

DOCKETED

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CGS14-L-0008
April 4, 2014

Eric Veerkamp
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reference: Colusa Generating Station

Subject: Colusa Generating Station (06-AFC-9)
Condition of Certification COM-7(BIO-2) – Annual Operating Report

Dear Eric:

Attached is the final 2013 annual Biological Report as required by COM-7 and Bio-2 of the Final Commission Decision

Should you have any questions or comments please contact me at (530) 934-9007.

Regards,

Charles Price
Senior Environmental Consultant

cc: File No. 3.6.3.22
Ed Warner, PG&E
Jason Vann, PG&E

Colusa Generating Station, California Energy Commission Annual Compliance Report, Biology Section, 2013

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Manager

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Manager

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Colusa Generating Station CEC Designated Biologist

DATE: April 2, 2014

Introduction

This Colusa Generating Station (CGS) Biological Annual Compliance Report, 2013 fulfills the California Energy Commission (CEC) requirement in the Verification for Condition of Certification (COC) BIO-2 Sub-section 8. "Designated Biologist Duties, BIO-2, Sub-section 8; The duties of the Designated Biologist are to maintain written records of the tasks specified above and those included in the Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan, (BRMIMP). Summaries of these records shall be submitted in the monthly compliance report and the annual compliance report.

The CGS project was designed to avoid biological resources to the greatest extent feasible through development of mitigation and protection measures with informal consultation and discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), and the CEC. The CEC COCs for the CGS required that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) appoint a designated biologist to supervise compliance of mitigation measures as outlined in the CEC-approved BRMIMP during all phases of construction and operation. All construction COCs were implemented successfully during all phases of construction and continue to be implemented during operation of the CGS facility.

