

February 4, 2026

**Advice 5175-G**  
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: Tier 1 Information Only Submittal – S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project Notice of Claimed Exemption Pursuant to General Order 177.**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) hereby submits notice pursuant to General Order (“G.O.”) 177, Section IV. B.c., of a claimed exemption from the requirement to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) for projects necessary to prevent emergency conditions and ensure safe and reliable gas supplies.

**I. Advice Letter Purpose**

This Tier 1-Information Only advice letter provides the information required pursuant to G.O. 177 Section V. C.2., including a concise description of the proposed project; its purpose and its location; a summary of potential environmental impacts and any measures taken or proposed to reduce potential environmental impacts; and an explanation of why the project is exempted under G.O. 177.

**II. Background**

On April 9, 2025 PG&E filed an application (Application No. A2504004) with the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC” or “Commission”) for a CPCN to replace the Hinkley Compressor Station’s (“Station”) electrical distribution equipment, which has reached the end of its useful life and requires upgrades for safety, reliability, and maintainability (“Project”). As detailed below in Section V (G.O. 177 Exemption) the Station is critical to maintaining the proper gas pressure in gas transmission backbone Lines 300A and 300B (“Baja Path”) to move gas to areas of California north of the Station. Recent component failures and ongoing obsolescence issues that emerged in late summer 2025, after submittal of the CPCN application, have elevated concerns that the Station’s electric distribution equipment may not remain functional through the CPCN application period. There is risk that an additional unrepairable system failure could occur impacting reliable gas supplies prior to a decision on issuance of the CPCN (scheduled for the third or fourth quarter of 2026).

To prevent an unplanned outage that could result in loss of gas supply along the Baja Path, on January 20, 2026, consistent with the CPCN exemption set forth in G.O. 177 Section IV.B.c., PG&E commenced the entirety of the Project. With this Advice Letter, PG&E provides notice of its decision to claim an exemption from the requirement to obtain a CPCN for the Project.

### **III. Project Description**

The Project will replace the compressor Station's electrical distribution equipment, which has reached the end of its useful life and requires upgrades for safety, reliability, and maintainability. The Station is one of eight PG&E gas compressor stations, statewide, which are crucial to gas system operations to meet customer supply demands. The Station operates almost continuously, using natural gas engine-driven reciprocal compressors to increase natural gas pressure causing gas to flow downstream through the Baja Path and other pipelines to customers.

The Station's electrical distribution equipment transmits power produced by on-site electrical generators to the Station's ancillary support systems. The Project will replace or modify existing electrical power switchgear, motor control center ("MCC"), and load center equipment. Connecting conduit and new or replacement cable will be installed between the switchgear and MCC locations. The Project includes connecting portable backup generators that will directly power the ancillary support systems, bypassing the electrical distribution equipment that will be replaced during the project. PG&E's gas transmission system, including the Station's natural gas engine driven compressors, pipes, valves, and gas measurement assets, will not be modified by the Project.

The Project commenced on January 20, 2026 and is expected to be completed in January 2028.

#### **A. Project Location**

The Hinkley Compressor Station is located at 35863 Fairview Road in the community of Hinkley in San Bernardino County, California (See figure in Attachment 1).

#### **B. Project Purpose**

The purpose of the Project is to replace the Station's electrical distribution system to increase reliability, maintainability, and operational safety. Because of its age, the electrical distribution system is at increased risk of failure, which could impact operation of the station and movement of gas along one of PG&E's major gas transmission systems. Much of the electrical distribution equipment is obsolete, requiring specialized training, procedures, and personal protective equipment to maintain safe and reliable operation. Inspection and maintenance on an aging system is also complex and inefficient. Additionally, the project upgrades will enable standard safety procedures and operation, inspection and maintenance efficiency, and cost savings.

#### **IV. Summary of Environmental Impacts**

Project environmental impacts are primarily construction related and the project has been planned and engineered to avoid or minimize the largely temporary impacts. PG&E will implement standard construction measures to avoid impacts.

#### **V. G.O. 177 Exemption**

The Project is exempt from obtaining a CPCN because it is necessary to prevent emergency conditions impacting PG&E's ability to ensure reliable gas supplies. Due to the potential risk and impact that could result from an unplanned and long duration outage at the Station caused by electrical distribution system failures and ongoing obsolescence issues, PG&E has commenced the Project in accordance with the exemption provided in G.O. 177, Section IV. B.c. This provision exempts Projects that would otherwise require a CPCN, but are needed to prevent an unplanned emergency that could occur prior to completion of the CPCN review process and result in loss of reliable gas supply.

