

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
1385 8TH STREET, SUITE 130
ARCATA, CA 95521
PH (707) 826-8950
FAX (707) 826-8960



W14a

1-20-0539 (PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC)

August 10, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Robert Johnston [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 5:19 PM
To: NorthCoast@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2022 Agenda Item Wednesday 14a - Application No. 1-20-0539 (Pacific Gas

Commissioners and Staff,

I don't live in the project area but am familiar with PG&E veg mgmt methods from my experience in Marin Co. They over-define what constitutes a weak tree and remove way too many of them. Their new policy is to remove weak trees in the Strike Zone, often over 100 ft away from lines. They've done this all over N. California.

Examining their annual reports to the OEIS on the effectiveness of past years' Wildfire Mitigation Plans shows that their veg mgmt program has not reduced wildfire ignitions very much. The powerline insulation programs at SCE and SDG&E are much more-effective, as reported by them.

Besides veg mgmt removing too many trees and being ineffective, it increases wildfire risk by drying out the understory (leading to more ignitions), leaving chips on the ground (which are a fire hazard), and increasing wind throw (wind blowing down) on the newly exposed trees.

Please require PG&E to use the least-environmentally damaging alternative, which is insulation.

If you wish, I can send the Sierra Club report that documents all this.

Thanks,

Bob

Robert A. Johnston, Prof. UC Davis

Talk: 415 663-8305 (landline)

Text Messages: 530 559-0032

Best to email and call landline, both

Robinson, Aurora@Coastal

From: Donna Mackiewicz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 5:00 PM
To: NorthCoast@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2022 Agenda Item Wednesday 14a - Application No. 1-20-0539 (Pacific Gas

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

PG&E's record shows no concern for the environment or trustworthiness to follow regulation from Cal Fire and others.

What guarantee is there that PG&E will start to act responsibly now?

PG&E has consistently been in the wrong by cutting old growth, going outside of their right of way, shown lack of coordination with their contractors and seem to forget logging activities are paid for by the rate payers and are being implemented in lieu of need investments in infrastructure paid for by shareholder.

Set a positive example for the future beginning today.

Sincerely,
Donna Mackiewicz

[REDACTED]

Robinson, Aurora@Coastal

From: Jeanne Chinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 4:36 PM
To: NorthCoast@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2022 Agenda Item Wednesday 14a - Application No. 1-20-0539 (Pacific Gas

Dear Coastal Commission,

I live in Mendocino County and have documented many atrocities PG&E has had their contractors do throughout Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties in the name of their "Enhanced Vegetation Management" (EVM) Program. This includes cutting down trees way outside of their right-of-way (ROW), including old growth trees while landowners are not present and without notice or the opportunity for landowners to decline, and bullying and creating fear if the landowners don't comply. Their contractors get paid by the tree so they are "cut happy." It must be Stopped.

Southern Cal Edison has proven that updating the highly antiquated lines and breakers costs much less, is good for 40years, and will automatically shut off conductivity if anything touches the lines - thereby avoiding fires/wildfires. This is much less expensive than Yearly EVM cutting and they don't have to worry about getting the right tree cut that would start a fire - or cutting all trees within striking distance - that could be up to 250ft outside the ROW and are old/old growth tree. Given the Governor wants 30x30 - we need to keep trees sequestering carbon in the ground growing.

The greed of PG&E, their lack of transparency, and doing whatever they want regardless of regulations and the state constitution speaks for itself. They are not concerned about the environment, wildlife, or people - given how many homes have burned due to their old lines and loss of human life, besides forests. They choose to use EVM because they can have we, the rate payers, pay for it rather than infrastructure investment paid for by their shareholders. It's a great scam and I beseech you to not approve PG&E's proposed EVM in any manner along our spectacular North Coast.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, M.S.

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife/Timber Conservation Program, retired

From: [Kimberly Tays](#)
To: Gedik.Tamara@Coastal
Subject: More Thoughts on 6/17/22 Phone Call
Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 11:12:50 AM

Hi Tamara,

Thank you for your call last Friday. I appreciate the time you took explaining PG&E's plans for the Campbell Creek area in Arcata.

While I feel better about the mitigation plans for the Eel River Wildlife Area and the fact that the site will be monitored and reported on for 10 years, I still have a lot of concerns about the cutting of willows and other low-growing vegetation in the Campbell Creek area. In doing a bit of research, I learned that the willows growing in that area (Pacific, Sitka and Arroyo willows) range in height from 23 to 45 feet. I did not see any information in the staff report or exhibits about the height of the Campbell Creek powerlines, but they appear to be much higher than the maximum height of the willows, so PG&E would not need to cut them to the ground, because they do not pose any threat or interfere with the powerlines there.

In my opinion, PG&E is using reasons that do not apply in our area to justify its intrusive approach to vegetation maintenance in the Campbell Creek area. PG&E is using a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all approach for removing vegetation when a more judicious approach is warranted to protect the ESHA and wildlife.

I noticed several issues that negate the need to cut vegetation as intensively as proposed. (1) In Exhibit 4, the lattice tower structures with dangling lines on both sides—illustrating sagging and swaying—are totally different from the power poles and lines that run above Campbell Creek. (2) While we have high winds from time to time, I do not recall ever seeing these particular lines sagging or swaying. I drive by that area frequently and would notice something like that. (3) High temps would not affect the sagging/swaying of powerlines in our area, because we have such mild weather. (4) High loads also would not likely apply, because most people and businesses do not have air conditioning, and our county is not heavily populated. (5) General Order 95, Rule 35 should not be used to justify aggressive vegetation removal in the Campbell Creek area, because it is **not** a high-fire prone area.

For these reasons, the CCC should ask PG&E to come back with a less intensive vegetation removal plan for the Campbell Creek area. The only way California's coastal wetlands will ever be protected from the likes of PG&E is if the CCC demands that sensitive environments like this are managed in a very careful and thoughtful way. PG&E will **never** adopt less destructive vegetation removal practices unless they are forced to do so. They are a profit-driven corporation, and protecting the environment is not a priority.

I would still like to see the proposal to cut down willows and other low-growing vegetation abandoned. If the willows are getting too tall, PG&E should **only be allowed** to top them to the point where they would not interfere with the lines. Cutting them to the ground is too destructive and harmful to the ESHA and wildlife.

Thank you for considering my additional comments and concerns on this issue.

Kim Tays
Arcata Resident

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Stephanie Mietz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:00 PM
To: Emily Sinkhorn
Cc: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal; Joe Mateer; Emily Benvie; Loya, David@City of Arcata; Mike Rice; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal
Subject: Re: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Tamara and all,

I appreciate this discussion about the permit for long term vegetation management by PG&E in the lower Jacoby Creek watershed and opportunities to mitigate its effects. Thank you, Emily, for outlining some of the project plans that will be developed in the near term that may be appropriate for this purpose. Not only do we anticipate the creation of project plans for wetland and riparian mitigation, but these projects could offer the opportunity to increase the mitigation ratios from 1:1 to at least 3:1.

