



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

408 Permission Section

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408**

TITLE: PG&E Gas Pipeline Sacramento River Crossing Retirement (19372)

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:

Begins: April 17, 2019

Ends: May 16, 2019

REQUESTER: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E; requester) has requested permission through the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB; non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, an existing federal flood risk management project, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1917.

LOCATION: The proposed project is located 0.2 miles upstream from the I-80 Sacramento River Bridge. Proposed project activities would occur on both the west and east side of the Sacramento River which divides Yolo and Sacramento Counties, California (attachment 1).

REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTION: Project approval would grant permission to the CVFPB for the PG&E to excavate two access bell holes in the left (east) and two access bell holes in the right (west) bank levees of the Sacramento River (total of four) to allow for the abandonment of two existing 12-inch diameter gas pipelines (L-119A and L-119A-1) and to inspect two adjacent abandoned 10-inch diameter gas pipelines (original L-119A and L-119A-1 pipelines). Inspection of the two abandoned pipelines would be to ensure they are properly abandoned and capped. The proposed project would also include the removal of approximately 0.02 acres of riparian vegetation and the removal of a single invasive tree (attachment 2).

Bell holes 1 and 2 would be located on the west side of the Sacramento River. Bell hole 1 would be outside of the levee prism, it would be approximately 8-feet by 8-feet within an existing PG&E concrete vault and would be used for launching the cell crete slurry. Bell hole 1 would also be used to replace the blind flanges, remove the vault lid, break the vault floor, and backfill the vault. Bell hole 2 would be along the river side on the levee prism and would be approximately 12- feet by 12-feet, this location would serve as the concrete slurry receiving point and would be used to confirm that the retired lines are capped. At this location, a valve and small segments of the pipelines would be removed, and the remaining pipelines would be capped.

Bell holes 3 and 4 would be located on the east side of the Sacramento River. Bell hole 3 would be approximately 12 feet by 12 feet, this location would be used to confirm that the retired lines are capped. Bell hole 4 would be an approximate 12-foot by 30-foot excavation on the east side of the Sacramento River. This location would serve as the concrete slurry launching point; also, a valve and small segments of the pipelines would be removed, and the pipelines would be capped.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project area is located on the east and west banks of the Sacramento River, at the project location there is a levee on each bank, with minimal riparian vegetation and invasive herbaceous species. At bell hole 1, six redwoods and one live oak would be trimmed and approximately 1500 square feet of brush would be removed. At bell hole 2, approximately 0.02 acre of riparian vegetation would be removed. PG&E has committed to implementing number of best management practices (BMP's) and avoidance and minimization measures (AMM's). Some examples of these are: sediment controls for water quality, vehicle parking and storage located away from the waterway, environmental awareness training for employees, nesting bird surveys if work would be completed between February 1 and August 31, and a biologist would conduct pre-work surveys for Giant Garter Snake and Burrowing Owl if the worksite provides habitat for either species.

The project area provides suitable habitat for several species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. A biological assessment report will be prepared for the proposed project and USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service, as appropriate, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

A cultural resources inventory report will be prepared for the proposed project and USACE will initiate consultation with Native American tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 U.S.C. 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, Chief of Engineers. The USACE Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

LIMITS OF SECTION 408 AUTHORITY: A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). In addition, an approval under

Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project alteration under Section 408 will be based on several factors. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of requests for alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. In order for an alteration to be approved, the requester must demonstrate that the alteration does not impair the usefulness of the federally authorized project.

2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest evaluation depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and the nature of the proposed alteration and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be compared against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks and by the net impact of the alteration on the public interest using the public interest factors.

3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While USACE is responsible for ensuring environmental compliance, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the district identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The district will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; tribes; and other interested parties regarding the PG&E Gas Pipeline Sacramento River Crossing Retirement, a proposed alteration to an existing federally authorized project. Comments received

within 30 days of publication of this notice will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources and in the evaluation of whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest and/or would impair the usefulness of the authorized project. Only the specific activities that have the potential to occupy, use or alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project will be evaluated. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the Sacramento River Flood Control Project.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Identification Number 19372 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before May 16, 2019.