G.O. 177 requires gas corporations to file an application for a CPCN for projects that exceed \$75 million.<sup>1</sup> An exemption from this requirement is provided for "emergency projects (for example: repairs, upgrades, replacements, restorations) as defined by CEQA Guidelines § 15269 and Public Resources Code §§ 21060.3 and 21080(b)(2) and (4) to ensure safe and reliable gas supplies."<sup>2</sup> Emergency projects include "specific actions necessary to prevent" an emergency and repairs to facilities necessary to maintain essential services.<sup>3</sup> Projects are eligible for this exemption when it is anticipated that an emergency may occur prior to completion of the permit issuance process.<sup>4</sup> The Commission stated that the intent of the G.O. 177 exemption for emergency projects is "not to impede rapid implementation of repairs or improvements to address emergency situations, including when the ability of the utility's gas system to meet its backbone, peak day, and cold day design standards is threatened."<sup>5</sup>

The Station plays a key role in meeting system-wide gas demand, especially during peak periods. Unlike localized transmission and distribution lines, backbone lines supply gas to the entire system. Therefore, any issue with a backbone pipeline or compressor station can impact all customers. If the Station is not operational, the Baja Path capacity drops significantly. On a 1:10 peak day, the Baja Path must operate near its maximum capacity to meet system-wide demand. Without Station operation, the system may not have enough capacity, even on much warmer days with less demand. In the event of a system-wide capacity shortfall, Emergency Flow Orders and curtailments—temporary reductions in service—may be necessary to maintain system integrity. Thus, the Station is crucial for maintaining gas reliability and minimizing service disruptions for all customers.

---

<sup>1</sup> G.O. 177 Section VI.A.

<sup>2</sup> G.O. 177 Section IV.B.c.

<sup>3</sup> Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines 15269.

<sup>4</sup> Guidelines 15269.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 22-12-021 p. 41-42.

Recent component failures and ongoing obsolescence issues that emerged in late summer 2025, after submittal of the CPCN application for this Project, have elevated concerns that the Station's electric distribution equipment may not remain functional through the CPCN application review period. The Station's electrical distribution equipment is necessary for operation of the Station and failure of components of this system could result in partial or complete shutdown of the Station. There is risk that an additional unrepairable system failure could occur impacting reliable gas supplies prior to a decision on issuance of the CPCN (scheduled for the third or fourth quarter of 2026).

The Project will replace the compressor station's electrical distribution equipment, which has reached the end of its useful life and requires upgrades for safety, reliability, and maintainability. Much of the equipment that will be replaced in this project is obsolete and spare or replacement parts are difficult or impossible to obtain.

PG&E has determined that this project is necessary to prevent a potential emergency breakdown at the Station that could result in PG&E's inability to meet gas demand. Thus, PG&E has commenced the Project under the G.O. 177 exemption for emergency projects. The first phase of this project will install portable generators allowing the bypass of the electrical distribution equipment at the Station and will effectively prevent emergency conditions.

#### **VI. Protests**

This is an information-only advice letter submittal. Pursuant to G.O. 96-B Section 6.2, and G.O. 177 Section V.C.1.a., PG&E is not seeking relief through this advice letter and it is not subject to protest.

#### **VII. Effective Date**

The Company requests that this Tier 1 advice letter become effective on February 4, 2026. (In accordance with G.O. 177 Section V.C.1, this advice letter is submitted within 60 days of initiating the project.)

#### **VIII. Notice**

In accordance with General Order 96-B, Section IV, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically to parties shown on the attached list. Address changes to the General Order 96-B service list should be directed to PG&E at email address PGETariffs@pge.com. For changes to any other service list, please contact the Commission's Process Office at (415) 703-2021 or at Process\_Office@cpuc.ca.gov. Send all electronic approvals to PGETariffs@pge.com. Advice letter submittals can also be accessed electronically at: <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>. In addition, the Notice of Claimed Exemption, included in Attachment 2 is being sent to the parties identified in G.O. 177 Section V.C.1.b & c.