Best,
Stephanie

On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 1:09 PM Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org> wrote:

Hi Tamara –

Thank you again for the productive conversation regarding PG&E's CDP for vegetation maintenance in the lower Jacoby Creek watershed. We really appreciate the time Coastal staff dedicated to sharing the history of the permit application and brainstorming potential next steps.

At this time the City and Land Trust do not have immediate shovel-ready mitigation project opportunities in the watershed that could be developed in the next month. The City did discuss the spartina removal in Gannon Slough with PG&E consultants and the City will continue to complete our due diligence to identify if this work could be compatible.

We hope that a condition of approval could be considered for this CDP for PG&E to coordinate closely with the City and JCLT to explore mitigation opportunities within the lower Jacoby Creek watershed to mitigate for other planned PG&E work/permits along the Humboldt County. The Land Trust's Enhancement project has updated habitat mapping with the lower watershed and is currently evaluating potential projects to develop, several of which are likely to be identified on City and JCLT properties. We feel with clear communication from PG&E and their consultants on scope and intention of potential mitigation that we could work together to identify potential mitigation projects to meet PG&E's permit needs and implement restoration goals in the Jacoby Creek watershed.

Thank you,

Emily

Emily Sinkhorn

Environmental Services Director

City of Arcata

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2163

www.cityofarcata.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:26 AM

To: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>; Stephanie Mietz <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Emily et al,

Thanks to all of you for your time meeting with us last week to discuss the subject project and the City's and the Land Trust's concerns. Yesterday Melissa Kraemer and I met with PG&E staff and relayed the concerns noted below. We also forwarded to PG&E the City's comments. Our staff have recommended that the hearing for this item be postponed one month, to the July hearing (scheduled to occur July 13-15) to allow time to address the concerns and issues raised. PG&E staff are discussing this recommendation and we will inform you once we hear back from them.

In the meantime, we understand that City staff had ideas for potential mitigation opportunities within the watershed that could occur now, in addition to the ideas for the future restoration projects led by Jacoby Creek Land Trust for which feasibility studies will commence soon. I understand from my conversation with you in December and as noted below that there were some discussions with PG&E about possible Spartina mitigation but also outstanding questions regarding the compatibility of the proposed mitigation with potential grant and deed restrictions. Could you tell me, were any other potential mitigation sites specifically discussed with PG&E? And could you also share the City's thoughts for any other potential mitigation opportunities that are currently available without grant-funding/deed restrictions within the watershed (and ideally on City-owned lands to ensure ownership authorization)?

Many thanks,

-Tamara

From: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; Loya, David@City of Arcata <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>; Stephanie Mietz <swmietzjclt@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hi Tamara –

Thank you for the quick reply and offer to meet and discuss. Below is some potential availability:

Tomorrow, Thurs May 26, between 8-10am or 2:30-4pm

Tues, May 31 between 12:30-2:30pm

Wed, June 1 after 10:30am

Thurs, June 2 between 8-11am

Thank you for sharing the kmz file and key items to read further in the staff report. The City has certainly been made aware of the proposed project, though I think the scale of the project and its impacts had not been clearly communicated or understood from the scope of the emergency permit.

I look forward to meeting soon. Jacoby Creek Land Trust may also be interested in joining as they hold an easement on City property along Campbell Creek.

Best,

Emily

Emily Sinkhorn

Environmental Services Director

City of Arcata

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2163

www.cityofarcata.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 1:48 PM

To: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

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Hi Emily,

Thank you for your feedback and documents. And, I apologize for the confusion- we did receive evidence from PG&E that they had notified the City about the project application for a long-term programmatic permit in September 2020 (attached), but I didn't realize that PG&E hadn't been corresponding in more detail with the City about its plans, or that my communication about the project scope was unclear when we last spoke about this project in December.

I think it would be great to meet to discuss the City's questions and concerns further. Are there particular days/times that work better for City staff?

I'm also attaching a Google Earth file that PG&E provided as part of its emergency permit application last year that shows the locations of the vegetation clearing activities that occurred previously and that are anticipated to continue to occur under the proposed programmatic permit. You should be able to double-click the file to open and zoom to any of the vegetation clearing points. Clicking on any of the numbered points will open up a pop-up window specifying the work proposed at that location. Additionally, I've attached the estimated work scope that is also included in Exhibit 3 of the staff report. Please let me know if there are any other documents you'd like to receive in advance of meeting.

I've also copied our District Manager Melissa Kraemer to keep her in the loop. Once I hear back on the City's preferred availability I'll outreach with our staff to coordinate a meeting and I can also send along a Zoom invite.

Thank you again Emily,

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)

Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

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From: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 12:17 PM

To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; Loya, David@City of Arcata <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>

Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hello Tamara –

Thank you for the notice of the staff report for the consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing PG&E vegetation management activities on City of Arcata property along the Arcata Sports Complex and Gannon Slough area. The City agreed to consolidate CDP requirements within our jurisdictional area with the California Coastal Commission through a letter sent June 4, 2021 (see attached file Lttr 2021 06 04). In the letter we requested a copy of the planned scope of work from PG&E and Coastal Commission so that the City could evaluate the project and reserve our ability to make recommendations. The City was in support for an emergency permit to PG&E (also attached) for a scope limited to the removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units (see attached PGE consolidate request letter). The City then provided an authorization letter (attached 12.21.21 file) for PG&E to conduct work at the Sports Complex as PGE did not have an easement in this location with the understanding that the scope of work was the same as previously communicated (removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units).

In reviewing this past correspondence we do not believe the City was provided information or notice by either the Coastal Commission or PGE on the full Project Description/scope of work of the consolidated CDP. The proposed repeated clearing over a 10-year period of 4.78 acres of wetland and riparian ESHA and removal of 61 trees is a drastically larger scope than previously communicated to the City (see attached PGE consolidate request letter 5.26.21) and may have negative implications for habitat along Campbell Creek and Gannon Slough.

We did have correspondence in February with a PGE consultant focused solely on logistics for potential spartina mitigation at lower Gannon Slough. The City was asked if there were collaboration opportunities for spartina removal for PGE mitigation; however, the City was not informed that his potential mitigation was tied to this consolidated CDP. The City began research to identify if spartina removal would be compatible with deed and grant restrictions for the property and then communication ceased.

The City is in support of working with PGE for vegetation maintenance work; however, the City (as property owner and jurisdictional partner) was not provided an opportunity to evaluate or help shape the larger scope of the consolidated CDP and its proposed mitigation. Additionally, the project as proposed could be in direct conflict with grant and deed restrictions on these City of Arcata properties as multiple acquisition and restoration grants have assisted in improving habitat along these riparian corridors.