Kaleigh Maze, Biologist
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street, Room 1460
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Email: Kaleigh.Maze@usace.army.mil

Attachments:

- 1) Vicinity and Location Maps
- 2) Site Plans

Attachment 1: Vicinity and Location Maps

Vicinity Map

Beatrice


19372 - PG&E Gas Pipeline
Sacramento River Crossing



West Sacramento

Sacramento

Legend

 19372

2 mi

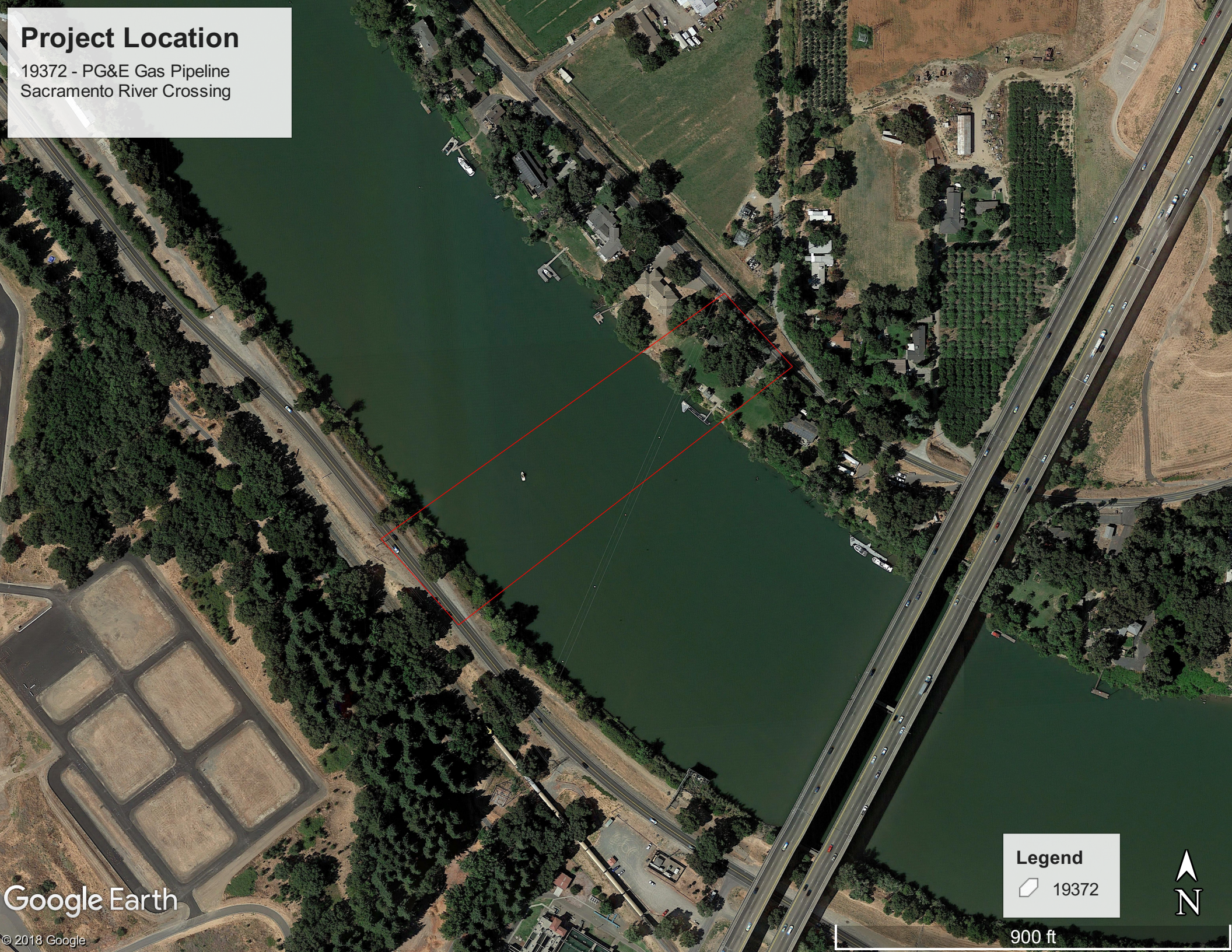


Google Earth

© 2018 Google

Project Location

