



Public Notice

PG&E Remote Grid Installation Project at Whitaker's Forest Research Station

August 12, 2022

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Project Location and Description: The Project involves installation of a new remote solar micro-grid, referred to as a standalone power system (SPS), at the Whitaker's Forest Research Station within Whitaker's Forest. Whitaker's Forest is an approximately 350-acre forest plot owned and managed by the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) in Tulare County. The land surrounding Whitaker's Forest is federal public land: Sequoia National Forest and Kings Canyon National Park. Access to the Project site is via Forest Service Road 14S75. Once installed, the Project would provide existing residential structures on-site with a consistent and reliable source of electricity that would replace the need for the existing overhead electric distribution lines. PG&E will be responsible for installation, and for operation and maintenance, of the facility. The Project consists of a 12-panel solar array mounted on the roof of a new shipping container. Supporting infrastructure includes battery storage, a new driveway, and a new underground conduit between the solar array and the residential structures. The Project is part of PG&E's Remote Grids Pilot Program, a program within PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program.

Environmental Review: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), UC Berkeley has prepared an Initial Study for the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Remote Grid Installation Project (Project). Based on the Initial Study, UC Berkeley has determined that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect because UC Berkeley has incorporated into the Project mitigation measures that would avoid any significant effects of the project or reduce the effects to an insignificant level. Therefore, UC Berkeley intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. The proposed Project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Public Review and Comment: UC Berkeley is soliciting comments on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration from August 12, 2022, until September 13, 2022. The document is available for review electronically at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>. The document may also be reviewed during normal working hours at UC Berkeley at the following address: Physical & Environmental Planning 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382. Please call 510-642-6796 in advance.

The Notice of Intent is also available for review electronically at:
<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>.

Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration are due no later than 5:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Comments should be provided in writing to: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, UC Berkeley, Physical & Environmental Planning, 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382 or via email to: planning@berkeley.edu.

Project Inquiries: (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu