CALPINE

Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility
1515 Alviso Milpitas Road
San Jose, CA 95134

June 16, 2003

01-AFC-12C

CALIF ENERGY COMMISSION

JUN 17 2003

RECEIVED IN DOCKETS

Mr. Lance Shaw
Compliance Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS 15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

RE: **Temporary Transmission Line Amendment**

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Please find enclosed for filing, Amendment 2 for the Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility.

This Amendment is being submitted in response to a request by the CPM that the Project Owner file this Amendment. The activity addressed in this Amendment results from a decision by PG&E, the owner of the transmission lines, to remove the existing, temporary tapline and to temporally interconnect the LECEF to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech 115 kV line. This new, shorter temporary interconnection will involve the replacement of three, 60-foot wooden poles at one location with three larger (65 feet) wooden poles and an aerial connection directly to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech circuit.

While do not necessarily agree that an Amendment is required in this instance, for reasons previously stated to the CPM and because the activity is categorically exempt under Section 15301(b) of the CEQA guidelines (14 CCR 15301(b), we nevertheless submit this Amendment in a spirit of cooperation and full disclosure.

If you have any questions please call me at (408) 592-7915.

Sincerely,

Dana Petrin
Dana Petrin
Compliance Manager

Cc: File

# Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility Amendment Application #2

Prepared for

## Calpine Corporation

June 16, 2003

**CH2MHILL**
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2937

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview of Amendment

The Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility (LECEF) is located near the intersection of State Route 237 and Zanker Road in the City of San Jose and is a nominal 180 –megawatt (MW) simple cycle power plant. The LECEF project was certified in July 2, 2002 by the California Energy Commission. PG&E is also constructing the electric transmission substation known as the Los Esteros Substation and the associated transmission facilities which will connect the Los Esteros Substation to PG&E's transmission system, all as part of the Northeast San Jose Reinforcement Project.

Currently, the LECEF is utilizing a temporary interconnect to PG&E's system with a .6 mile temporary tap line to the Nortech-Trimble 115 kV line. Effective 5/24/2003 this temporary connection can no longer be maintained by PG&E and the LECEF will have to be connected via a shorter temporary tap line (one span out from the LECEF substation) to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech 115 kV line. This new temporary interconnection is expected to be completed by PG&E on 5/26-27/2003. The proposed changes to the project's temporary interconnection involves shortening the existing temporary interconnect, from 0.6 miles to 250 feet, and replacement of three 60 foot wooden poles with three taller wooden poles (65 feet) to facilitate an aerial connection directly to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech circuit. The remainder of the temporary tap line poles will be removed as licensed. The new temporary tap line will be owned and operated by PG&E. Only minor relay setting changes are required at the LECEF facility for protection, and PG&E has installed a direct underground fiber optic line between LECEF and Los Esteros Substation for communication purposes between the two facilities. Figure 1 shows poles to be removed and those to be replaced.

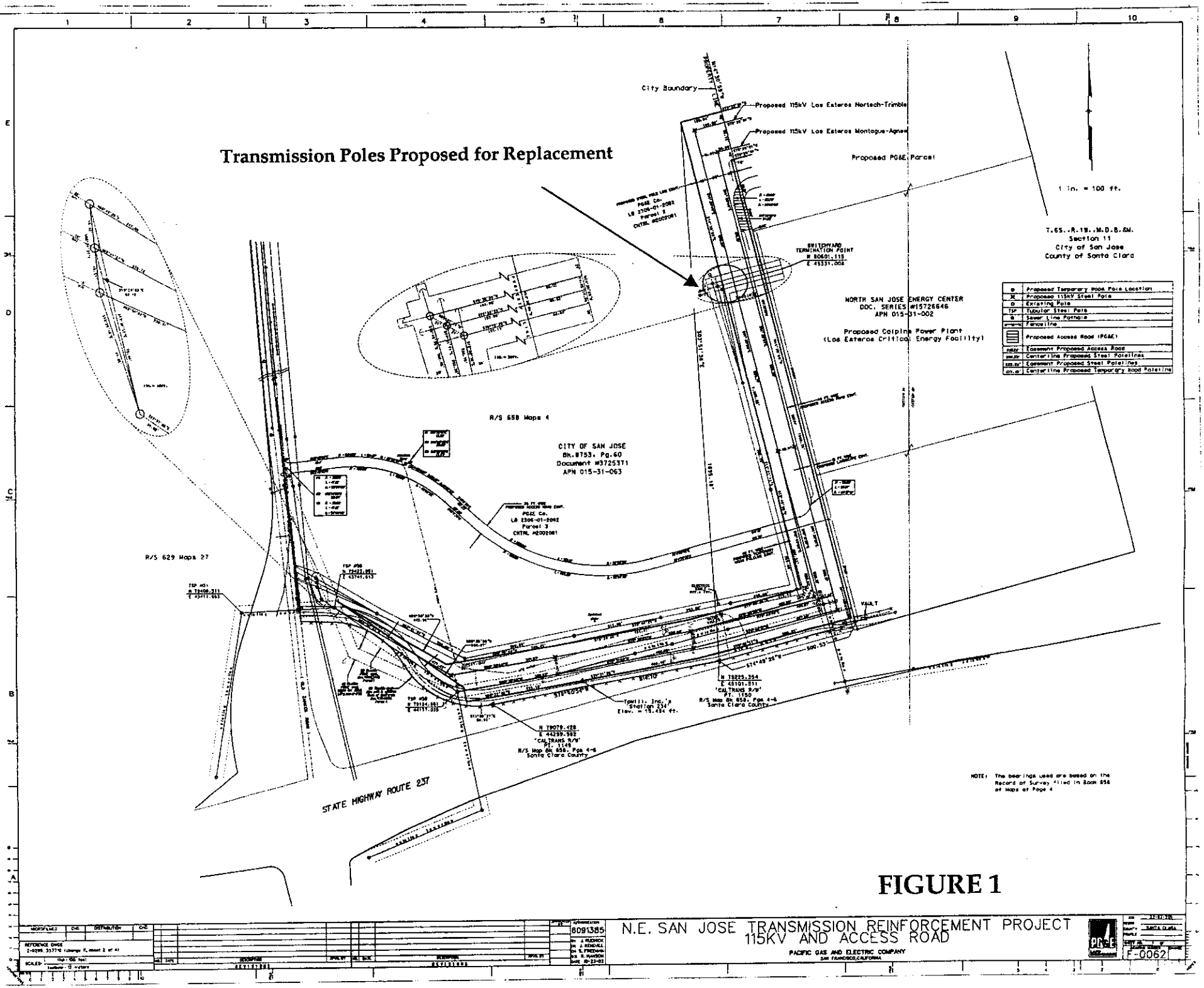
As discussed below, the new temporary tap line will not result in a change or deletion of a condition adopted by the Commission in the final decision or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations or standards.

## 1.2 Summary of Environmental Impacts

Section 1769 (a)(1)(E) of the CEC Siting Regulations requires that an analysis be conducted that addresses the impacts the modification might have on the environment and proposed measures to mitigate any significant adverse impacts. In addition, Section 1769 (a)(1)(F) of the Siting Regulations requires a discussion of the impacts the modification might have on the project's ability to comply with applicable LORS. Section 3.0 of this Amendment includes a discussion of the potential environmental impacts of the electrical interconnection scheme, as well as a discussion of the consistency of the modification with LORS. Section 3 concludes that there will be no significant environmental impacts associated with the Amendment and that the project as amended will comply with applicable LORS.