/S/

Sidney Bob Dietz II  
Director, Regulatory Relations  
CPUC Communications

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: S-238 Notice of Exemption Map  
Attachment 2: Notice of Exemption of Hinkley



# 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 (U 39 G)

Utility type:

ELC       GAS       WATER  
 PLC       HEAT

Contact Person: Baylee Larson

Phone #: (279) 789-6486

E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

E-mail Disposition Notice to: baylee.larson@pge.com

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric  
PLC = Pipeline

GAS = Gas  
HEAT = Heat

WATER = Water

(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #: 5175-G

Tier Designation: Information-Only

Subject of AL: Tier 1 Information Only Submittal - S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project Notice of Claimed Exemption Pursuant to General Order 177.

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Compliance

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: N/A

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: 2/4/26

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:

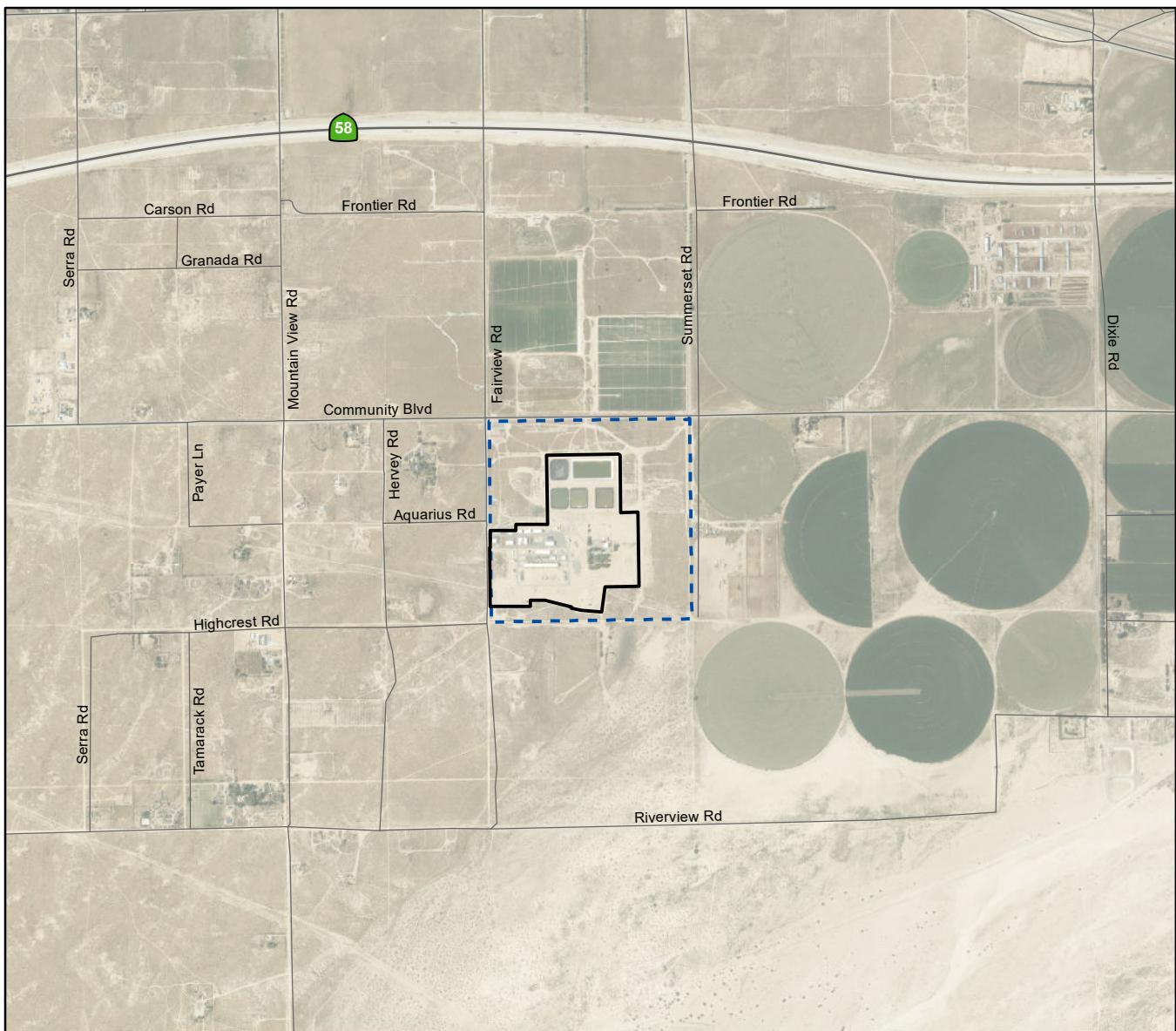
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Email:

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

**Clear Form**

## **Attachment 1**

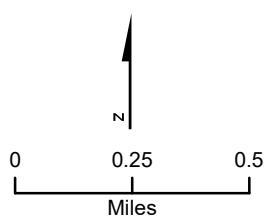
S-238 Notice of Exemption Map



Version: 1/12/2026

#### Legend

- Hinkley Compressor Station
- Perimeter Fence Line
- Property Boundary



#### Notice of Claimed Exemption Project Overview

S-238 Hinkley Electrical Upgrades  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company

**Jacobs**

## **Attachment 2**

Notice of Exemption of Hinkley

**NOTICE OF CLAIMED EXEMPTION FROM A  
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE  
AND NECESSITY**

**PROJECT NAME: S-238 HINKLEY COMPRESSOR STATION ELECTRICAL UPGRADES PROJECT, County of San Bernardino**

**Project:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is replacing the electrical distribution system within the Hinkley Compressor Station (station), located at 35863 Fairview Road in the community of Hinkley, California, in San Bernardino County. The project will replace or modify the station's existing electrical distribution switchgear, motor control centers (MCCs), a load center and install connecting conduit and cables between the switchgear and MCC. These changes will address reliability, maintainability, and operational safety. PG&E began construction on January 20, 2026, and is planning to complete the project by January 2028, or as soon as possible.

Temporary generators, fueled by natural gas at the station, will be brought to the project work area to power the station during construction. They will be used during specific construction activities when electric equipment is deenergized. After the upgrade is complete, all temporary generator equipment will be removed.

**Impacts:** The project has been planned and engineered to avoid or minimize largely temporary environmental impacts. Project impacts are primarily construction related and PG&E will implement standard construction measures to further avoid or minimize impacts.

**Exemption:** The project had originally been filed as Application A.25-04-004 for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). PG&E determined that to prevent a potential emergency potentially impacting transmission reliability it would proceed with the project construction under an emergency exemption from the permit requirement.<sup>1</sup> PG&E informed the CPUC of this in Advice Letter 5175-G.

**CPUC Contact Information:** To contact the CPUC Consumer Affairs Branch call 1-800-649-7570, visit the webpage [www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support), or write to the California Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Affairs Branch, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298.

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain additional information on the project, please call PG&E's Project Information Line at (925) 244-3020 or email [S238Hinkley@pge.com](mailto:S238Hinkley@pge.com).

---

<sup>1</sup> GO 177 § IV.B.c.

**PG&E Gas and Electric  
Advice Submittal List  
General Order 96-B, Section IV**

AT&T	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Albion Power Company Alta Power Group, LLC	Electrical Power Systems, Inc. Fresno	Peninsula Clean Energy Pioneer Community Energy
Anderson & Poole BART	Engie North America Engineers and Scientists of California	Public Advocates Office Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Ava Community Energy		Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.
BART Buchalter Barkovich & Yap, Inc. Biering & Brown LLP Braun Blaising Smith Wynne, P.C.	GenOn Energy, Inc. Green Power Institute	Resource Innovations Rockpoint Gas Storage
California Community Choice Association California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association California Energy Commission California Hub for Energy Efficiency California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority California Public Utilities Commission Calpine Cameron-Daniel, P.C. Casner, Steve Center for Biological Diversity Chevron Pipeline and Power	Hanna & Morton LLP  ICF consulting  iCommLaw  International Power Technology Intertie  Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	San Diego Gas & Electric Company San Jose Clean Energy SPURR  Sempra Utilities  Sierra Telephone Company, Inc. Southern California Edison Company Southern California Gas Company  Spark Energy
Clean Power Research Coast Economic Consulting Commercial Energy Crossborder Energy Crown Road Energy, LLC	Kaplan Kirsch LLP Kelly Group Ken Bohn Consulting Keyes & Fox LLP  Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc. Los Angeles County Integrated  Waste Management Task Force	Sun Light & Power Sunshine Design Stoel Rives LLP  Tecogen, Inc. TerraVerde Renewable Partners Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Day Carter Murphy Dept of General Services Douglass & Liddell Downey Brand LLP	MRW & Associates Manatt Phelps Phillips Marin Energy Authority McClintock IP McKenzie & Associates Modesto Irrigation District NLine Energy Inc. NOSSAMAN LLP NRG Energy Inc.	Utility Cost Management  Water and Energy Consulting  Yep Energy