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 (PG&E) Replacement of Distribution Feeder Main 0630 (DFM-0630/R-1385)¹
- across the Sacramento River Project (Project) in the town of Meridian, California. The
 Project area is located within portions of Colusa and Sutter Counties. California (Figure
- Project area is located within portions of Colusa and Sutter Counties, California (Figure
 ES-1). The easternmost portion of the Project area is located at the northwestern side of
- 9 the town of Meridian, near the intersection of North Meridian Road and Alameda Street,
- 10 and extends from that location across the eastern levee, the Sacramento River, the
- 11 western levee, and into agricultural land west of the western levee (Project area) (Figure
- 12 ES-2).
- 13 Pipeline replacement, decommissioning, and removal activities would result in the
- 14 temporary disturbance of 4.46 acres during pipeline replacement activities (Phase 1) of
- 15 the Project and the disturbance of 8.17 acres during decommissioning activities (Phase
- 16 2) of the Project, for a total temporary disturbance footprint of approximately 11.01
- 17 acres combined and accounting for the overlap between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 work
- 18 areas. Within this temporary disturbance area, a total excavation footprint of
- 19 approximately 0.22 acre would occur, 0.01 acre of excavation associated with Phase 1
- and 0.21 acre of excavation associated with Phase 2.
- 21 CSLC has prepared this MND because it determined that, while the IS identifies
- 22 potentially significant impacts related to the Project, mitigation measures (MMs)
- 23 incorporated into the Project proposal and agreed to by the Applicant (PG&E) would
- 24 avoid or mitigate those impacts to a point where no significant impacts occur.

25 **DFM-0630 PIPELINE CONFIGURATION**

- 26 The existing DFM-0630 pipelines were originally installed by PG&E in 1938 and provide
- 27 natural gas to this area and the city of Colusa. Within the Project area, the existing
- 28 DFM-0630 consists of a single 4-inch-diameter pipeline that tees into two 3-inch-
- 29 diameter pipelines within a valve box on the western levee of the Sacramento River.
- 30 DFM-0630 runs in two parallel pipelines underneath the Sacramento River and then
- 31 merges back into a single 3-inch-diameter pipeline within a valve box on the eastern
- 32 levee (Figure ES-2).

¹ DFM-0630 refers to the name of the gas pipeline alignment. R-1385 is the PG&E project identifier.

1 PROPOSED PROJECT

- 2 The proposed Project would be conducted in two distinct phases. During Phase 1,
- 3 PG&E is proposing to replace the existing DFM-0630 pipelines that cross the
- 4 Sacramento River with a replacement pipeline using Horizontal Directional Drilling
- 5 (HDD) techniques in a location just north of and parallel to the existing pipeline crossing
- 6 alignment. After installation, the replacement pipeline would consist of a single 4-inch-
- 7 diameter pipeline connected (tied-in) to the existing terrestrial pipeline network on each
- 8 side of the Sacramento River. Phase 2 of the Project would include subsequent
- 9 decommissioning of the original DFM-0630 Sacramento River pipelines, which would be
- 10 conducted in five separate segments.

11 Phase 1 of Work: Replacement Pipeline Installation

- 12 Phase 1 consists of the construction of a 4-inch-diameter pipeline installed under the
- 13 Sacramento River using HDD methods. The length of the pipeline and tie-ins measure
- 14 approximately 1,200 feet. Following completion of the borehole and reaming of the
- 15 alignment, the newly fabricated 4-inch-diameter pipeline string would be pulled into the
- 16 boring from the West Work Area to the East Work Area. The replacement pipeline
- 17 would then be tied into the existing terrestrial pipeline network with short sections of
- 18 pipe installed in open trench connections. Once the replacement pipeline is tied into the
- 19 pipeline network, odor fade conditioning would be conducted as a standard safety
- 20 procedure.

21 Phase 2 of Work: Existing Pipeline Decommissioning

- 22 Following Phase 1, the existing DFM-0630 crossings would be decommissioned. For
- 23 planning purposes, Phase 2 has been divided into five pipeline decommissioning
- segments as further described below (Figure ES-3). Prior to the start of
- decommissioning activities, Segments 1 through 5 of the pipelines would be pigged and
- 26 flushed to remove any remaining contaminants.
- Segment 1 West Field Segment (approximately 265 feet of 4-inch-diameter pipeline):
- Segment 1 begins where the existing pipeline was capped in Phase 1
 adjacent to the west tie-in location and continues east to a point 10 feet
 away from the landside toe of the western levee.
- This Segment would be purged of natural gas, filled with cement slurry,
 capped on both ends, and abandoned in place.
- Segment 2 West Levee Segment (34 feet of 4-inch-diameter pipeline and 181 feet of two, 3-inch-diameter pipelines [396 feet of total pipeline]):

