

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
 FAX (415) 904-5400



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## ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT

FOR THE

OCTOBER 15, 2010 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director  
 Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

DE MINIMIS WAIVER		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>E-10-014-W</b> Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP)	Using divers, perform maintenance activities on 10-inch outfall line that runs offshore from PXP's Gaviota Oil Heating Facility (GOHF).	Gaviota Oil Heating Facility Santa Barbara County

IMMATERIAL AMENDMENT		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>E-09-010-A1</b> Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Amend CDP No. E-09-010 to allow conversion of an on-site parking area to a temporary equipment storage tent at Humboldt Bay Power Plant.	Humboldt Bay Power Plant Humboldt County



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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**  
**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

**DATE:** September 30, 2010 **PERMIT NO. E-10-014-W**

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

**Applicant:** Plains Exploration and Production Company  
201 S. Broadway  
Orcutt, California 93455

**Background and Project Description:** Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP) operates the Gaviota Oil Heating Facility within a consolidated industrial site in coastal Gaviota. This facility includes a ten inch outfall pipeline that extends approximately one mile offshore. The final section of this pipeline includes a 221 foot long diffuser consisting of seven separate ports with one and a half inch openings. This outfall is used roughly three days per week for authorized ocean discharges of recycled seawater mixed with brine water from the Gaviota Oil Heating Facility's reverse osmosis water treatment plant.

Recently, the outfall line has experienced a buildup of pressure due to the accumulation of sand and marine fouling organisms on and around the diffuser's seven discharge ports. To relieve this pressure buildup and maintain the proper functioning of the outfall's diffuser system, PXP proposes to carry out three diving maintenance operations. The first of these operations includes the use of divers to survey the diffuser so that the number and condition of open and blocked discharge ports may be established. Based on the results of this survey, the divers would use directed streams of water to flush any ports that may be blocked with sand or marine fouling organisms. At the completion of these activities, PXP would monitor the pressure in the outfall line to determine if normal flow has been restored. If pressure buildup issues have not been resolved by clearing the blocked ports, PXP would carry out a second diving operation to remove the end flange from the diffuser so that any sand and marine growth can be flushed from the interior of the line. Once this operation has been completed, the end flange would be reinstalled. Based on the results of the diver surveys and maintenance operations, PXP may also install passive flow-back prevention devices on the

diffuser's seven discharge ports. These devices would limit the amount of sand that enters the outfall line when discharges are not occurring. The proposed passive flow-back preventers do not require external power sources to operate and would be installed by hand on the outside of the outfall line and held in place with clamps.

**Waiver Rationale:** For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- Cleaning and flushing the outfall pipeline's discharge ports would be entirely carried out using hand held devices and would not require the use of heavy equipment or machinery on the surface or underwater.
- The seven discharge ports to be inspected and cleaned are one and a half inches in diameter and the cleaning activities would be limited to a small area surrounding these ports, resulting in the displacement of a very limited amount of marine algae or sessile organisms that may be present at these sites.
- Cleaning and flushing activities would be carried out with water jets and would therefore not result in elevated sound levels, the use of potentially hazardous materials or mechanical devices.
- Cleaning and flow-back preventer installation activities would be completed within three to five days through the use of divers. A diver support vessel would be actively maintained in place nearby but interference with fishing or recreational activities in the area would not be likely.
- Increases in turbidity caused by the removal and disturbance of sand in and on the outfall pipeline would be limited in duration and area. Sand and fouling organisms dislodged from the discharge ports and/or pipeline would not be removed from the site.

**Important:** This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of October 13-15, 2010 in Oceanside, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS  
Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_



ALISON DETTMER  
Deputy Director

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT****E-09-010-A1**

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**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director

**DATE:** September 30, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Application to amend coastal development permit No. E-09-010 granted to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) allowing initial demolition and decommissioning at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant, near King Salmon, Humboldt County.

The Executive Director has determined that the requested project change described herein may be approved as an immaterial amendment to the above-referenced coastal development permit (CDP). The amendment would result in a minor change to the approved CDP, which allowed PG&E to demolish and conduct initial decommissioning of the power plant.

**Background and Project Description:** On December 10, 2009, the Commission approved CDP No. E-09-010 allowing PG&E to conduct initial demolition and decommissioning of power units at its Humboldt Bay Power Plant. The approved work included constructing access roads, equipment laydown areas, and staging areas, demolishing the existing power plant structures and associated structures and facilities, and conducting initial site cleanup and remediation.

**Requested Amendment:** PG&E has requested its permit be amended to allow conversion of an on-site parking area to covered equipment storage. The covered equipment storage would be provided by a fabric tent about 24 feet wide and 30 feet long, with a 32-foot center height and 28-foot high side wall. The tent would be made of translucent white, flame-retardant PVC fabric and would be anchored to the existing parking lot asphalt. PG&E would use a portable generator to provide necessary lighting. The tent is needed primarily to replace storage provided at the plant's existing warehouse, which is adjacent to Units 1 and 2 and cannot be used during demolition of those units due to safety concerns. PG&E would also keep the tent in place for storage during the later decommissioning of Unit 3 and would remove it as part of the subsequent site restoration. PG&E will additionally obtain a building permit for the tent. The conversion of the parking area would remove sixty-two existing parking spaces currently used by site workers. To make up for this loss, PG&E will soon have available eighty-six parking spaces that are being used by workers constructing a new power plant adjacent to the existing plant.

**Findings:** The proposed amendment has been deemed “immaterial” for the following reasons:

- Visual Resources: The covered storage would be located within the power plant complex and would represent only a relatively minor visual component of the ongoing demolition and decommissioning activities.
- Public Access: The site is located along King Salmon Avenue, which provides public access to the shoreline. However, because the lost parking spaces would be replaced by others within the power plant complex, the amendment is not expected to increase demand for offsite parking and would therefore not affect public access to nearby shoreline areas.

### ***Immaterial Permit Amendment***

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations—Title 14, Division 5.5, Volume 19, section 13166(b)—the Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office within ten (10) working days of mailing said notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive and the amendment shall be approved.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three (3) Commissioners object to the executive director’s designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c). Otherwise, the immaterial amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c).

If you wish to register an objection to this notice, please send the objection in writing to Tom Luster at the above address. If you have any questions, you may contact him at (415) 904-5248 or via email at [tluster@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:tluster@coastal.ca.gov).