Please let us know if there may be an opportunity to discuss this project ahead of the June 10 hearing.

Thank you,

Emily

Emily Sinkhorn

Environmental Services Director

City of Arcata

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2163

www.cityofarcata.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:33 AM

To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>; Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Cc: Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>

Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

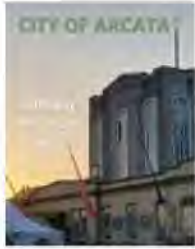
Thanks, Tamara.

David Loya (him)

Community Development Director

City of Arcata

To grow opportunity and build community equitably.



Exciting work is happening in the **Arcata Gateway** – 138 acres once used for mostly industrial purposes. The **Arcata Gateway Plan** allows innovative residential development, using streamlined permitting while protecting working forests, ag lands, open space and natural resources. You are encouraged to take part in the public process that will affect the City for years to come.

READ THE GATEWAY PLAN

Learn More About Public Meetings and Planning

City Hall is open for business between 9 and 5.

Visitors to City Hall are required to wear a mask inside regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for complying with this local practice.

Some services, such as water bills and police services, are available on-call. Please check our website www.cityofarcata.org for the latest information on accessing City services.



From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:33 PM

To: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Cc: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>

Subject: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

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Greetings All,

You likely recall that we have been working on processing a consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing vegetation management activities that PG&E proposes to undertake for a 10-year term at the Arcata Sports Complex, Little League Fields, and continuing south until just before Bayside Cutoff. The permit also includes follow-up authorization for the emergency permits the Commission authorized for similar vegetation maintenance work in 2020 and 2021.

The hearing notice for this project was mailed to you today and is also attached. You can view the staff report and supporting documents on the Commission's website at www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html. Click on the Friday tab and scroll down to agenda item 8a. Additionally, the direct links to the report materials are as follows:

- Report: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-report.pdf>
- Exhibits: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-exhibits.pdf>
- Appendices: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-appendix.pdf>

You can also view other documents PG&E has provided for our review on our ftp site using the following access instructions:

-Go to: <http://ftp.coastal.ca.gov>

-Click on "General Public"

-Log in: user name – public; password – ocean03

-File: "PG&E - Arcata Vegetation Mgmt."

If you would like to receive any additional project materials, please let me know, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

-Tamara

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

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--

Stephanie Mietz
Executive Director
Jacoby Creek Land Trust
www.jclandtrust.org
(707) 822-0900

Pronouns: She, her, hers

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:09 PM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal
Cc: Joe Mateer; Emily Benvie; Loya, David@City of Arcata; Mike Rice; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal; Stephanie Mietz
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

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Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

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Hi Emily et al,

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Many thanks,
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Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; Loya, David@City of Arcata <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>; Stephanie Mietz <swmietzjclt@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hi Tamara –

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I look forward to meeting soon. Jacoby Creek Land Trust may also be interested in joining as they hold an easement on City property along Campbell Creek.

Best,
Emily

Emily Sinkhorn
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Thank you for your feedback and documents. And, I apologize for the confusion- we did receive evidence from PG&E that they had notified the City about the project application for a long-term programmatic permit in September 2020 (attached), but I didn't realize that PG&E hadn't been corresponding in more detail with the City about its plans, or that my communication about the project scope was unclear when we last spoke about this project in December.

I think it would be great to meet to discuss the City's questions and concerns further. Are there particular days/times that work better for City staff?

I'm also attaching a Google Earth file that PG&E provided as part of its emergency permit application last year that shows the locations of the vegetation clearing activities that occurred previously and that are anticipated to continue to occur under the proposed programmatic permit. You should be able to double-click the file to open and zoom to any of the vegetation clearing points. Clicking on any of the numbered points will open up a pop-up window specifying the work proposed at that location. Additionally, I've attached the estimated work scope that is also included in Exhibit 3 of the staff report. Please let me know if there are any other documents you'd like to receive in advance of meeting.

I've also copied our District Manager Melissa Kraemer to keep her in the loop. Once I hear back on the City's preferred availability I'll outreach with our staff to coordinate a meeting and I can also send along a Zoom invite.

Thank you again Emily,

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)
Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

Please note that public counter hours for all Commission offices are currently suspended until further notice in light of the coronavirus. However, in order to provide the public with continuity of service while protecting both you and our employees, the Commission remains open for business. The best way to contact me is by email. In addition to the regular means of mailing documents (please, no UPS or FEDEX at this time) as required by the regulations or statute, please make sure that you also send a copy of all correspondence or other documents electronically to me via email.

From: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 12:17 PM

To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; Loya, David@City of Arcata <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>

Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hello Tamara –

Thank you for the notice of the staff report for the consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing PG&E vegetation management activities on City of Arcata property along the Arcata Sports Complex and Gannon Slough area. The City agreed to consolidate CDP requirements within our jurisdictional area with the California Coastal Commission through a letter sent June 4, 2021 (see attached file Lttr 2021 06 04). In the letter we requested a copy of the planned scope of work from PG&E and Coastal Commission so that the City could evaluate the project and reserve our ability to make recommendations. The City was in support for an emergency permit to PG&E (also attached) for a scope limited to the removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units (see attached PGE consolidate request letter). The City then provided an authorization letter (attached 12.21.21 file) for PG&E to conduct work at the Sports Complex as PGE did not have an easement in this location with the understanding that the scope of work was the same as previously communicated (removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units).

In reviewing this past correspondence we do not believe the City was provided information or notice by either the Coastal Commission or PGE on the full Project Description/scope of work of the consolidated CDP. The proposed repeated clearing over a 10-year period of 4.78 acres of wetland and riparian ESHA and removal of 61 trees is a drastically larger scope than previously communicated to the City (see attached PGE consolidate request letter 5.26.21) and may have negative implications for habitat along Campbell Creek and Gannon Slough.

We did have correspondence in February with a PGE consultant focused solely on logistics for potential spartina mitigation at lower Gannon Slough. The City was asked if there were collaboration opportunities for spartina removal for PGE mitigation; however, the City was not informed that his potential mitigation was tied to this consolidated CDP. The City began research to identify if spartina removal would be compatible with deed and grant restrictions for the property and then communication ceased.

The City is in support of working with PGE for vegetation maintenance work; however, the City (as property owner and jurisdictional partner) was not provided an opportunity to evaluate or help shape the larger scope of the consolidated CDP and its proposed mitigation. Additionally, the project as proposed could be in direct conflict with grant and deed restrictions on these City of Arcata properties as multiple acquisition and restoration grants have assisted in improving habitat along these riparian corridors.

Please let us know if there may be an opportunity to discuss this project ahead of the June 10 hearing.