## 1.3 Consistency of Amendment with License

Section 1769 (a)(1)(D) of the CEC Siting Regulations requires a discussion of the Amendment's consistency with the LORS and whether the modifications are based upon new information that changes or undermines the assumptions, rationale, findings, or other bases of the final decision. If the project is no longer consistent with the license, an explanation why the modification should be permitted must be provided. The proposed new shorter, temporary tap line interconnection scheme is consistent with the applicable LORS. In addition, the new temporary tap line interconnection scheme is based upon new information, but it does not change or undermine any bases for the final decision. Furthermore, the new temporary tap line interconnection scheme will assist PG&E with maintaining a reliable electrical grid in the North San Jose area.


Transmission Poles Proposed for Replacement
City Boundary
Proposed 115kV Los Esteros Nortech-Trimble
Proposed 115kV Los Esteros Montague-Agnew
Proposed PG&E Parcel
1 in. = 100 ft.
T.6S.,R.1W.,M.D.B.&M.
Section 11
City of San Jose
County of Santa Clara
SWITCHYARD TERMINATION POINT
NORTH SAN JOSE ENERGY CENTER
DOC. SERIES #15726646
APN 015-31-002
Proposed Calpine Power Plant
(Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility)
Proposed Temporary Wood Pole Location
Proposed 115kV Steel Pole
Existing Pole
Tubular Steel Pole
Sewer Line Manhole
Fenceline
Proposed Access Road (PG&E)
Easement Proposed Access Road
Centerline Proposed Steel Poleline
Easement Proposed Steel Poleline
Centerline Proposed Temporary Wood Poleline
R/S 658 Maps 4
CITY OF SAN JOSE
Bk.8753, Pg.60
Document #3725371
APN 015-31-063
PG&E Co.
LB 2306-01-2002
Parcel 3
CNTRL #2002081
R/S 629 Maps 27
VAULT
STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 237
NOTE: The bearings used are based on the Record of Survey filed in Book 858 of Maps at Page 4
N.E. SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT
115KV AND ACCESS ROAD
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
6091385
F-0062

# FIGURE 1

# 2.0 Description of Project Amendment

Consistent with California Energy Commission Siting Regulations Section 1769 (a)(1)(A) and 1769(a)(1)(B), this section includes a complete description of the project modification, as well as the necessity for the amendment.

## 2.1 Project Description

Currently, the LECEF is utilizing a temporary interconnect to PG&E's system with a .6 mile temporary tap line to the Nortech-Trimble 115 kV line. Effective 5/24/2003 this temporary connection can no longer be maintained by PG&E and the LECEF will have to be connected via a shorter temporary tap line (one span out from the LECEF substation) to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech 115 kV line. This new temporary interconnection is expected to be completed by PG&E on 5/26-27/2003. The proposed changes to the project's temporary interconnection involves shortening the existing temporary interconnect, from .6 miles to 250 feet, and replacement of three 60 foot wooden poles with three taller wooden poles (65 feet) to facilitate an aerial connection directly to PG&E's new Los Esteros-Nortech circuit. The remainder of the temporary tap line poles will be removed as licensed. The new temporary tap line will be owned and operated by PG&E. Only minor relay setting changes are required at the LECEF facility for protection, and PG&E has installed a direct underground fiber optic line between LECEF and Los Esteros Substation for communication purposes between the two facilities. Figure 1 shows poles to be removed and those to be replaced.

## 2.2 Necessity of Proposed Change

Section 1769 (a)(1)(B) and 1769(a)(1)(C) of the CEC Siting Regulations require a discussion of the necessity for the proposed changes to the project and whether this modification is based on information that was known by the petitioner during the certification proceeding. In order to continue operation of the LECEF project, this new shorter temporary interconnection must be initiated. In order to commission the new Los Esteros substation, PG&E must reconfigure transmission connections to this substation. The LECEF project is confronted with a situation where it is unable to continue its current temporary interconnection to the Nortech-Trimble 115 kV line as PG&E will decommission the section of the line after May 24, 2003. This new temporary interconnect will permit the continued operation of LECEF as a simple cycle plant, improving system reliability, until the permanent interconnect is completed.

# 3.0 Environmental Analysis of the Project Changes

The proposed project change set forth in this Amendment will result in improved operational reliability of PG&E's electrical system in the North San Jose area and does not result in any environmental impacts. An analysis of each of the environmental areas is presented below for the proposed Amendment.

