



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company**

650 O Street  
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

June 4, 1999

Ms. Gena Francis  
Fresno County Public Works  
Development Services Division  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721



JUN 10 1999

FRESNO COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RE: Notice of Preparation

Dear Ms. Francis:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) acknowledges receipt of the County of Fresno Notice of Preparation (NOP) dated April 30, 1999, for the new General Plan Update.

Your NOP indicates a great deal of investigation and study is required to complete the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the comprehensive update to the General Plan. On page 5, you list the elements of the General Plan to be covered in the Draft EIR. Of importance to PG&E is the topical element entitled "Public Facilities." On page 7, you again address the element "Public Facilities and Services." Further, you list the subheadings of areas that may be impacted such as water supply and delivery, wastewater collection and treatment, law enforcement, fire protection and schools. The missing element under "Public Facilities" seems to be electric and gas service.

The County's EIR must evaluate the electric and gas service needs created by the proposed General Plan Update. PG&E is committed to providing safe, reliable and dependable service to the outlying areas of the County of Fresno and the incorporated areas of numerous cities as well. However, increasing demands on our existing electrical system due to continued and cumulative development in Fresno County are causing PG&E great concern. The continued growth, as outlined by your NOP, will make a significant impact on our facilities. In order to meet these growth projections, PG&E will need to construct new electrical facilities, including new substations and power lines with voltages up to 230,000 volts within the estimated time frame of year 2020.

In the very near future, PG&E estimates it will need to construct 3 substations and approximately 15 miles of new 70, 000-volt or 115,00-volt lines. These improvements to the electrical system are required by year 2002 and should be analyzed in as much detail as possible in the County's EIR. Moreover, in order to meet the projected growth into year 2020, PG&E will likely need an additional 6 substations. The estimated line extension is in the range of about 100 miles, which includes a 230, 000-volt line into the northern area of Fresno. All of these projected power upgrades should be discussed in

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the EIR, so that the public is on notice that the General Plan's projected growth will necessarily increase the need for expanded power facilities.

Because the Public Utility Commission has sole jurisdiction of the referenced improvements, it is incumbent on you to provide all correspondence to the CPUC for comment as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. All comments provided to you by PG&E will also be provided to the CPUC.

PG&E looks forward to participating in the General Plan Update. Please contact me at (559) 263-5239 to discuss the Public Utilities and Services when you require more detailed information.

Respectfully submitted,

*Galen Raymond pt*

Galen Raymond  
Senior Associate Planner

c: California Public Utility Commission  
505 Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
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