Thank you,
Emily

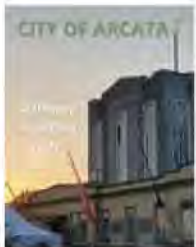
Emily Sinkhorn
Environmental Services Director
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521
707-825-2163
www.cityofarcata.org
Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>; Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Thanks, Tamara.

David Loya (him)
Community Development Director
City of Arcata
p. 707-825-2045

To grow opportunity and build community equitably,



Exciting work is happening in the **Arcata Gateway** – 138 acres once used for mostly industrial purposes. The **Arcata Gateway Plan** allows innovative residential development, using streamlined permitting while protecting working forests, ag lands, open space and natural resources. You are encouraged to take part in the public process that will affect the City for years to come.

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City Hall is open for business between 9 and 5.

Visitors to City Hall are required to wear a mask inside regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for complying with this local practice.

Some services, such as water bills and police services, are available on-call. Please check our website www.cityofarcata.org for the latest information on accessing City services.

From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:33 PM
To: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings All,

You likely recall that we have been working on processing a consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing vegetation management activities that PG&E proposes to undertake for a 10-year term at the Arcata Sports Complex, Little League Fields, and continuing south until just before Bayside Cutoff. The permit also includes follow-up authorization for the emergency permits the Commission authorized for similar vegetation maintenance work in 2020 and 2021.

The hearing notice for this project was mailed to you today and is also attached. You can view the staff report and supporting documents on the Commission's website at www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html. Click on the Friday tab and scroll down to agenda item 8a. Additionally, the direct links to the report materials are as follows:

- Report: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-report.pdf>
- Exhibits: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-exhibits.pdf>
- Appendices: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-appendix.pdf>

You can also view other documents PG&E has provided for our review on our ftp site using the following access instructions:

- Go to: <http://ftp.coastal.ca.gov>
- Click on "General Public"
- Log in: user name – public; password – ocean03
- File: "PG&E - Arcata Vegetation Mgmt."

If you would like to receive any additional project materials, please let me know, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
-Tamara

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)
Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

~To purchase a whale tail license plate or access Coastal Commission information, go to www.coastal.ca.gov

Please note that public counter hours for all Commission offices are currently suspended until further notice in light of the coronavirus. However, in order to provide the public with continuity of service while protecting both you and our employees, the Commission remains open for business. The best way to contact me is by email. In addition to the regular means of mailing documents (please, no UPS or FEDEX at this time) as required by the regulations or statute, please make sure that you also send a copy of all correspondence or other documents electronically to me via email.

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Goldie, Brittney <BAGM@pge.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal; Gedik, Tamara@Coastal
Cc: Walker, Valerie
Subject: PG&E- Arcata Ball Fields Meeting Follow Up
Attachments: FW: City of Arcata mitigation trees

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi There Tamara and Melissa,

I checked in with our mitigation team on the corresponded with the City of Arcata in which the below response reflects our diligence in working with the City of Arcata and additional agencies for this project. Given our extensive outreach this should be sufficient to clear the concerns of the City that were recently raised.

The City of Arcata was emailed to inquire about lands for mitigation in December of 2020 (specifically to Julie Neander on 12/8/2020). Julie passed me on to Mike Rice in January of 2021, and via email Mike passed me along to Emily Benvie in late January 2021. Emily's email specifically stated that *"at this time we don't have specific locations to compensate for the entire impacted area of 4.21 acres (or 135 trees). I think in the future the City would be interested in partnering, as we may have some planting opportunities coming up within the next couple of years, but in the immediate present we don't have a big need."* We did later pursue wetland mitigation with the City of Arcata and Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA), on Spartina treatments; however, this line of mitigation was later denied by the Coastal Commission.

In addition to the City of Arcata, we also reached out to McKinleyville Community Services District, but that mitigation plan had complications between their permitting and funding and our needs. We also spoke with Mike Cipra at Friends of the Dunes, Mary Burke at CalTrout, Andrea Pickhart at the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and further discussed options with Susannah Ferson at RCAA.

During our field site meetings at the Arcata Ballfields complex and Cock Robin Island (CRI) with the Coastal Commission, CDFW, and Samara Restoration (in early February) we all agreed that CRI provided the most contiguous acreage and restoration need that had been proposed to date. At that time the discussion was around the Habitat Mitigation Plan and how to meet the restoration needs of CRI, CDFW, and the mitigation requirements of the Coastal Commission and the Ballfields work. Laurie Koteen and Tamara (both from the Coastal Commission) were in email exchanges with us, after the field site meeting, to discuss the planting pallet and restoration planning (will forward that exchange). At this time we agreed to pursue writing the Habitat Mitigation Plan, and the draft version was sent to Tamara on Tuesday, May 31st.

Our team is not able to provide location information for the exact trees that will require removal over the next ten years as this is dependent on many factors that require inspections each year to determine such as growth and defects. It may be helpful to understand the 40 trees is an estimate based off polygons of vegetation that have been identified in the areas included in the application. Each year those polygons will be reviewed by our inspection team that is made up of certified arborists who will be identifying work that is needed each year under the CPUC current thresholds of maintaining vegetation around our powerlines. While the polygons identify the expected area of which trees may be identified as hazards to our lines we are not able to definitely confirm the exact tree.

Is there any information you need from us for the additional comments received on Friday? We look forward to receiving the updated mitigation list from the City of Arcata and meeting with the larger team shortly after. Do confirm with our team if the above is sufficient and if there is any follow up items I have missed from our meeting last week.

Thank you,
Brittney Goldie
Land Planner | Vegetation Management
Phone: (925) 216-4766



**Together, Building
a Better California**

*Some of the measures included in this document are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of future ignitions following the 2018 Camp wildfire

From: [Stephanie Martin](#)
To: [Goldie, Brittney](#)
Cc: [McKay, Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: City of Arcata mitigation trees
Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:22:46 AM

*******CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.*******

Brittney-

See below for the decline to participate by the City of Arcata.

I will respond to your other questions shortly.

The treatment of the slough (owned by the City) was declined as a potential mitigation site by the Coastal Commission.

Stephanie

From: Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Stephanie Martin <smartin@ncrm.com>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: City of Arcata mitigation trees

Sounds great, thanks Stephanie. A couple other entities that might be worthwhile to reach out to for the current mitigation needs could be the Jacoby Creek Land Trust or North Coast Regional Land Trust

Emily Benvie (she/her)

Environmental Programs Manager

City of Arcata - Environmental Services

736 F Street Arcata, CA 95521

office: (707) 825-2102

cell: (774)-218-6991

ebenvie@cityofarcata.org

Due to COVID 19, the City has implemented measures to limit in-person contact. We still strive to provide the full range of city services by phone, email, and web-based services. Since this is an evolving situation, [please visit the City's COVID-19 website for updates.](#)

From: Stephanie Martin <smartin@ncrm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:23:02 AM
To: Emily Benvie; Mike Rice
Cc: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal
Subject: RE: City of Arcata mitigation trees

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for getting back to me Emily.