19372 - PG&E Gas Pipeline
Sacramento River Crossing



Google Earth

© 2018 Google

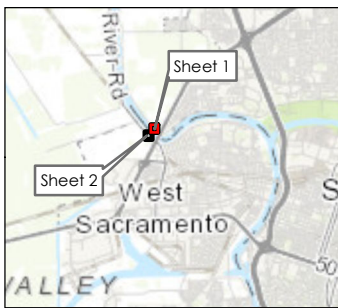
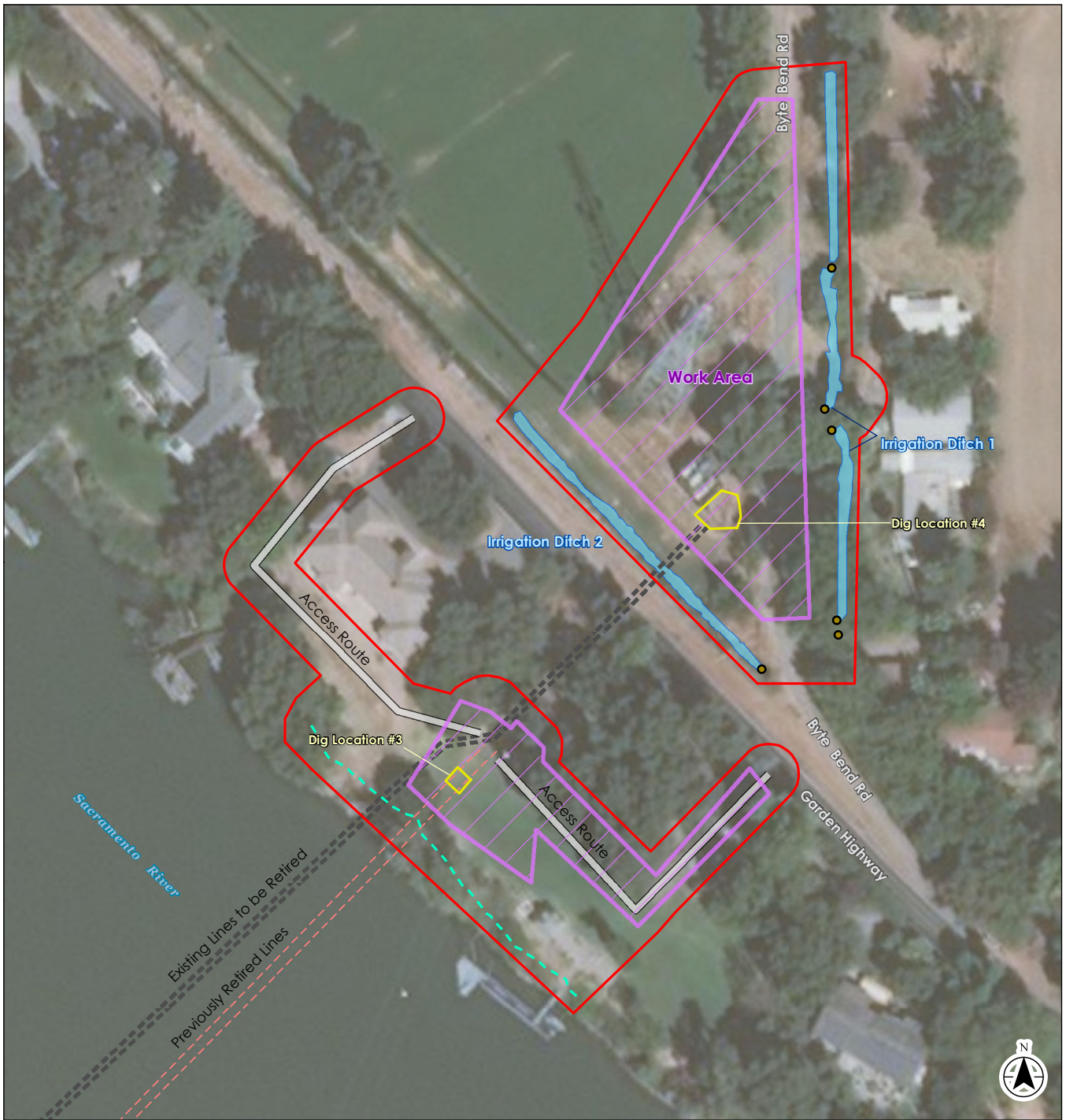
Legend

 19372

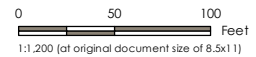


900 ft

Attachment 2: Site Plans



- Legend**
- Biological Study Area (3.49 ac)
 - Irrigation Ditch
 - Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)
 - Culvert
- Project Features**
- Existing Lines to be Retired
 - Previously Retired Lines
 - Work Area
 - Dig Location
 - Access Route



