4 – Old River Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately 1,205 feet of 14-inch-diameter and 18-inch-diameter pipeline): The segment of pipeline on both sides of the river underneath the waterside slope of the Bacon Island Levee (approximately 46-feet long) and the segment of pipeline underneath the waterside slope of the Palm Tract Levee (approximately 49-feet long) would be filled with cement slurry and abandoned in place to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the levee. The remaining 560 feet of the Old River crossing would be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments with shallow depth of burial. In addition, approximately 110 feet of the terrestrial pipeline crossing the Bacon Island Levee at this site would be removed across the crown of the levee and down the landside slope to the landside toe. Finally, approximately 440 feet of buried terrestrial pipeline from the landside toe out to a point where the pipeline intersects with the existing dirt roadway would be filled with cement slurry.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

The environmental issues checked below in Table ES-1 would be potentially affected by this Project; a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “potentially significant impact.” The Applicant has agreed to Project revisions, including the implementation of MMs, that would reduce the potential impacts to “less than significant with mitigation,” as detailed in Section 3.0, *Environmental Checklist and Analysis*, of this MND. Table ES-2 lists the proposed MMs designed to reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts. With implementation of the proposed MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

**Table ES-1. Environmental Issues and Potentially Significant Impacts**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources – Tribal
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources	<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 type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance

**Table ES-2. Summary of Proposed Project Mitigation Measures**

<b>Aesthetics</b>
MM AES-1: Nighttime Illumination Limitations
<b>Agricultural and Forestry Resources</b>
MM AG-1: Noticing to Adjacent Property Owners
<b>Biological Resources</b>
MM BIO-1: Special-Status Plant Avoidance
MM BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Training
MM BIO-3: In-Water Work Period Restrictions
MM BIO-4: Biological Monitoring
MM BIO-5: Turbidity Monitoring Plan
MM BIO-6: Western Pond Turtle and Giant Garter Snake Avoidance
MM BIO-7: Swainson's Hawk and White-Tailed Kite Avoidance
MM BIO-8: California Black Rail Avoidance
MM BIO-9: Breeding Bird Avoidance
MM BIO-10: Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Restoration
<b>Cultural Resources</b>
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains
<b>Cultural Resources – Tribal</b>
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>
APM-1: Project Work and Safety Plan
APM-2: Pre- and Post-Project Geophysical Debris Survey
APM-3: Advanced Notice to Mariners
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
<b>Recreation</b>
REC-1: Local In-Water Construction Notice