If the City has future plans for replanting areas, restoring wetlands, or otherwise, please keep my email handy as I am always in search of mitigation lands and partners in the Humboldt area.

Best,

Stephanie

From: Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Stephanie Martin <smartin@ncrm.com>
Cc: Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: City of Arcata mitigation trees

Hi Stephanie,

Mike Rice recently let me know that PGE is looking for opportunities to plant trees to mitigate for impacts to tree-trimming at the ball field. I saw the earlier emails that he had suggested some locations which all looked good to me. However, I think at this time we don't have specific locations to compensate for the entire impacted area of 4.21 acres (or 135 trees). I think in the future the City would be interested in partnering, as we may have some planting opportunities coming up within the next couple of years, but in the immediate present we don't have a big need. Please feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss further. Best,

Emily Benvie
Environmental Programs Manager
City of Arcata - Environmental Services
736 F Street Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 825-2102
ebenvie@cityofarcata.org

From: Stanley Binnie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 3:24 PM
To: NorthCoast@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 8a - Application No. 1-20-0539 (Pacific Gas

This is an addendum to my public comment submitted yesterday, June 1, 2022, via my husband's iPad and iCloud account. Kimberly Tays

Dear Commissioners,

My apologies for not submitting these comments yesterday, but today I had some additional thoughts on the above agenda item.

- 1) Issuing a permit for ten-years in such a sensitive environment seems like an extremely long time when the vegetation removal activities could cause irreparable harm to the Campbell Creek ESHA.
- 2) A Coastal Commission biologist or a biologist mutually selected by the Coastal Commission and PG&E should conduct a biological assessment every couple years to insure that the vegetation removal activities being done by PG&E are not causing irreparable harm to the Campbell Creek ESHA.
- 3) If a Coastal Commission biologist or a qualified biologist (selected by both parties) determines that severe or irreparable harm is being caused to the Campbell Creek site, then PG&E should be required to halt any further vegetation removal work and submit a new permit application that entails less damaging/harmful impacts to the Campbell Creek ESHA.

Because of the advances in science and fast-changing impacts from Climate Change, it does not seem prudent to issue a permit such as this for ten years without periodic biological assessments to insure that PG&E is abiding by the conditions of the permit.

Please do not allow PG&E to work in the Campbell Creek ESHA without stricter permit parameters and conditions. I fear, without regular biological assessments by a Coastal Commission biologist or a mutually-selected biologist, the conditions of the permit will not be adhered to and after ten years of ongoing vegetation removal activities (that have not been assessed by a neutral party) PG&E will have caused permanent and irreparable harm to the Campbell Creek site.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Tays
Resident of Arcata

Sent from my iPad

From: Stanley Binnie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 12:56 PM
To: NorthCoast@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 8a - Application No. 1-20-0539 (Pacific Gas

NOTE: My public comment is being sent from my husband's iPad and icloud account, because my keyboard is not working. Kimberly Tays

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this public comment to oppose staff's recommendations and conditions put forth in the staff report for the above agenda item.

In February of 2019, I submitted a written complaint to a Coastal Commission staff member in the Arcata office about vegetation removal that was done adjacent to the Samoa Blvd. on-ramp to Hwy 101. The cutting done in that area was severe and seemed to be completely unnecessary, as much of the vegetation cut to the ground was low-growing and was not interfering with the electrical lines. I suspected PG&E was responsible for the cutting, but I did not understand why the work needed to be done in such a destructive and insensitive manner.

I did not realize, until reading the staff report for the upcoming June Coastal Commission meeting, the extent of this area's importance. I had no idea this narrow stretch of wetlands was part of a larger complex of an environmentally sensitive habitat area called the Jacoby Creek-Gannon Slough Wildlife Area. I had no idea that 1) the "Lower Campbell Creek enters Gannon Slough, that 2) "Campbell Creek has historically supported anadromous fish rearing habitat," that 3) "Campbell Creek and Gannon Slough both support well-established riparian corridors," that the area is 4) "situated along the Pacific Flyway as a part of the major migratory corridor for thousands of birds traveling between California, Mexico and Central and South America and provides nesting and roosting habitat for several species of birds," and that the area 5) "supports wildlife species such as northern red-legged frogs, gray foxes, raccoon, and striped skunk." [Staff report, pages 23-24—emphasis added.]

I also did not realize the tremendous importance of areas such as this until I read the following statements in the staff report:

"Riparian and freshwater vegetation communities are among California's most sensitive habitats due to their high level of productivity, biodiversity, importance as migration corridors, and limited geographic distribution. Historically, these habitat types have been heavily degraded as a result of stream alteration, vegetation clearing, floodplain development and the draining and filling of wetlands."

The coastal streams, sloughs and wetland in and around ... Jacoby Creek-Gannon Slough Wildlife Area additionally provide habitats suitable for various rare and sensitive species, including ... northern red-legged frog (*Rana aurora aurora*), which has been observed in freshwater habitats throughout the project area. Although the applicant's biological resource assessments did not include avian surveys, the riparian and wetland habitats at the project work sites were determined suitable habitat for nesting birds. Birds using the project site may include sensitive species such as raptors and other species protected under Fish and Game Code sections 3503 and 3503.5." [Staff report, pages 24-25—emphasis added.]

The bolded language above is profound. And that is why it is so important for the Coastal Commission to do everything in its power to protect the last remaining coastal wetlands in California, since so few of them are still in tact. PG&E

should be required to come up with a less damaging alternative to the proposed project set forth in this application. Commissioners should directly ask PG&E why such an intensive and damaging manner of vegetation removal is necessary, especially when they are proposing to even cut down low-growing vegetation within 6 inches of the ground. It seems excessive to allow PG&E to cut down vegetation that is not interfering with their electrical lines.

In addition to a less damaging alternative for vegetation removal, PG&E should not be allowed a 1:1 mitigation ratio, as it appears that PG&E is being held to a different standard than others when it comes to protection of California's wetlands/ESHAs.

The staff report says: "The Commission has typically required mitigation at a 3:1 ratio (acres of restored habitat to each acre of impacted habitat) for permanent impacts to sensitive habitat areas containing habitat that support state or federally listed rare, threatened, or endangered, species of special concern, or riparian or wetland habitat The traditional 3:1 mitigation ratio applies to habitat restoration or creation. Established mitigation ratios for habitat restoration or replacement are important because: (1) in most cases there is a time gap with a loss of ecosystem function between the direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to, or removal of, the respective habitat, and 2) there is uncertainty that habitat creation or restoration will be entirely successful." [Staff report, pages 28-29, emphasis added.]

