

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94102-3298



**Pacific Gas & Electric Company**  
**ELC (Corp ID 39)**  
**Status of Advice Letter 6634E**  
**As of August 1, 2022**

Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Northern

Division Assigned: Energy

Date Filed: 06-30-2022

Date to Calendar: 07-08-2022

Authorizing Documents: None

<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Accepted</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>07-30-2022</b>

Resolution Required: No

Resolution Number: None

Commission Meeting Date: None

CPUC Contact Information:

[edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov)

AL Certificate Contact Information:

Kimberly Loo

(415)973-4587

[PGETariffs@pge.com](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com)

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94102-3298



To: Energy Company Filing Advice Letter

From: Energy Division PAL Coordinator

Subject: Your Advice Letter Filing

The Energy Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has processed your recent Advice Letter (AL) filing and is returning an AL status certificate for your records.

The AL status certificate indicates:

- Advice Letter Number
- Name of Filer
- CPUC Corporate ID number of Filer
- Subject of Filing
- Date Filed
- Disposition of Filing (Accepted, Rejected, Withdrawn, etc.)
- Effective Date of Filing
- Other Miscellaneous Information (e.g., Resolution, if applicable, etc.)

The Energy Division has made no changes to your copy of the Advice Letter Filing; please review your Advice Letter Filing with the information contained in the AL status certificate, and update your Advice Letter and tariff records accordingly.

All inquiries to the California Public Utilities Commission on the status of your Advice Letter Filing will be answered by Energy Division staff based on the information contained in the Energy Division's PAL database from which the AL status certificate is generated. If you have any questions on this matter please contact the:

Energy Division's Tariff Unit by e-mail to  
**[edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov)**



**Sidney Bob Dietz II**  
Director  
Regulatory Relations

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale St., Mail Code B13U  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415-973-3582

June 30, 2022

**Advice 6634-E**  
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Northern Orchard PV Interconnection Project and Bitterwater Switching Station in Kern County**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E" or "the Company") hereby submits notice pursuant to General Order (G.O.) 131-D, Section XI, Subsection B.4, of the construction of facilities that are exempt from a Permit to Construct.

**Purpose**

This advice letter provides a copy of the Notice of Proposed Construction (Attachment I) and the Notice Distribution List, which comply with the noticing requirements found in G.O. 131-D, Section XI.

**Background**

To interconnect the proposed Northern Orchard PV Project to the electric transmission system, the solar developer is proposing to construct a new approximately five acre 230 kilovolt (kV) switching station in rural Kern County and transfer its ownership to PG&E. The new Bitterwater Switching Station will be located approximately 3.57 miles northeast of the intersection of Gardner Field Road and South Lake Road. To interconnect the new switching station, located within the solar project boundaries and east of PG&E's Midway-Wheeler Ridge #2 230 kV Transmission Line, PG&E will relocate and loop approximately 900 feet of the existing transmission line into and out of the switching station (minor relocation). To relocate the transmission line, PG&E will install approximately two tubular steel poles in-line with the existing transmission line and two tubular steel poles east of the existing power line and adjacent to the switching station. The new poles will be approximately 95 to 115 feet tall. The new Bitterwater Switching Station will include a control building, a sustainable modular protection (SMP) building, and a telecommunication tower (approximately 110 feet in height) with fiber-optic lines. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2022, or as

soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be completed in March 2023, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

### **Exemption Under G.O. 131-D**

CPUC G.O. 131-D, Section III, Subsections A and B exempt projects meeting specific conditions from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct. The Company believes this project qualifies for the following exemption(s):

III.A: "the minor relocation of existing power line facilities"

III.B.1.f: "power line or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to CEQA as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document (Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation."

The County of Kern adopted an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project in March 2011 and an EIR Addendum in April 2018. The EIR Addendum, which contained details about the new PG&E switching station as well as the 230 kV transmission line relocation, found no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse No. 2010031034.) The 2018 Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project EIR Addendum III analyzed all proposed PG&E facilities in detail in Chapter 3, page 3-1 and concluded that the PG&E facilities would not cause any potentially significant impacts (see Addendum III, pp. 3-1 to 3-49).

For these reasons, the Project is exempt under Section III.B.1.f from Section III.B's formal permitting requirements. The 900-foot transmission line relocation, while not a major transmission line facility subject to Section III.A, would also qualify as a minor relocation.

Adoption of the EIR and EIR Addendum by the County establishes that none of the exceptions to the exemptions in Section III B.2, as specified in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exist to disqualify this project from the NOC process. No significant impacts of any kind were identified for these interconnection facilities.

### **Protests**

Anyone wishing to protest this submittal may do so by submitting a protest with the CPUC and the Company by July 20, 2022, which is 20 days after the date of this submittal. Protests should be mailed to the following address:

CPUC Energy Division  
ED Tariff Unit  
E-Mail: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov





# ADVICE LETTER SUMMARY

## ENERGY UTILITY



MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)

Company name/CPUC Utility No.: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (ID U39 E)

Utility type:

- ELC       GAS       WATER  
 PLC       HEAT

Contact Person: Kimberly Loo

Phone #: (415)973-4587

E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

E-mail Disposition Notice to: KELM@pge.com

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric      GAS = Gas      WATER = Water  
 PLC = Pipeline      HEAT = Heat

(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #: 6634-E

Tier Designation: 2

Subject of AL: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Northern Orchard PV Interconnection Project and Bitterwater Switching Station in Kern County

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): G.O. 131-D

AL Type:  Monthly  Quarterly  Annual  One-Time  Other:

If AL submitted in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:

Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL: No

Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL:

Confidential treatment requested?  Yes  No

If yes, specification of confidential information:

Confidential information will be made available to appropriate parties who execute a nondisclosure agreement. Name and contact information to request nondisclosure agreement/ access to confidential information:

Resolution required?  Yes  No

Requested effective date: 7/30/22

No. of tariff sheets: 0

Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): N/A

Estimated system average rate effect (%): N/A

When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).