## 3.1 Air Quality

There will be minimal fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions associated with the removal of the existing temporary transmission line poles and the installation of the three new temporary poles. This impact is expected to be finite and temporary. No significant impact is expected.

Operation of the new interconnection will not result in any air emissions.

## 3.2 Biological Resources

The removal of the existing temporary transmission line poles and the installation of the new temporary poles is occurring in an area where PG&E is currently constructing numerous other transmission lines. The area around this work is heavily disturbed and devoid of biological resources based on ongoing biological monitoring for the LECEF project. The three new temporary poles are being installed in the same location as three existing temporary poles. No impacts to biological resources are expected from the work.

Operation of the new interconnection will not impact biological resources.

## 3.3 Cultural Resources

The removal of the existing temporary transmission line poles and the installation of the new temporary poles is occurring in an area where PG&E is currently constructing numerous other transmission lines. The area around this work is heavily disturbed. The three new temporary poles are being installed in the same location as three existing temporary poles. In addition, the work area was surveyed and cleared as part of the ongoing Cultural Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Program. Therefore, no impacts to cultural resources is expected during the work.

Operation of the new interconnection will not impact cultural resources.

## 3.4 Land Use

The new interconnection in on land that is zoned for industrial development and is appropriately zoned for the transmission lines and power plant. Removal of the existing

temporary transmission line poles and the installation of the new temporary poles will not impact land uses nor will it violate any City of San Jose zoning regulations.

The operation of the transmission line will not result in any land use impacts.

## 3.5 Noise

The removal of the existing temporary transmission line poles and the installation of the new temporary poles is expected to result in a temporary and finite increase in noise levels due to the construction equipment. Construction equipment expected to be used is an augur truck, concrete truck, a manlift and a crane. Construction is expected to take less than a week and will occur during daytime hours. As presented in the Commission Decision, the construction noise impacts due to the LECEF project were considered less than significant. Furthermore, due to the reduced number of construction equipment proposed for this proposed amendment and the limited duration and the noise impacts from this proposed change are also expected to be less than significant.

The operation of the new temporary interconnection will not result in any measurable increase in noise impacts over the existing noise environment.

## 3.6 Public Health

As stated above, the construction and operation of the new temporary interconnection will not result in an increase in criteria or toxic air pollutants. Therefore, the public health impacts will be the same as those analyzed in the Commission Decision.

## 3.7 Worker Safety and Health

The new temporary interconnection construction or operation will not result in worker safety and health impacts any greater than those analyzed by the Commission during licensing.

## 3.8 Socioeconomics

The new temporary interconnection construction or operation will not result in socioeconomic impacts any greater than those analyzed by the Commission during licensing.

## 3.9 Agriculture and Soils

The new temporary interconnection construction or operation will not result in soil and agricultural impacts any greater than those analyzed by the Commission during licensing.

## 3.10 Traffic and Transportation

The construction of the new temporary interconnection will require three additional truck trips and 100 additional worker trips over the during construction (5 workers, 2 trips per day per

worker for 10 days). This temporary increase in truck and employee trips will result in a less than significant impact to traffic and transportation.

## 3.11 Visual Resources

The replacement temporary transmission line poles as viewed from either KOP 1 or KOP 2 (Figure 1 in the Visual Resource Section of the Commission Decision – page 330) would be in the foreground with the LECEF and PG&E Los Esteros Substation immediately behind, and would be framed by the Los Esteros-Nortech 115 kV transmission line. In this context, the additions of the temporary replacement poles (approximately five feet taller than the existing wooden poles) would not represent a significant change to the existing viewshed and is not expected to result in a significant visual impact. In addition, the shortening of the temporary interconnect will result in removal of eighteen poles from the current temporary interconnect.