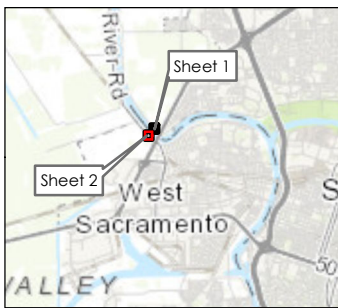
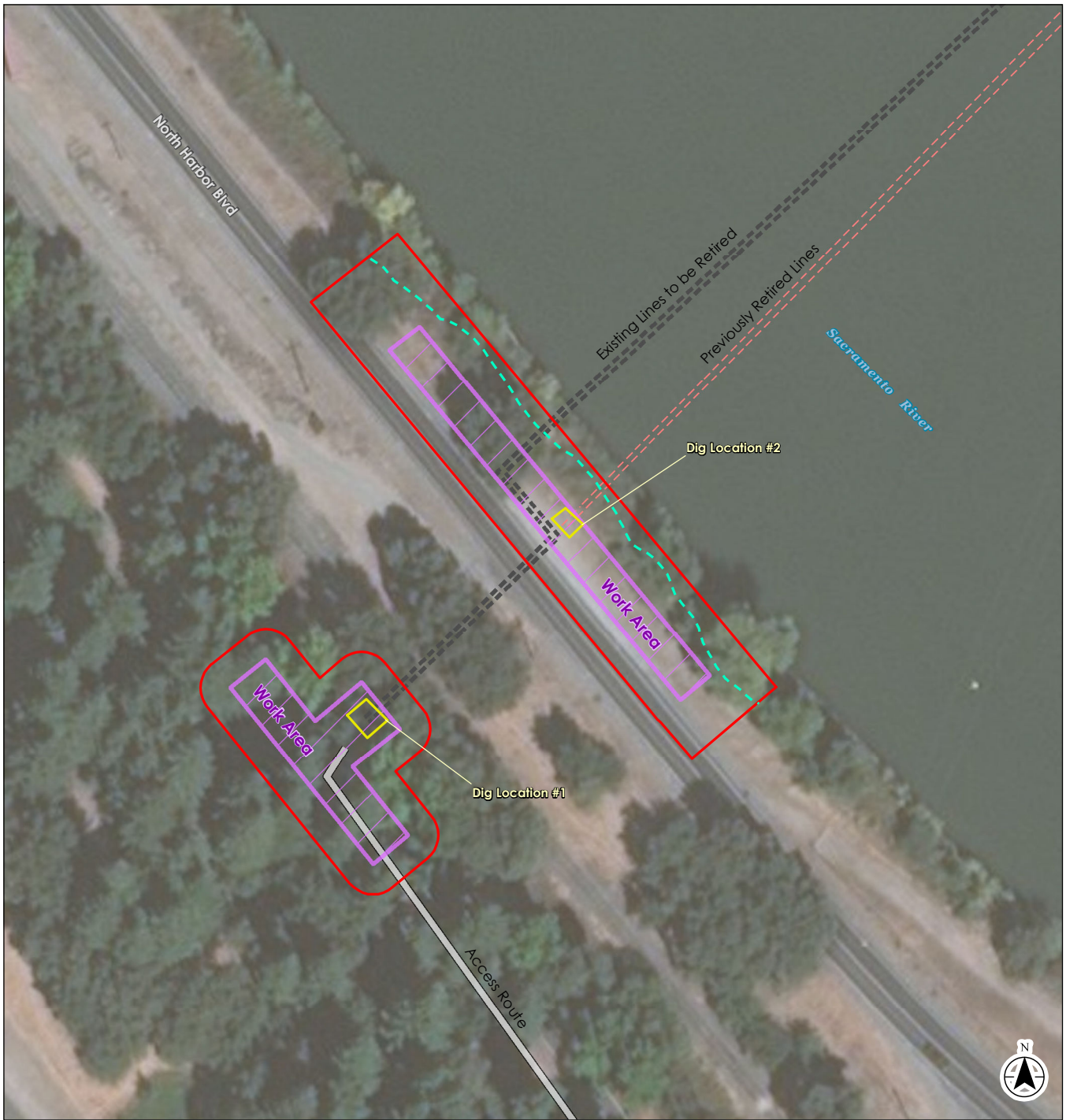
Project Location
Sacramento and West Sacramento, CA

Client/Project
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
R-415 L-119 and L-119A Pipeline Retirement

Figure No. **2** Sheet 1 of 2

Title
Project Activities

Disclaimer: Stantec assumes no responsibility for data supplied in electronic format. The recipient accepts full responsibility for verifying the accuracy and completeness of the data. The recipient releases Stantec, its officers, employees, consultants and agents, from any and all claims arising in any way from the content or provision of the data.



- Legend**
- Biological Study Area (3.49 ac)
 - Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)
- Project Features**
- Existing Lines to be Retired
 - Previously Retired Lines
 - Work Area
 - Dig Location
 - Access Route

0 50 100 Feet
1:1,200 (at original document size of 8.5x11)



Project Location
Sacramento and West Sacramento, CA

Client/Project
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
R-415 L-119 and L-119A Pipeline Retirement

Figure No. **2** Sheet 2 of 2

Title
Project Activities

Disclaimer: Stantec assumes no responsibility for data supplied in electronic format. The recipient accepts full responsibility for verifying the accuracy and completeness of the data. The recipient releases Stantec, its officers, employees, consultants and agents, from any and all claims arising in any way from the content or provision of the data.