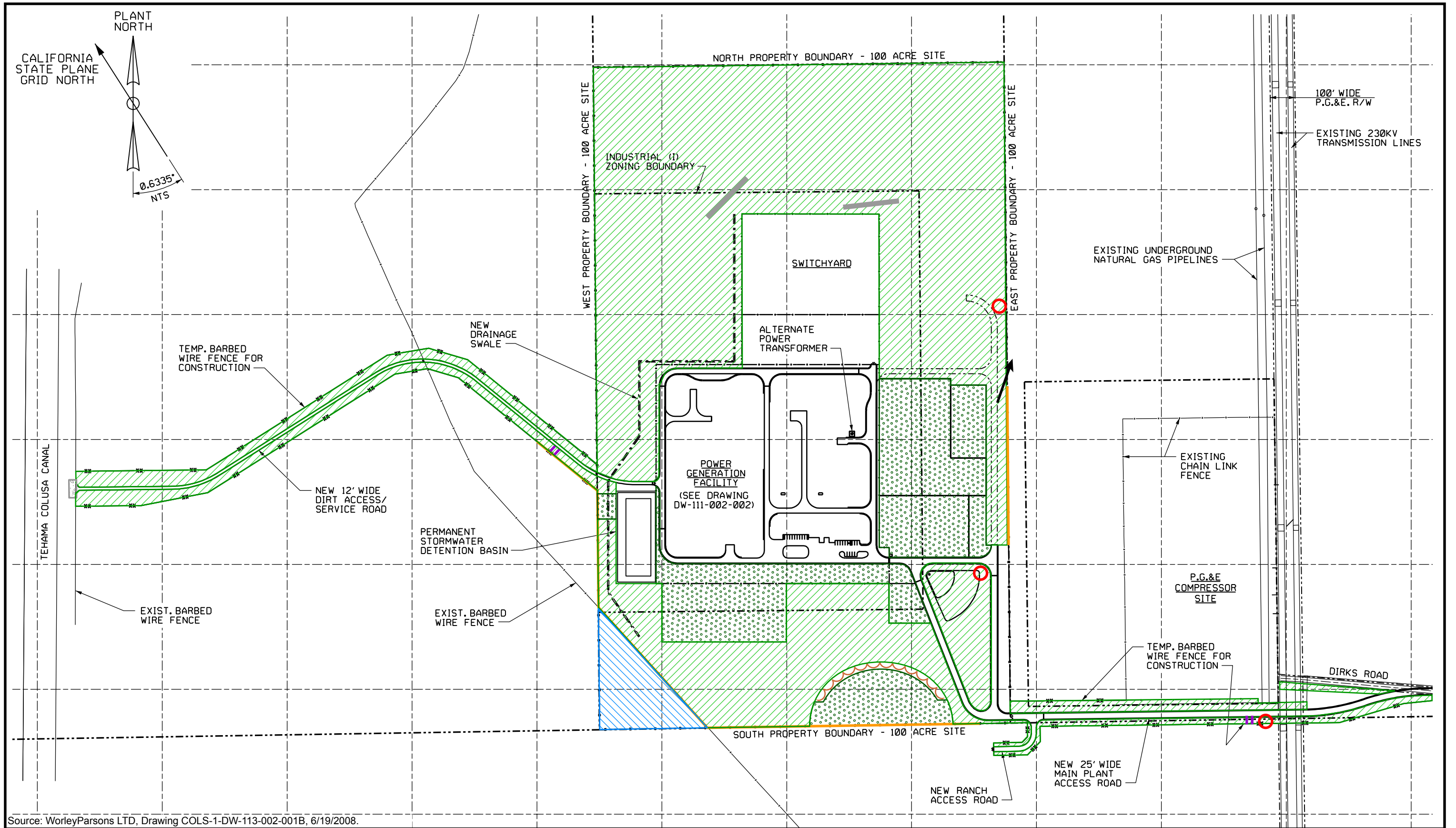
Project Location

The Colusa Generating Station (CGS) site is located approximately 4 miles west of Interstate 5, 14 miles north of the farming community of Williams, and 72 miles north of Sacramento, adjacent to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Delevan Natural Gas Compressor Station on Delevan Road in Colusa County, California. The power plant site is within the Holthouse Ranch and is within the eastern half of Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Figure 1).

Monitored Activities and Wildlife Interaction

Since completion of the CGS project PG&E has followed the CEC COC s and had the Designated Biologist perform pre-disturbance surveys when necessary and on numerous occasions called on the Designated Biologist to capture and relocate wildlife that were in harm's way or wildlife that could harm facility employees.

All new employees and contract workers received Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAP) via video and lecture. The Designated Biologist (DB) remained on-call during the 2013 year. The monitoring and compliance efforts for the year 2013 are documented below and within Appendix A, Site Photos; 1 through 28.



Source: WorleyParsons LTD, Drawing COLS-1-DW-113-002-001B, 6/19/2008.

LEGEND			
	Check Dam		Culvert
	Rip Rap		Alkali Grassland
	Fiber Roll		Drill Seeded
	Silt Fence		Vegetated
			Gravel
			Rip Rap-lined Swale

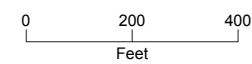


FIGURE 1
POST-CONSTRUCTION SITE MAP
 COLUSA GENERATING STATION
 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC

March 4th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager Charles Price concerning flocks of roosting birds near the switchyard and the heat exchanger. The large numbers of roosting birds were defecating on sensitive electrical equipment and causing a potential human health danger from the large concentrations of accumulated scat. The DB investigated the situation and determined that the birds were red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Brewer's blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). It appeared that the flocks of birds were utilizing the area to keep warm at night. The DB recommended using a loud air horn to disrupt the nesting birds and if the problem continued the utilization of a loud speaker system that played loud raptor noises to further persuade the birds to roost elsewhere. A follow-up phone call from the Compliance Manager stated that the roosting birds had moved on without harassment. Also, while on site the DB observed continued installation and updating of snake proof fencing around the perimeter of the CGS facility, Photo 2.

April 24th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*). The DB safely captured and released the rattlesnake off site, Photo 3.

April 27th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*) and a nesting killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) on site. The DB safely captured and relocated the rattlesnake off site, Photo 5. The DB instructed the plant operator to mark the killdeer nest location with orange cones and instruct plant personnel to keep out of immediate nest area, Photo 4.

April 29th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake and a gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) on the CGS site. The DB safely captured and released the rattlesnake and gopher snake off site, Photos 7 and 8. The DB also checked on the nesting killdeer and observed orange cones around the nest area, Photo 6.

May 1st, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance manager Charles Price concerning the observation of a juvenile English house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) that had fallen out of its nest in the water treatment building. Mr. Price stated that one of the employees was dropping the juvenile sparrow off at a wildlife care facility in Colusa.

May 2nd, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of two juvenile rattlesnakes observed near the gas chiller unit. The DB safely captured and released both snakes off site, Photo 9. While on site the DB observed CGS personnel repairing the snake fencing near the switchyard area, Photo 10.

May 8th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager Charles Price regarding the capture and safe release off site of a juvenile gopher snake, Photo 11.

May 28th, the DB was on site to perform a pre-disturbance survey of the vegetation surrounding the CGS plant prior to mechanical mowing for fire suppression. In the CGS parking lot the CGS Compliance Manager showed the DB a PG&E pickup that had been cordoned off because of an active nest observed under the hood of the vehicle, Photo 12. The DB walked meandering transects of the areas to be mowed and observed several abandoned mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) nests, red-winged blackbird nests, and the carcass of a dead female mallard duck that appeared to have been predated, Photos 13, 14 and 15. The DB also observed an active mallard nest and caught and relocated a gopher snake off site prior to mowing beginning, Photos 16 and 17.