1 • Segment 2 begins at the end of Segment 1 and continues east up the 2 landside slope, across and down the waterside slope of the western levee, 3 down to the waterline of the Sacramento River. At the top of the levee 4 (levee crown), there is an existing concrete valve box. A pipeline crossing 5 sign is located adjacent to the concrete valve box. Riprap rock is currently 6 located along the pipeline alignment on the west bank. 7 • Within this Segment, the 4-inch-diameter pipeline and both 3-inch-diameter 8 pipelines, as well as the concrete valve box within the West Levee Segment 9 would be removed in their entirety. The pipeline crossing sign would be 10 replaced with a new sign. 11 Segment 3 – Submerged Pipeline Crossing Segment (approximately 240 feet 12 of two, 3-inch-diameter pipelines [480 feet of pipeline total]): 13 • Segment 3 begins at the end of Segment 2 at the waterline on the west 14 bank of the Sacramento River and continues beneath the river to the 15 waterside slope of the levee on the east side. 16 Both existing 3-inch-diameter pipelines in Segment 3 would be removed in 17 their entirety from the western to eastern shoreline through the Sacramento 18 River. 19 Segment 4 – East Levee Segment (approximately 105 feet of two, 3-inch-• diameter pipelines [210 feet total]): 20 21 Segment 4 begins at the end of Segment 3 at the waterline of the 0 22 Sacramento River on the east bank waterside slope of the levee. There is 23 an existing concrete valve box on the eastern levee crown where the two, 3-24 inch-diameter pipelines merge back into a single 3-inch-diameter pipeline. A 25 pipeline crossing sign is located adjacent to the concrete valve box. Grouted 26 riprap rock is currently located along the pipeline alignment on the east 27 bank. 28 • All 3-inch-diameter pipelines and the concrete valve box would be removed 29 in their entirety. The pipeline crossing sign would be replaced with a new 30 sign. 31 Segment 5 – Meridian Road Segment (approximately 25 feet of 3-inchdiameter pipeline and 15 feet of 4-inch-diameter pipeline) 32 33 • Segment 5 begins at the end of Segment 4, at the end of Meridian Road and extends to the eastern tie-in location. 34 • Decommissioning and removal of Segment 5 would occur during the Phase 35 36 1 connection/tie-in activities to prevent the need to re-excavate the paved 37 street for removal of the pipe segment during Phase 2. Following the tie-in 38 of the replacement pipeline, Segment 5 would be removed in its entirety.

1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

- 2 The environmental issues checked below in Table ES-1 would be potentially affected by
- 3 this Project; a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a "potentially
- 4 significant impact." The Applicant has agreed to Project revisions, including the
- 5 implementation of Mitigation Measures (MMs), that would reduce the potential impacts
- 6 to "less than significant with mitigation," as detailed in Section 3.0, *Environmental*
- 7 Checklist and Analysis, of this MND. Table ES-2 lists the proposed MMs designed to
- 8 reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts. With implementation of the proposed
- 9 MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. The
- 10 Mitigation Monitoring Program is included in Appendix I.

Table ES-1. Environmental Issues and Potentially Significant Impacts

Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Cultural Resources – Tribal
Energy	Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Hydrology and Water Quality	Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources	🛛 Noise	Population and Housing
Public Services	Recreation	Transportation
Utilities and Service Systems	U Wildfire	Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table ES-2. Summary of Proposed Project Mitigation Measures

Aesthetics

MM AES-1: Nighttime Illumination Shielding

Biological Resources

MM BIO-1: Swainson's Hawk Nesting Season Avoidance or Pre-Construction Surveys MM BIO-2: Nesting Bird Season Avoidance or Pre-Construction Surveys

MM BIO-3: Giant Gartersnake Work Window and Pre-Construction Surveys

MM BIO-4: Western Pond Turtle Pre-Construction Surveys

MM BIO-5: Environmental Training Program

MM BIO-6: Biological Monitoring

MM BIO-7: Turbidity Monitoring Plan

MM BIO-8: Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Training

MM BIO-9: Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Habitat Avoidance

MM BIO-10: Blue Elderberry Shrub Removal Documentation and Conservation

MMM BIO-11: Site Restoration Plan		
Cultural Resources		
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Awareness Training		
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Management and		
Treatment Plan (CRMTP)		
MM CUL-3/TCR-3: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring		
MM CUL-4/TCR-5: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural		
Resources		
MM CUL-5/TCR-7: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains		
Cultural Resources – Tribal		
MM CUL-1/TCR-1: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Awareness Training		
MM CUL-2/TCR-2: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Management and		
Treatment Plan (CRMTP)		
MM CUL-3/TCR-3: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring		
MM TCR-4: Monitoring and Inspection of Grading and Excavation		
MM CUL-4/TCR-5: Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural or Tribal Cultural		
Resources		
MM TCR-6: Treatment of Tribal Cultural Resources		
MM CUL-5/TCR-7: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains		
Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources		
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)		
MM BIO-11: Site Restoration Plan		
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan		
MM HAZ-2: Inadvertent Release Contingency Plan		
MM HAZ-3: Pre- and Post-Project Bathymetric and Surficial Features Multi-Beam		
Debris Survey		
MM HAZ-4: Asbestos Handling Procedures		
Hydrology and Water Quality		
MM HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan		
MM HAZ-1: Project Work and Safety Plan		
MM HAZ-2: Inadvertent Release Contingency Plan		
MM BIO-7: Turbidity Monitoring Plan		
MM BIO-11: Site Restoration Plan		
Noise		
MM N-1: Work Hours and Alternate Housing		
Recreation		
MM REC-1: Riverine Safety Measures		
MM REC-2: Advanced Notice to Mariners		
Transportation		
MM T-1: Traffic Control Plan		





Figure ES-2. Project Overview Map



Executive Summary



Figure ES-3. Decommissioning Project Overview