While I wholly support restoration activities at the Cock Robin Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area in Lolita, I do not support a 1:1 mitigation ratio for PG&E under this project, as it appears that PG&E is being given preferential treatment to harm and/or damage our coastal resources and ESHAs.

Another troubling aspect of the proposed 1:1 mitigation ratio is that the Lolita mitigation site is located 25 miles southwest of the Arcata project site. This disregards the importance of protecting wetlands/ESHA in the Arcata vicinity, along with the visual resources for those of us who enjoy seeing this natural habitat in an otherwise heavily altered, man-made environment.

PG&E should be required to fulfill a 3:1 mitigation ratio for this proposed project, due to the extensive damage it will cause for the next 10 years. If PG&E is permitted to remove 61 trees, they should be required to replant the area with native shrubs and other low-growing vegetation that will not interfere with their electrical lines. If the Campbell Creek site is permitted to be managed in such an intensive and harmful way, the effects could be deleterious for the greater wetland complex in that area and compromise the habitat values for a variety of different plants, animals, migrating birds, raptors and other protected species—some of them sensitive, vulnerable and imperiled.

California's coastal wetland environments are already so fragmented and compromised. That is why it is so important that PG&E be required to conduct 3:1 mitigation activities at the Campbell Creek Wetlands Riparian Site, as well as Cock Robin Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area, in order to offset the harm and damage that will be done to this sensitive environment.

In addition to planting native shrubs and other low-growing native vegetation to offset the damage from removing so many trees, I would like Commissioners to incorporate removal of English ivy into its mitigation activities for the Campbell Creek area, as ivy is growing in that area now, and its highly invasive nature is detrimental to the health of the remaining trees, shrubs, and other understory vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Commissioners, please deny PG&E's project, as proposed, and ask the company to come back with a less damaging and impactful vegetation removal plan for this sensitive wetland area and request a 3:1 mitigation ratio to help offset the damage and harm that would be done to the Campbell Creek Wetlands Riparian Site over the next 10 years.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Tays
Resident of Arcata

Sent from my iPad

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Kimberly Tays <k[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal
Subject: PG&E CDP 1-20-0539

Hi Tamara,

I just read the staff report re the above project near the Arcata Sports Complex and Jacoby Creek in Arcata.

I am disturbed by the amount of vegetation and the nature of what is proposed to be removed, especially the number of trees.

Back in 2019, I complained to Josh Levine about the severe nature of the vegetation removal in that same wetland area, as it appeared that much of the veg that was hacked down did not even interfere with the power lines. The area looked devastated afterwards—as if no thought whatsoever was given to the nature of the setting. For example, why did the willows and other low growing vegetation need to be cut down when they were not a threat to overhead power lines. It looked like such overkill to me and that it unnecessarily damaged a lot of wetland habitat.

Considering the highly sensitive nature of these wetlands, it seems a more sensitive and selective approach to vegetation removal should be required by the CCC.

Did you or other CCC staff push for alternatives to PGE's standard approach to veg removal? Did you or anyone else insist that a less impactful, less destructive manner of veg removal be done here? It just seems that when so many species of plants and animals will be impacted, including migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway, that there should be stricter standards of veg removal to protect ESHAs along PGE easements.

Again, I feel the veg cutting proposed here seems excessive, insensitive and unnecessary. It appears that PGE uses a "one size fits all" approach to veg maintenance when feasible alternatives could be used to better protect ESHA.

Also, the 1:1 mitigation ratio does not seem fair when the staff report says the CCC typically requires a 3:1 ratio.

Why should this ESHA be treated as any less important than others, especially when the staff report states: "Riparian and freshwater vegetation communities are among California's most sensitive habitats due to their high level of productivity, biodiversity, importance as migration corridors, and limited geographic distribution. Historically, these habitat types have been heavily degraded as a result of stream alteration, vegetation clearing, floodplain development and the draining and filling of wetlands."

The development pressures are getting worse and worse and the environment is in peril because humans are demanding more and more from it and not respecting these last bits of unique environments that are supposed to be protected but really aren't because there are always an EXCEPTIONS to the protections. We have to change our business as usual approach to these projects or the last remaining remnants of these pocket wetlands will be destroyed too.

Would you have time to discuss my concerns on the phone? I plan to submit my written comments but would like to talk to you or someone else about this project.

Thank you, Kim Tays

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Stephanie Mietz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal
Cc: Joe Mateer; Emily Benvie; Loya, David@City of Arcata; Mike Rice; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal; Emily Sinkhorn
Subject: Re: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hello Tamara,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet via Zoom with everyone yesterday to discuss this project history.

Upon further reflection I remembered a call I received some time ago about potential mitigation projects on Jacoby Creek Land Trust properties. The caller identified himself as a consultant and would not disclose the name of his client, which I understand, but not knowing the context of the project including the geographic location of the project in the watershed, the impact to a JCLT easement, and the regulatory requirements to complete the mitigation, I did not fully explore the potential benefits to all parties. Without this information, it was not clear that this type of mitigation project would not violate grant deed restrictions on JCLT properties, all of which were purchased with public funding from the State of California. JCLT receives periodic requests for resource use by members of the public that often fall outside the scope of public benefit and / or would violate the grant deed restrictions; these are criteria we must evaluate. I was unable to make this determination, despite my inquiries to the consultant. It was a gross miscommunication. It's also possible that this call was unrelated to this project and PG&E.

Had I understood at that time that the mitigation was required for work on public city property upon which Jacoby Creek Land Trust holds an open space easement "for wetlands and restoration areas ...permitted uses within...shall be limited to nature study, wildlife and fisheries management, routine maintenance, and passive recreation," I am certain we could have developed a suitable mitigation project with our partners. As I mentioned yesterday, JCLT's Project, the Jacoby Creek Waters Sustainability and Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study, will result in a number of potential suitable mitigation projects. Data collection is now complete and we will be developing the project plans this summer and fall. Now is an ideal time to collaborate on plans and we ask that future mitigation within the Jacoby Creek watershed be included as a condition of approval for this programmatic permit.

I appreciate your openness to exploring options that will support all parties' goals and requirements.

Best,
Stephanie

Stephanie Mietz

Executive Director

Jacoby Creek Land Trust

www.jclandtrust.org

(707) 822-0900

Pronouns: She, her, hers

On Wed, May 25, 2022 at 4:01 PM Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org> wrote:

Hi Tamara –

Thank you for the quick reply and offer to meet and discuss. Below is some potential availability:

Tomorrow, Thurs May 26, between 8-10am or 2:30-4pm

Tues, May 31 between 12:30-2:30pm

Wed, June 1 after 10:30am

Thurs, June 2 between 8-11am

Thank you for sharing the kmz file and key items to read further in the staff report. The City has certainly been made aware of the proposed project, though I think the scale of the project and its impacts had not been clearly communicated or understood from the scope of the emergency permit.

I look forward to meeting soon. Jacoby Creek Land Trust may also be interested in joining as they hold an easement on City property along Campbell Creek.

Best,

Emily

Emily Sinkhorn

Environmental Services Director

City of Arcata

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2163

www.cityofarcata.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>; Kraemer, Melissa@Coastal <Melissa.Kraemer@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

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Hi Emily,

Thank you for your feedback and documents. And, I apologize for the confusion- we did receive evidence from PG&E that they had notified the City about the project application for a long-term programmatic permit in September 2020 (attached), but I didn't realize that PG&E hadn't been corresponding in more detail with the City about its plans, or that my communication about the project scope was unclear when we last spoke about this project in December.

I think it would be great to meet to discuss the City's questions and concerns further. Are there particular days/times that work better for City staff?

I'm also attaching a Google Earth file that PG&E provided as part of its emergency permit application last year that shows the locations of the vegetation clearing activities that occurred previously and that are anticipated to continue to occur under the proposed programmatic permit. You should be able to double-click the file to open and zoom to any of the vegetation clearing points. Clicking on any of the numbered points will open up a pop-up window specifying the work proposed at that location. Additionally, I've attached the estimated work scope that is also included in Exhibit 3 of the staff report. Please let me know if there are any other documents you'd like to receive in advance of meeting.

I've also copied our District Manager Melissa Kraemer to keep her in the loop. Once I hear back on the City's preferred availability I'll outreach with our staff to coordinate a meeting and I can also send along a Zoom invite.

Thank you again Emily,

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)

Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

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From: Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Benvie <ebenvie@cityofarcata.org>; Loya, David@City of Arcata <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Hello Tamara –

Thank you for the notice of the staff report for the consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing PG&E vegetation management activities on City of Arcata property along the Arcata Sports Complex and Gannon Slough area. The City agreed to consolidate CDP requirements within our jurisdictional area with the California Coastal Commission through a letter sent June 4, 2021 (see attached file Lttr 2021 06 04). In the letter we requested a copy of the planned scope of work from PG&E and Coastal Commission so that the City could evaluate the project and reserve our ability to make recommendations. The City was in support for an emergency permit to PG&E (also attached) for a scope limited to the removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units (see attached PGE consolidate request

letter). The City then provided an authorization letter (attached 12.21.21 file) for PG&E to conduct work at the Sports Complex as PGE did not have an easement in this location with the understanding that the scope of work was the same as previously communicated (removal of 3 trees, trimming of 51 trees and removal of 29 brush units).

In reviewing this past correspondence we do not believe the City was provided information or notice by either the Coastal Commission or PGE on the full Project Description/scope of work of the consolidated CDP. The proposed repeated clearing over a 10-year period of 4.78 acres of wetland and riparian ESHA and removal of 61 trees is a drastically larger scope than previously communicated to the City (see attached PGE consolidate request letter 5.26.21) and may have negative implications for habitat along Campbell Creek and Gannon Slough.

We did have correspondence in February with a PGE consultant focused solely on logistics for potential spartina mitigation at lower Gannon Slough. The City was asked if there were collaboration opportunities for spartina removal for PGE mitigation; however, the City was not informed that his potential mitigation was tied to this consolidated CDP. The City began research to identify if spartina removal would be compatible with deed and grant restrictions for the property and then communication ceased.

The City is in support of working with PGE for vegetation maintenance work; however, the City (as property owner and jurisdictional partner) was not provided an opportunity to evaluate or help shape the larger scope of the consolidated CDP and its proposed mitigation. Additionally, the project as proposed could be in direct conflict with grant and deed restrictions on these City of Arcata properties as multiple acquisition and restoration grants have assisted in improving habitat along these riparian corridors.

Please let us know if there may be an opportunity to discuss this project ahead of the June 10 hearing.

Thank you,

Emily

Emily Sinkhorn

Environmental Services Director

City of Arcata

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2163

www.cityofarcata.org

Pronouns: she, her, hers

From: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>; Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

Thanks, Tamara.

David Loya (him)

Community Development Director

City of Arcata

p. 707-825-2045

To grow opportunity and build community equitably.



Exciting work is happening in the **Arcata Gateway** – 138 acres once used for mostly industrial purposes. The **Arcata Gateway Plan** allows innovative residential development, using streamlined permitting while protecting working forests, ag lands, open space and natural resources. You are encouraged to take part in the public process that will affect the City for years to come.

[READ THE GATEWAY PLAN](#)

[Learn More About Public Meetings and Planning](#)

City Hall is open for business between 9 and 5.

Visitors to City Hall are required to wear a mask inside regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for complying with this local practice.

Some services, such as water bills and police services, are available on-call. Please check our website www.cityofarcata.org for the latest information on accessing City services.



From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:33 PM
To: Joe Mateer <jmateer@cityofarcata.org>; Emily Sinkhorn <esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org>
Cc: David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>; Mike Rice <mrice@cityofarcata.org>
Subject: PG&E vegetation maintenance project (CDP 1-20-0539)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings All,

You likely recall that we have been working on processing a consolidated coastal development permit for ongoing vegetation management activities that PG&E proposes to undertake for a 10-year term at the Arcata Sports Complex, Little League Fields, and continuing south until just before Bayside Cutoff. The permit also includes follow-up authorization for the emergency permits the Commission authorized for similar vegetation maintenance work in 2020 and 2021.

The hearing notice for this project was mailed to you today and is also attached. You can view the staff report and supporting documents on the Commission's website at www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html. Click on the Friday tab and scroll down to agenda item 8a. Additionally, the direct links to the report materials are as follows:

- Report: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-report.pdf>
- Exhibits: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-exhibits.pdf>

- Appendices: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/6/F8a/f8a-6-2022-appendix.pdf>

You can also view other documents PG&E has provided for our review on our ftp site using the following access instructions:

-Go to: <http://ftp.coastal.ca.gov>

-Click on "General Public"

-Log in: user name – public; password – ocean03

-File: "PG&E - Arcata Vegetation Mgmt."

If you would like to receive any additional project materials, please let me know, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

-Tamara

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)

Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

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please make sure that you also send a copy of all correspondence or other documents electronically to me via email.

--

Stephanie Mietz
Executive Director
Jacoby Creek Land Trust
www.jclandtrust.org
(707) 822-0900

Pronouns: She, her, hers

Gedik, Tamara@Coastal

From: Daniel Holsapple <dolsapple@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal; Janet Eidsness; Hazel James; ted@wiyot.us; Adam Canter; melaniemccavour@brb-nsn.gov; Janet Eidsness; Jacob Pounds
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation management project, Arcata

Hi Tamara,

I don't have any comments besides to point out the cultural sensitivity of the area where this work is going to occur. It sounds like there is going to be little-to-no ground disturbance with this vegetation management work though. Thank you for notifying us about this.

