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# 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



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

### 18 PROPOSED PROJECT

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

23 • **Segment 1 – Latham Slough Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately  
24 712 feet of 14-inch-diameter pipeline): The approximately 79-foot-long segment  
25 of pipeline underneath the waterside slope of the McDonald Island Levee would  
26 be filled with cement slurry and abandoned in place thereby avoiding  
27 unnecessary disturbance to the levee. If present, articulated concrete mats  
28 located on top of the pipeline crossing would be removed. The remaining  
29 633 feet of the pipeline that crosses Latham Slough and the Mildred Island Levee  
30 would be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments with shallow  
31 depth of burial and the potential for future exposure.

32 • **Segment 2 – Mildred Island Submerged (Originally Terrestrial) Pipeline**  
33 **Segment** (approximately 8,113 feet of 18-inch-diameter pipeline): Segment 2  
34 would be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments that are currently  
35 exposed or under shallow depth of burial and to eliminate the potential risk of the  
36 pipeline segments floating to the surface and creating a public safety hazard.

- 1       • **Segment 3 – Middle River Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately  
2       551 feet of 14-inch-diameter pipeline): The segment of pipeline landing  
3       underneath the waterside slope of the Bacon Island levee would be filled with  
4       cement slurry and an approximately 48-foot-long segment abandoned in place to  
5       avoid unnecessary disturbance to the levee. The remaining 503 feet of the  
6       crossing across Middle River and across the Mildred Island Levee would be  
7       removed in its entirety, eliminating segments with shallow depth of burial.
  
- 8       • **Segment 4 – Old River Submarine Pipeline Crossing** (approximately 1,205  
9       feet of 14-inch-diameter and 18-inch-diameter pipeline): The segment of pipeline  
10      on both sides of the river underneath the waterside slope of the Bacon Island  
11      Levee (approximately 46-feet long) and the segment of pipeline underneath the  
12      waterside slope of the Palm Tract Levee (approximately 49-feet long) would be  
13      filled with cement slurry and abandoned in place to avoid unnecessary  
14      disturbance to the levee. The remaining 560 feet of the Old River crossing would  
15      be removed in its entirety to eliminate pipeline segments with shallow depth of  
16      burial. In addition, approximately 110 feet of the terrestrial pipeline crossing the  
17      Bacon Island Levee at this site would be removed across the crown of the levee  
18      and down the landside slope to the landside toe. Finally, approximately 440 feet  
19      of buried terrestrial pipeline from the landside toe out to a point where the  
20      pipeline intersects with the existing dirt roadway would be filled with cement  
21      slurry.

22      **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

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

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

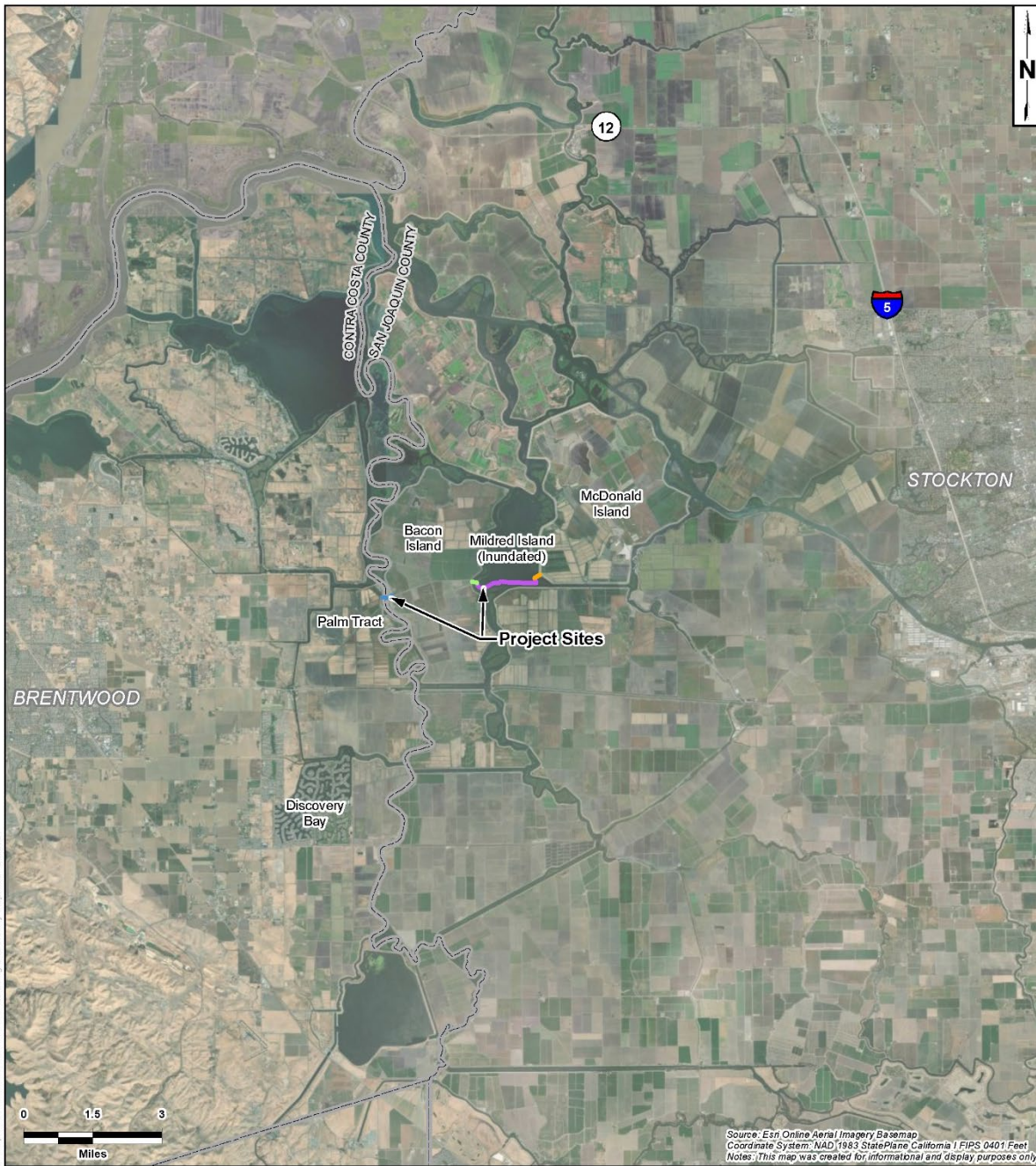
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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