Tariff schedules affected: N/A

Service affected and changes proposed<sup>1</sup>: N/A

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: N/A

<sup>1</sup>Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

**Protests and correspondence regarding this AL are to be sent via email and are due no later than 20 days after the date of this submittal, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:**

California Public Utilities Commission  
Energy Division Tariff Unit Email:  
[EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov)

Contact Name: Sidnev Bob Dietz II. c/o Megan Lawson  
Title: Director, Regulatory Relations  
Utility/Entity Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
  
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Email: PGETariffs@pge.com

Contact Name:  
Title:  
Utility/Entity Name:  
  
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Email:

CPUC  
Energy Division Tariff Unit  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Clear Form

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION**

Para más detalles llame 1-800-660-6789

**PROJECT NAME: Northern Orchard PV Interconnection Project and Bitterwater Switching Station (Kern County - T. No. 0001353.01)**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 6634-E**

**Proposed Project:** To interconnect the proposed Northern Orchard PV Project to the electric transmission system, the solar developer is proposing to construct a new approximately five acre 230 kilovolt (kV) switching station in rural Kern County and transfer its ownership to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The new Bitterwater Switching Station will be located approximately 3.57 miles northeast of the intersection of Gardner Field Road and South Lake Road. To interconnect the new switching station, located within the solar project boundaries and east of PG&E's Midway-Wheeler Ridge #2 230 kV Transmission Line, PG&E will relocate and loop approximately 900 feet of the existing transmission line into and out of the switching station (minor relocation). To relocate the transmission line, PG&E will install approximately two tubular steel poles in-line with the existing transmission line and two tubular steel poles east of the existing power line and adjacent to the switching station. The new poles will be approximately 95 to 115 feet tall. The new Bitterwater Switching Station will include a control building, a sustainable modular protection (SMP) building, and a telecommunication tower (approximately 110 feet in height) with fiber-optic lines. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2022, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be completed in March 2023, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III.A (transmission line relocations) and III.B.1 (switching station) exempts a utility from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. Pacific Gas and Electric Company believes this project qualifies for the following exemption(s):

III.A: "the minor relocation of existing power line facilities"

III.B.1.f: "power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to CEQA as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document (Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation."

The County of Kern adopted an EIR for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project in March 2011, and an addendum in April 2018. (State Clearinghouse No. 2010031034). The County found that there were no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed switching station and transmission line facilities. The transmission line relocation would also qualify as a minor relocation under Section III.A.

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E's Project Information Line at (415) 973-5530.

**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, email 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 July 20, 2022 at the following address:**

Director, Energy Division  
 ED Tariff Unit  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 E-mail: [EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov)

With a copy emailed to:  
 PG&E Tariffs  
 Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
 E-mail: [PGETariffs@pge.com](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com)

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](mailto: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 6634-E.

## **Notice Distribution List**

### **Northern Orchard PV Interconnection and Bitterwater Switching Station Project - (Kern County)**

Advice 6634-E

#### **Energy Commission**

Drew Bohan, Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Drew.Bohan@energy.ca.gov

Linda Spiegel, Chief Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Linda.Spiegel@energy.ca.gov

#### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Ms. Julie Vance  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Region  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
Julie.Vance@wildlife.ca.gov

#### **Kern County**

Lorelei H. Oviatt, Planning Director  
Kern County Planning and Community Development  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 250  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370  
kerncd@kerncounty.com

#### **Newspaper**

The Bakersfield Californian

## PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Submittal List

AT&T Albion Power Company	East Bay Community Energy Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP Engineers and Scientists of California	Pioneer Community Energy
Alta Power Group, LLC Anderson & Poole	GenOn Energy, Inc. Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie Green Power Institute Hanna & Morton ICF International Power Technology	Public Advocates Office  Redwood Coast Energy Authority Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc. SCD Energy Solutions San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Atlas ReFuel BART		SPURR San Francisco Water Power and Sewer Sempra Utilities
Barkovich & Yap, Inc. Braun Blasing Smith Wynne, P.C. California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn California Energy Commission	Intertie	Sierra Telephone Company, Inc. Southern California Edison Company Southern California Gas Company Spark Energy Sun Light & Power Sunshine Design Stoel Rives LLP
California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing	Intestate Gas Services, Inc. Kelly Group Ken Bohn Consulting Keyes & Fox LLP Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.	Tecogen, Inc. TerraVerde Renewable Partners Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority California Public Utilities Commission Calpine	Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force MRW & Associates Manatt Phelps Phillips Marin Energy Authority McClintock IP McKenzie & Associates	TransCanada Utility Cost Management Utility Power Solutions Water and Energy Consulting Wellhead Electric Company Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA) Yep Energy
Cameron-Daniel, P.C. Casner, Steve Center for Biological Diversity	Modesto Irrigation District NLine Energy, Inc. NRG Solar	
Chevron Pipeline and Power City of Palo Alto	OnGrid Solar Pacific Gas and Electric Company Peninsula Clean Energy	
City of San Jose Clean Power Research Coast Economic Consulting Commercial Energy Crossborder Energy Crown Road Energy, LLC Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Day Carter Murphy		
Dept of General Services Don Pickett & Associates, Inc. Douglass & Liddell		