NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NAME: Bellota–Warnerville 230kV Reinforcement Project - ( Counties of San Joaquin and Stanislaus, and City of Oakdale, PM 74000622)
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 6047-E

Proposed Project: PG&E proposes to reinforce approximately 23 miles of the Central Valley’s 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission system to enhance reliability and enable delivery of approximately 2000 megawatts of planned and existing renewable energy that is currently being curtailed. The project will replace the existing conductors and supporting structures on the Bellota-Warnerville 230kV Transmission Line within San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties and the City of Oakdale. The existing double-circuit transmission line extends between PG&E’s Bellota Substation at 24350 E Flood Road in San Joaquin County and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s (SFPUC’s) Warnerville Substation at 10501 Warnerville Road in Stanislaus County. The existing lattice steel towers are proposed to be replaced one-for-one with approximately 148 taller, smaller-footprint tubular steel poles approximately 95 feet to 185 feet tall. Height increases are required to meet California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (GO) 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements, magnetic field reduction and design standards. The proposed project will also replace the existing fiber communication wire and add a shield wire positioned above the conductors.

The project begins at Bellota Substation in San Joaquin County approximately 3.5 miles east of the unincorporated community of Linden. From Bellota Substation, the project alignment extends approximately 7.1 miles southeast through agricultural land within unincorporated San Joaquin County, spanning over and avoiding the North Fork Duck Creek and Duck Creek before crossing over State Route 4 approximately 2.1 miles east of the unincorporated community of Farmington. From State Route 4, the project alignment spans over and avoids Rock Creek and Littlejohns Creek and continues southeast approximately 7.3 miles through primarily agricultural lands in Stanislaus County west of Woodward Reservoir. The project alignment continues southeast approximately 5.1 miles, spanning over and avoiding the Stanislaus River, and into the City of Oakdale. In the roughly 1.2-mile section of the project within City limits, the project alignment parallels Burchell Hill Trail, then crosses State Route 108/120 and extends through residential and other urban uses to PG&E’s Cottle Substation at 1629 East F Street. From Cottle Substation, the project alignment continues southeast, leaving the City of Oakdale and continuing through rural residential and agricultural land for approximately 2.6 miles to the SFPUC’s Warnerville Substation, located approximately one mile south of the Oakdale Airport in Stanislaus County, and terminating at a lattice steel tower southwest of the Warnerville Substation adjacent to Warnerville Road. Helicopters may be used to facilitate construction in rural areas. Construction, which will take place in two phases, is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-2022, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place, with completion in mid-2024, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): PG&E will employ “no cost” and specified “low cost” measures to reduce public exposure to EMF in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 06-01-042 and the “EMF Design Guidelines for Electrical Facilities” prepared in compliance with that decision. The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Arrange the phases of the Bellota-Warnerville 230 kV Transmission Line to maximize cancellation of magnetic field levels; and
- Raise the height of 37 poles in residential land use areas by 10 feet to reduce magnetic fields at ground level.

Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement: CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection A, exempts a utility from the CPUC’s requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. This project qualifies for the following exemptions:

- “The replacement of existing facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures;” and
- “The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.”

Additional Project Information: To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E’s Project Information Line at (415) 973-9530.

Public Review Process: Individuals or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that PG&E has incorrectly applied for an exemption or that the conditions set out in Section III.B.2 of General Order 131-D exist;

a. There is reasonable possibility that the activity may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; or
b. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant; or
c. There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Protests should include the following:
1. Your name, mailing address and daytime telephone number.
2. Reference to the CPUC Advice Letter Number and Project Name.
3. A clear description of the reason for the protest.
4. Whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes.

Protests for this project must be filed by January 26, 2021 at the following address:

Director, Energy Division
ED Tariff Unit
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94102

PG&E must respond within five business days of receipt and serve its response on each protestant and the Energy Division. Within 30 days after PG&E has submitted its response, the CPUC Executive Director will send you a copy of an Executive Resolution granting or denying PG&E’s request and stating the reasons for the decision.

Assistance in Filing a Protest: If you need assistance in filing a protest, contact the CPUC Public Advisor:
email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or call: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free), or (415) 703-2074, or TTY (415) 703-5258.

Public Comment: Even if you do not want to file an official protest, you may still comment on the request. To do so, send your comments to the Energy Division at the address noted above. Please reference Advice Letter 6047-E.

(P.No. 5756012 / SAP Order No. 74000622 / MWC 60)