**LEGEND:**

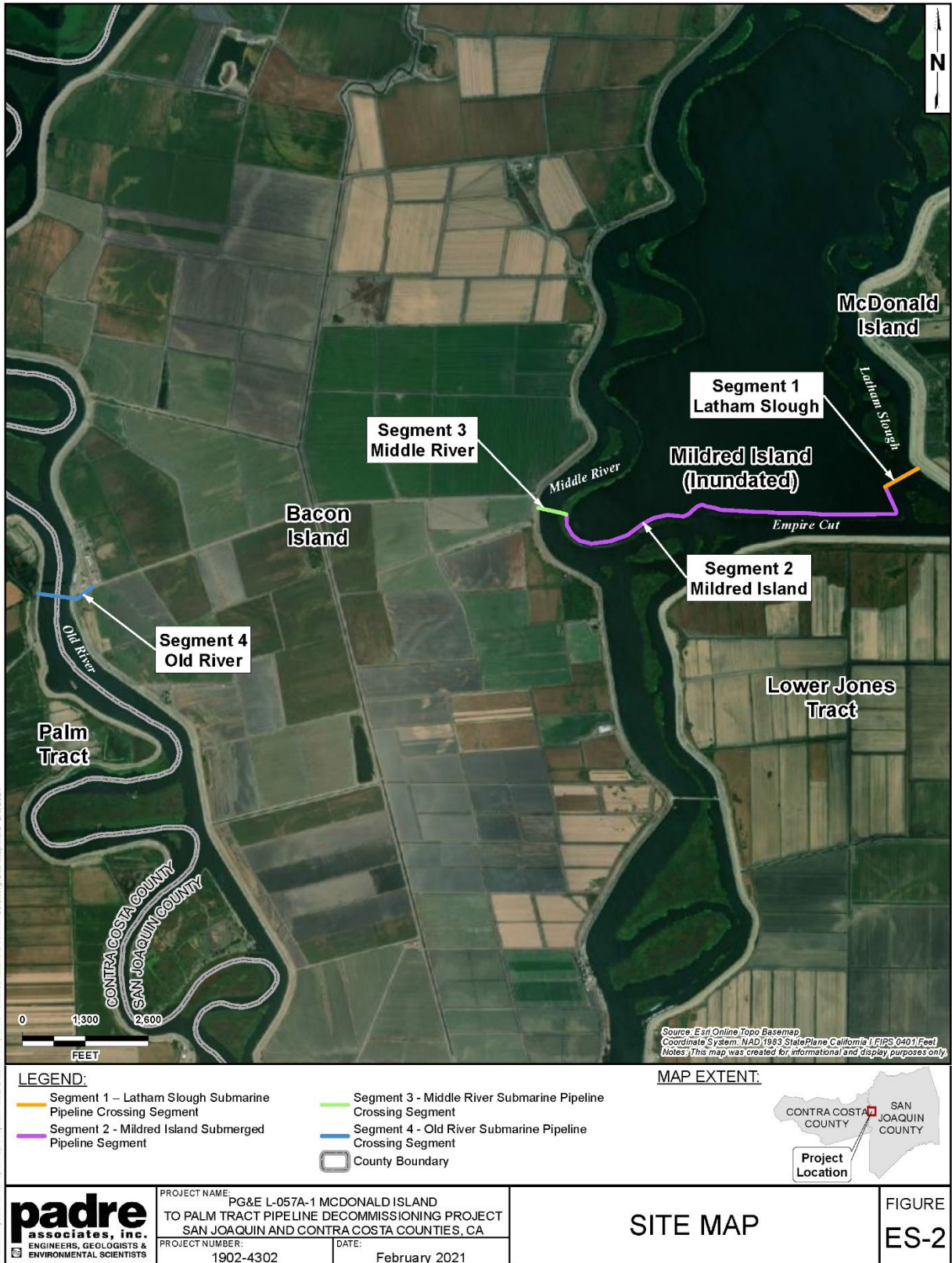
- Segment 1: Latham Slough Submarine Pipeline Crossing Segment
- Segment 2: Mildred Island Submerged Pipeline Segment
- Segment 3: Middle River Submarine Pipeline Crossing Segment
- Segment 4: Old River Submarine Pipeline Crossing Segment
- County Boundary

**MAP EXTENT:**



<p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS</p>	PROJECT NAME: PG&E L-057A-1 MCDONALD ISLAND TO PALM TRACT PIPELINE DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT SAN JOAQUIN AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES, CA	SITE VICINITY	FIGURE ES-1
	PROJECT NUMBER: 1902-4302		

Figure ES-2. Project Overview Map



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