

**Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
69 kV Electric Transmission Line
Vegetation Management Program**

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration



**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
North Coast Redwoods District
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531**

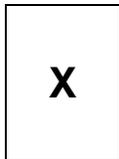
June 2013

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
North Coast Redwoods District

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
69 kV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MND

In accordance with California Department of Parks and Recreation policies regarding implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, California Department of Parks and Recreation has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and on the basis of that study hereby finds:



Although the proposed project could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, there will not be a significant adverse effect in this case because the Mitigation Measures described in this document have been incorporated as part of the project. An Environmental Impact Report is therefore not required.

The environmental documents which constitute the Initial Study and provide the basis and reasons for this determination are attached and hereby made a part of this document.

PROJECT:

Title:	Pacific Power 69 kV Electric Transmission Line 87, Vegetation Management Program
Location:	Within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park in Del Norte County, California
Description:	Pacific Power proposes to conduct vegetation management activities in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park along the Line 87 power line. This Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) covers the section of Line 87 that is located within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Line 87 requires vegetation management work to comply with State and federal clearance requirements. Pacific Power's existing vegetation management program controls tall growing vegetation under or around Pacific Power's power lines to provide safe and reliable power to its customers. Vegetation conditions can often pose significant threats to transmission facilities, which can result in lengthened power outages and safety risks for the public. This MND addresses potential environmental impacts from the Vegetation Management Program and provides Mitigation Measures to reduce those impacts.
Lead Agency:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation One Capitol Mall, Ste. 410 Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact Person:	Patricia DuMont Environmental Compliance Supervisor Northern Service Center Phone: 916-445-9081 ceqansc@parks.ca.gov

NOTICE:

This document and supporting attachments are provided for review by the general public. This document and supporting attachments is available at the following locations:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall – Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Parks and Recreation
North Coast Redwoods District
3431 Fort Avenue
Eureka, CA 95503

California Department of Parks and Recreation
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Del Norte County Library
190 Prince Mall
Crescent City, CA 95531

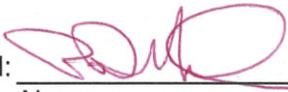
California Department of Parks and Recreation Internet Website.
http://parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=980

This is an information document about environmental effects only. Supplemental information is on file and may be reviewed in the offices listed above. The project site is not designated on the hazardous materials list that has been compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that this document reflects the independent judgment of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. As the Lead Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation confirms that the project Mitigation Measures detailed in this document are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The 30-day review period begins June 3, 2013 and ends July 3, 2013. This Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration may become final unless written comments or an appeal is received by the office listed above by 5 pm, July 3, 2013. If you wish to appeal the appropriateness or adequacy of this document, address your written comments to our finding that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment: (1) identify the environmental effect(s), why they would occur, and why they would be significant, and (2) suggest any mitigation measures which you believe would eliminate or reduce the effect to an acceptable level. Regarding item (1) above, explain the basis for your comments and submit any supporting data or references. Send your comments to Patricia DuMont, Environmental Compliance Supervisor at the physical address or email address listed previously.

This notice is hereby considered the California Department of Parks and Recreation Notice of Intent to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pacific Power 69 kV Electric Transmission Line 87, Vegetation Management Program.

Signed:  _____
Name

Dated: 6.3.13 _____

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AB	Assembly Bill
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
CalFire	California Department of Forestry and Fire
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Chambers	Chambers Group, Inc.
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalents
CSP	California State Park(s)
dbh	diameter breast height
DNCR	Del Norte Coast Redwood
DNCRSP	Del Norte Coast Redwood State Park
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GPA	General Plan Amendment
HPDF	Historic Property Data File
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
km	kilometer
km ²	kilometers squared
kV	kilovolt
MCW	Mill Creek Watershed
mi	mile
mi ²	miles squared
mph	miles per hour
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCIC	North Coastal Information Center
NCUAQMD	North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

(Continued)

NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
PacifiCorp	Pacific Power Corporation
PM	particulate matter
PM ₁₀	particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less
RNSP	Redwood National and State Parks
ROG	reactive organic gas
ROW	right-of-way
SO _x	sulfur oxides
SSC	Species of Special Concern
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UTV	utility terrain vehicle

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Pacific Power proposes to conduct vegetation management activities in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park (State Park) along the Line 87 power line. This Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) covers the section of Line 87 that is located within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park (Figure 1 Regional Map and Transmission Line Location).

The IS/MND has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed vegetation management activities in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park along the Line 87 power line located in Del Norte County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et seq.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, an MND may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b) (1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose...." The lead agency for the proposed project is the Department of Parks and Recreation. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Patricia DuMont
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Environmental Compliance Supervisor
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Ste. 410
Sacramento CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-9081 / ceqansc@parks.ca.gov

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant adverse impacts or reduce them to a less than significant level.

This IS/MND will be used by Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as the lead agency, and the public at large, in evaluating the environmental impacts of the project. The primary approval in connection with the project is to approve the IS/MND pursuant to CEQA.

This document is organized as follows:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter is an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

Chapter 2 – Project Description

This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

Chapter 3 – Environmental Checklist

This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

Chapter 4 – Mandatory Findings of Significance

This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to the environment, cumulative impacts and impacts to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

Chapter 5 – Summary of Mitigation Measures

This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project from the Initial Study.

Chapter 6 – Summary of Monitoring Plan

This chapter describes the monitoring that will be used to ensure that all mitigation measures are implemented as planned during project construction.

Chapter 7 – References

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

Chapter 8 – Report Preparation

This chapter includes a list of report preparers.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the Environmental Checklist and the supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Vegetation Management Program for the Pacific Power 69 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line 87 in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park would result in less than significant impacts for all the issues addressed in the CEQA Initial Study checklist: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems, and cumulative impacts.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, an MND shall be prepared if the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that an MND be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

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