Figure ES-1. Project Site Vicinity Map

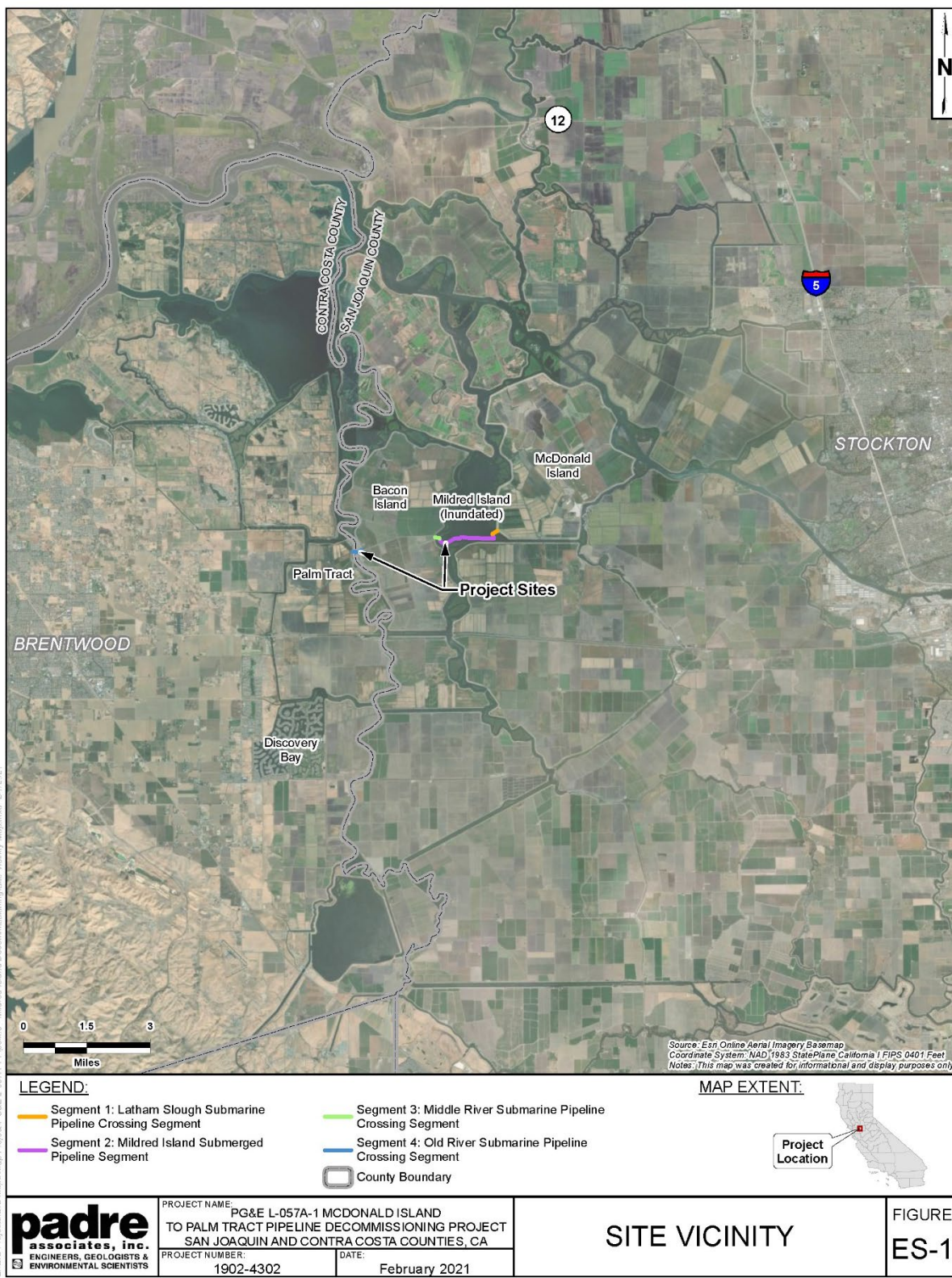
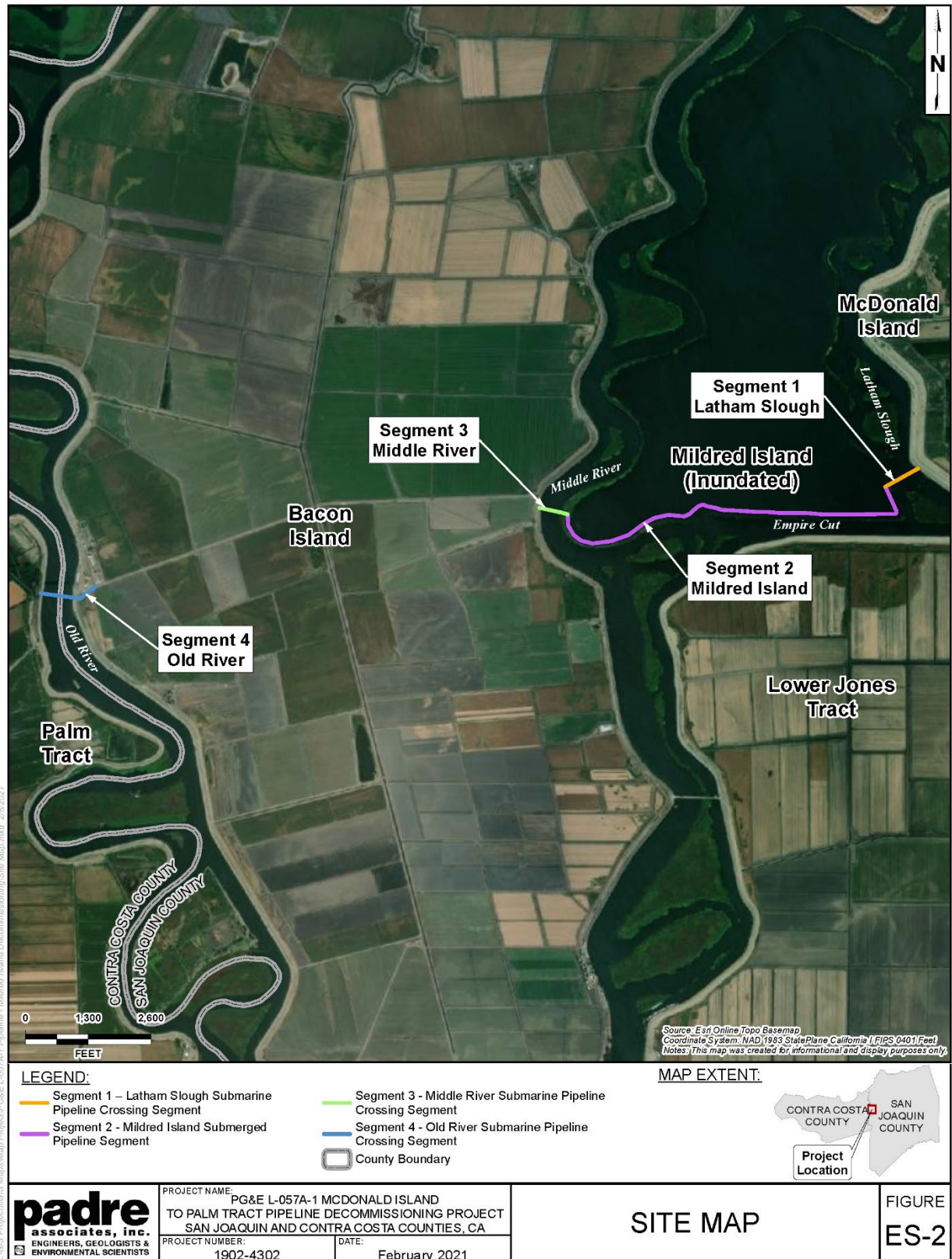




Figure ES-2. Project Overview Map



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