

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT**  
**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS**  
**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The following findings are adopted by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) with respect to Project No. CUH10201, San Joaquin Valley Communication System Upgrade Project (the Project) Final Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) 14 California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq. (the CEQA Guidelines), and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The project is proposed in order to replace existing slow, unreliable, and outdated communication systems with an integrated, modern, and reliable communication and control system for SFPUC water and power transmission system operations across the San Joaquin Valley. The San Francisco Planning Department is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project would provide an upgraded communication and control system for SFPUC facilities located primarily within the San Joaquin Valley. The project consists of the installation of microwave radio antennas on either existing or new radio towers at 20 project sites, located between Moccasin and Sunol, California, a distance of approximately 90 miles. The primary project components include new microwave antennas (parabolic dishes) at each site; new radio towers ranging from 20- to 140-feet tall at eight sites; photovoltaic solar panels at five sites; and emergency generators at two sites. The project sites are located on property owned by the SFPUC, within an easement granted to SFPUC, or at an existing radio tower site owned by another party.

Completing the project would achieve the following objectives:

- Establish a communication and control system that is consistent with North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Western Electricity Coordinating Council reliability standards and that is licensed in accordance with Federal Communication Commission (FCC) requirements;
- Support rapid communication between the SFPUC control centers and valve houses, pump stations, and other facilities along the SFPUC pipeline and power transmission systems in the San Joaquin Valley; and,
- Provide necessary bandwidth to support multiple functions, such as supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) communication, security, and power line protection.

Additional detail on the project description is presented in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.

### **III. BACKGROUND**

Based on an Initial Study, the Environmental Review Officer determined that there was no substantial evidence in light of the record that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of identified mitigation measures and on March 6, 2013 provided notice of her intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and noticed a 30-day public review period for the Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration ending on April 5, 2013. The Notification described the proposed Project and requested comments on environmental effects and was mailed to owners and occupants of properties within 300 feet of each project site, as well as to interested parties including local, regional, State and federal agencies. Notices were also published in newspapers, and posted at each site and in the offices of the San Francisco Planning Department.

Comments on the Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration were received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; City of Oakdale, Community Development and Services Department; City of Riverbank; Oakdale Irrigation District; Modesto Irrigation District; Stanislaus County, Environmental Review Committee; and Tuolumne County, Community Resources Agency; and minor revisions to the Mitigated Negative Declaration were completed by the San Francisco Planning Department. The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted by the San Francisco Planning Department on June 27, 2013. The preliminary and final versions of the Mitigated Negative Declaration were provided to members of the Commission, and supporting documents may be found in the files of the San Francisco Planning Department, as the custodian of records, located in File No.2012.0183E at 1650 Mission Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, California.

The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, dated June 27, 2013, is final, complete, and in accordance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The San Francisco Planning Department found that based on the record, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Project, given the implementation of the mitigation measures as stated in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and adopted herewith, will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the San Francisco Planning Department's independent judgment and analysis.

### **III. ACTIONS**

The actions of the SFPUC in connection with the Project include the following:

1. Adoption of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, these CEQA Findings, and the MMRP (Attachment B to the SFPUC project approval resolution); and

2. Approve the Project, as described herein, and authorize the General Manager or his designee to proceed with plans to obtain permits and approvals, as applicable, from local, state, and federal agencies.

SFPUC staff will return to the Commission at a future public meeting to request permission to award and execute a design-build agreement.

#### **IV. MITIGATION MEASURES AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

It is the intention of the SFPUC to avoid significant impacts through the adoption of all of the mitigation measures identified in the MMRP (Attachment B to this SFPUC project approval resolution), each of which is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference. CEQA requires agencies to adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes to the project which it has either required in the project or made a condition of approval to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects. The MMRP lists all of the mitigation measures and specifies the process by which all adopted mitigation measures are to be carried out, along with responsibilities for implementation and review.

The SFPUC shall ensure implementation of all mitigation measures identified in the MMRP either directly or via binding contractual mechanisms. The SFPUC finds that the measures it is adopting can be carried out by the SFPUC at the designated time and are feasible at this time.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

Pursuant to the terms of San Francisco Administrative Code section 31.11(h) and CEQA Guidelines section 15074, the SFPUC has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, public comments, and the record for the Project. Based upon the record, the SFPUC finds that the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the San Francisco Planning Department and there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Project, given the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in the MMRP and adopted herewith, would have a significant effect on the environment as analyzed and presented in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The SFPUC further finds that the proposed Project as approved herein is consistent with the project description contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and would not result in significant impacts not identified in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration or cause significant effects already identified in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration to be substantially more severe.