All the best,

Daniel Holsapple

Assistant THPO

Blue Lake Rancheria
dolsapple@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov
Office: (707) 668-5101 ext.1062

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and attachment(s), if any, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential business information protected by the trade secret privilege, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), and/or other legal bases as may apply. If you are not an intended recipient, please take notice that disclosure of the information contained herein is inadvertent, expressly lacks the consent of the sender, and your receipt of this e-mail does not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege(s). In this event, please notify the sender immediately, do not disseminate any of the information contained herein to any third party, and cause all electronic and/or paper copies of this e-mail to be promptly destroyed. Thank you.



I acknowledge my residence in Goudi'ni (Arcata), part of the ancestral territory of the Wiyot peoples. I offer my reconciliation and respect to their elders past and present. <https://www.wiyot.us/162/Wiyot-Placename-Video>

From: Gedik, Tamara@Coastal [mailto:Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 2:48 PM
To: Janet Eidsness <jpeidsness@yahoo.com>; Hazel James <hazel@wiyot.us>; ted@wiyot.us; Adam Canter <adam@wiyot.us>; melaniemccavour@brb-nsn.gov; Daniel Holsapple <dolsapple@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E vegetation management project, Arcata

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This e-mail originated from outside the Blue Lake Rancheria. Please take caution with its content and do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that they are safe.

Thank you, THPO Eidsness for the updated contact information; I've updated our records accordingly. This particular application (CDP application No. 1-20-0539) is located primarily within the CA Coastal Commission's retained jurisdiction, and within a portion of the City of Arcata's delegated jurisdiction area. Both the City of Arcata and PG&E have requested a consolidated permit application process, meaning that our office will be reviewing this particular project within the project area depicted on the maps provided in my previous email (I am aware of other pending permit applications underway with PG&E in other locations in Humboldt County however this project is separate and unrelated to those).

I'd be happy to discuss further, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or comments.

Thank you,

~Tamara L. Gedik
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)
Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

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From: Janet Eidsness <jpeidsness@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Hazel James <hazel@wiyot.us>; ted@wiyot.us; Adam Canter <adam@wiyot.us>; melaniemccavour@brb-nsn.gov; Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov>; Daniel Holsapple <dholsapple@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov>
Subject: Re: PG&E vegetation management project, Arcata

Please make note of staff changes:

Bear River, Erika Cooper resigned, Melanie McCavour is new THPO and her assistant is Ana Canter

At Blue Lake rancheria, I am still THPO and Daniel Holsapple is assistant THPO

Will this CDP for PG&E be routed through the Co of Humboldt Planning Dept? We've been working with PG&E staff (Jennifer Darcangelo) to get the contracting set up (\$30 fee for THPO review per Tribe).

Please advise and thanks

JANET P. EIDSNESS, M.A. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for Blue Lake Rancheria HOME:
2488 Sonnenfelt Road, Bayside, CA 95524 (707) 825-0460 (VOICE), (530) 623-0663 (CELL)
jpeidsness@yahoo.com

On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 10:09:30 PM PDT, Gedik, Tamara@Coastal <tamara.gedik@coastal.ca.gov> wrote:

Greetings,

The California Coastal Commission (Commission) is writing to notify you that we have received an application for a coastal development permit (CDP) from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for the proposed implementation of a 10-year program of on-going vegetation maintenance along utility lines, including removal of approximately 61 trees and vegetation clearing around distribution and transmission lines. The proposed work would occur in riparian, wetland and upland habitats at up to 139 sites in and around the Arcata Sports Complex, Arcata Little League Fields, and the Jacoby Creek-Gannon Slough Wildlife Area. Project sites occur within a 10.85-acre project area located North and South of Samoa Blvd., east of the intersection with Highway 101, at the Arcata Sports Complex and along a portion of Jacoby Creek (APN(s): 503-202-003, 503-202-004, 501-061-001, and 501-061-023) within the City of Arcata. This project proposal also includes follow-up authorization from emergency permits the Coastal Commission issued in 2020 and 2021 for similar work within the same areas (see attached vicinity map, site plans, and project description contained in the CDP application).

PG&E's proposed measures for vegetation management include, but are not limited to the following:

- All staging of equipment shall be limited to the existing parking areas.
- No vehicles or other mechanized equipment needed for the tree pruning and removal operations shall be driven or operated within (a) riparian habitat areas, and (b) landscaped areas and paved pathways of the Arcata Sports Complex facility and the Arcata Little League facility, except that mechanized vehicles with track-mounted wheels and all-terrain quad vehicles may be used to access landscaped areas at the Sports Complex facility outside the field of play and within 12 feet of the fenceline adjacent to the vegetation corridor.
- Equipment used to cut vegetation shall be limited to chainsaws and other non-mechanized hand tools.

The proposed work will not result in any dredging or fill of wetlands, however vegetation removal work will occur within wetland and riparian environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHAs). PG&E proposes to mitigate for impacts resulting from the removal of trees and annual pruning of vegetation in ESHAs by restoring riparian habitat on 4.78 acres of land owned and managed by CA Department of Fish and Wildlife at Cock Robin Island, approximately 25 miles south of the project area, in Loleta.

The Commission is reviewing this Project pursuant to the California Coastal Act. Per the Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) adopted August 8th, 2018, the Commission has committed to early and effective communication.

We were provided your contact information by the Native American Heritage Commission, and/or through previous outreach efforts on other coastal projects in the general vicinity. Consistent with the Commission's TCP, we are writing to

inform you of the proposed Project in your Tribe's potential area of interest. If you wish to correct or clarify your Tribe's interest area with respect to the Commission's jurisdiction, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

PG&E has included with its application materials copies of correspondence between certain tribal representatives that occurred in October 2020. We also want to ensure you have the opportunity to review the proposal and provide meaningful input to us on Tribal Cultural Resources prior to finalizing the staff's recommendation and scheduling the project for Commission consideration (scheduled for the **June 8-10** meeting). To do so, we respectfully ask that you notify us of any concerns and/or desire for formal or informal consultation by **May 13**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the Project, please contact me via electronic mail at Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

You can also view other documents PG&E has provided for our review on our ftp site using the following access instructions:

-Go to: <http://ftp.coastal.ca.gov>

-Click on "General Public"

-Log in: user name – public; password – ocean03

-File: "PG&E - Arcata Vegetation Mgmt."

If you would like to receive any additional project materials, please let me know. Please also let me know if there are any additional Tribal contacts not included in this email that you believe would be interested in receiving this information.

Thank you,

~**Tamara L. Gedik**
Supervising Analyst
California Coastal Commission

1385 8th Street, Suite 130, Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 826-8950, extension 4 (currently teleworking; voice mail only)

Tamara.Gedik@coastal.ca.gov

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