## 3.12 Hazardous Materials Management

The construction of the new temporary interconnection will involve the use of hazardous materials, in the form of lubricants, fuel oil (for diesel fuels and lubricants used in the construction equipment). With the exception of the lubricants and fuels used in the construction vehicles, no other hazardous materials will be stored at the construction site. Any hazardous materials not used in the construction vehicles will be transported to and from the construction sites by the construction contractor in compliance with all applicable LORS.

No hazardous materials are expected to be used during the operation of the new temporary interconnection.

## 3.13 Waste Management

The construction of the new temporary interconnection will generate very little waste materials. The hazardous wastes may include very small quantities of spent lubricants. The non-hazardous waste will be in the form of packing materials, waste wood, paper, glass, and plastic. The project is not expected to generate significant quantities of either hazardous or non-hazardous waste.

Hazardous wastes are not expected to be generated during construction. Non-hazardous wastes will be handled in accordance with applicable LORS, and disposed of by licensed waste disposal contractors. Additionally, the volume of waste generated by the construction is not expected to be significant.

The operation of the new temporary interconnection is not expected to generate significant waste materials.

## 3.14 Water Resources

During construction of the new temporary interconnection, recycled water from the existing LECEF facility may be required to control fugitive dust. However, as the construction period is expected to last less than 1 week, the amount of recycled water used will be very low. No

impacts are expected to either surface or ground water during construction or operation of the new temporary interconnection. Therefore, the new temporary interconnection construction or operation will not result in water resource impacts any greater than those analyzed by the Commission during licensing.

## 3.15 Geologic Hazards and Resources

The new temporary interconnection construction or operation will not result in geologic hazard and resource impacts any greater than those analyzed by the Commission during licensing of the project.

## 3.16 Paleontological Resources

The construction of the new temporary interconnection will be primarily in disturbed soils. The foundations for the replacement poles are expected to be at a depth of 9 feet and are not expected to disturb any soils that were not previously disturbed during the initial project construction.

The operation of the new temporary interconnection will not result in any paleontological resource impacts.

## 3.17 Cumulative Impacts

This Amendment will not change the assumptions or conclusions made in the Commission Decisions. The new, shorter temporary interconnection will allow for the removal of the longer existing temporary interconnection, which will result in cumulatively beneficial impacts.

## 3.18 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Standards

The Commission Decision certifying the LECEF project concluded that the project complied with all applicable LORS. As shown above, the potential impacts from this Amendment will be equal to or less than the impacts analyzed in the Commission Decision.

# 4.0 Proposed Modifications to the Conditions of Certification

Consistent with the requirements of the CEC Siting Regulations Section 1769 (a)(1)(A), this section addresses the proposed modifications to the project's Conditions of Certification.

The construction and operation of the new temporary interconnection will not require the modifications to any of Conditions of Certification.

# 5.0 Potential Effects on the Public

Consistent with the requirements of the CEC Siting Regulations Section 1769 (a)(1)(G), this section addresses the proposed Amendment's effects on the public.

The proposed new, shorter temporary interconnection will not adversely impact the public. The removal of the existing longer temporary interconnection will be beneficial to the public.

# 6.0 List of Property Owners

Consistent with the CEC Siting Regulations Section 1769(a)(1)(H), this section lists the property owners affected by the proposed modifications:

City of San Jose:

Evet Loewen
Chief Deputy City Attorney,
City of San Jose, Office of the City Attorney
151 West Mission Street
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: 408-277-2401
Facsimile: 408-277-3159
Email: evet.loewen.ci.sj.ca.us

PG&E:

Tom Marki
4400 Mansfield
Danville, CA 94506
Phone: 925-736-3723
Cell Phone: 415-302-6788
Email: TxM4@pge.com

# 7.0 Potential Effects on Property Owners

Consistent with the CEC Siting Regulations Section 1769(a)(1)(I), this section addresses potential effects of the proposed Amendment on nearby property owners, the public, and parties in the application proceeding.

Due to the temporary nature of construction-related activities, the proposed new temporary interconnection will not create any significant impacts. The modification will not change the assumptions or conditions of approval for the project license.