

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426  
April 27, 2022

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 10821-005—California  
Camp Far West Transmission Line  
Project  
South Feather Water and Power  
Agency

A. Leigh Bartoo  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Reference: Request for concurrence with endangered species determination under  
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (FWS Project Code: 2022-0028726)**

Dear Ms. Bartoo:

We are currently processing an application for a subsequent license for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E or applicant) existing Camp Far West Transmission Line Project No. 10821, located in Placer County, California.<sup>1</sup> On April 22, 2022, Commission staff (staff) issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the project in which we address the project's effects on threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat.<sup>2</sup>

As currently licensed, the Camp Far West Transmission Line Project consists of a 1.9-mile-long, three-phase, 60-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that serves as the primary transmission line for the Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project No. 2997, which is owned and operated by South Sutter Water District. PG&E proposes to include an existing 9-mile-long segment of the Smartville-Lincoln 60-kV transmission line as a project facility. Under PG&E's proposal, the Camp Far West Transmission Line Project would include a total of 10.9 miles of transmission line extending from the powerhouse of the Camp Far

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<sup>1</sup> PG&E filed the final license application on June 27, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> The EA for the project is available at the following link:  
<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filedownload?fileid=ABE116DB-1992-C511-9405-804C5A200000>.

West Hydroelectric Project to the interconnection point located at Beale Air Force Base located in Yuba County, California.

The staff alternative (the applicant's proposal with staff's modifications), which includes recommendations filed under section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act by the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (Interior) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (California DFW),<sup>3</sup> is described on page 9 (section 2.3) of the EA. The applicant's project proposal is described on pages 5 through 8 (section 2.1.1 through section 2.2.3). The federally listed species potentially affected by the proposed project are described on pages 23 through 27 (section 3.3.2.1), and a discussion of impacts and determinations of effect are on pages 28 through 31 (section 3.3.2.2).

We conclude that relicensing the Camp Far West Transmission Line Project is not likely to adversely affect the vernal pool fairy shrimp because: (1) inspections of project facilities conducted by air or foot would have insignificant effects on the species and its vernal pool habitat; (2) no vegetation is present near vernal pool features that would require management; and (3) PG&E's proposed avoidance and minimization measures, developed with technical assistance provided by Interior and California DFW for project maintenance (e.g., pole repairs) that infrequently occurs near vernal pool features, would reduce potential impacts to the species and its habitat. We also conclude that the project would have no effect on designated critical habitat for the vernal pool fairy shrimp as the nearest critical habitat unit is located about 6.5 miles north of the project. Therefore, we do not believe that formal consultation is required. Please tell us in writing within 60 days from the date of receipt, or no later than June 27, 2022, of this letter, if you do or do not concur with our assessment.

If you need to informally discuss concerns before making your determination, please contact Quinn Emmering at (202) 502-6382 to indicate your interest in initiating a teleconference with all parties on this issue.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file your response using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

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<sup>3</sup> Interior and California DFW filed section 10(j) recommendations on August 28, 2020, and September 28, 2020, respectively.

12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number **P-10821-005**.

If you have any questions, please contact Quinn Emmering, the Commission's relicensing coordinator for the project, at (202) 502-6382, or by e-mail at [quinn.emmering@ferc.gov](mailto:quinn.emmering@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

Timothy Konnert, Chief  
West Branch  
Division of Hydropower Licensing