May 29th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager Charles Price regarding the observation of a juvenile black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*) in the employee parking lot. The DB picked up the juvenile hare and transported it to the Wildlife Care Facility in Sacramento California, Photo 18.

May 30th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake. The DB safely captured and released the rattlesnake off site, Photo 19.

June 5th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager concerning the observation of a juvenile Western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) on the ground adjacent to one of the HRZG's. The DB traveled to the site and picked up the kingbird and dropped it off at the Wildlife Care Facility in Sacramento California, Photo 20.

June 6th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake. The DB safely captured and released the rattlesnake off site, Photo 21.

June 13th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager concerning the observation of a dead American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) observed on the ground within the CGS plant site. The DB directed the Compliance Manager to dispose of the carcass so duplicate reporting would not be generated, Photo 22.

July 17th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake on site. The DB traveled to the site and safely caught and relocated the snake off site.

July 22nd, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake on site. The DB traveled to the site and safely caught and relocated the snake off site, Photo 23.

August 12th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager concerning the observation of a dead immature red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) observed on the ground within the CGS plant site. The DB directed the Compliance Manager to dispose of the carcass so duplicate reporting would not be generated, Photo 24.

August 30th, the DB received a call from the CGS plant operator concerning the observation of a western diamond back rattlesnake on site. The DB traveled to the site and safely caught and relocated the snake off site, Photo 25.

September 30th, the DB received a call from the CGS Compliance Manager concerning the observation of a stick nest observed in some iron structures at the site. The DB stated that it was late in the year for birds to still be nesting however for safety sake the Compliance Manager cordoned off the area until the nest was determined to be abandoned, Photos 26 and 27.

November 11th, the CGS Compliance Manager reported a dead unidentified bird observed on the CGS plant site. The DB directed the Compliance Manager to dispose of the carcass so duplicate reporting would not be generated, Photo 28.

Conclusion

The Colusa Generating Station was in compliance with all biological mitigation and protection measures covered in the BRMIMP that are applicable to this operating facility during the year 2013.

Appendix A
Site Photos



Photo 1, roosting bird scat problem, 3/4/13.



Photo 2, snake fencing applied to outer perimeter fencing around CGS site, 3/4/13.



Photo 3, juvenile western diamond back rattlesnake prior to safe release off site, 4/24/13.



Photo 4, juvenile western diamond back rattlesnake cordoned off and awaiting relocation by CGS Designated Biologist, 4/27/13.



Photo 5, juvenile western diamond back rattlesnake prior to safe release, 4/27/13.



Photo 6, close-up of killdeer nest on CGS site, 4/27/13.



Photo 7, close-up of gopher snake prior to safe release off site, 4/29/13.



Photo 8, of western diamond back rattlesnake after capture on CGS site, 4/29/13.



Photo 9, of two western diamond back rattlesnake after capture on CGS site , 5/2/13.



Photo 10, of CGS employees repairing snake fencing near CGS switch yard, 5/2/13.



Photo 11, of juvenile gopher snake prior to safe release off site, 5/8/13.



Photo 12, of vehicle exclusion due to nesting birds under hood, 5/28/13.



Photo 13, of abandoned mallard duck nest as observed by Designated Biologist during pre-mowing survey, 5/28/13.



Photo 14, of abandoned red-winged blackbird nest as observed by Designated Biologist during pre-mowing survey, 5/28/13.



Photo 15, of carcass of female mallard duck as observed by Designated Biologist during pre-mowing survey, 5/28/13.



Photo 16, of gopher snake prior to capture and safe release off site, snake observed during pre-mowing survey by Designated Biologist, 5/28/13.



Photo 17, of active mallard nest with flagging to prevent mowing in nest area, 5/28/13.



Photo 18, of juvenile black-tailed hare prior to dropping off at Wildlife Care Facility, 5/29/13.



Photo 19, of western diamond back rattlesnake after safe capture by Designated Biologist, 5/30/13.



Photo 20, of juvenile western kingbird prior to drop off at Wildlife Care Facility, 6/5/13.



Photo 21, of western diamond back rattlesnake prior to safe release off site by Designated Biologist, 6/13/13.



Photo 22, of dead American kestrel as observed by PG&E Compliance Manager, 6/19/13.



Photo 23, of western diamond back rattlesnake after capture and prior to relocation off site, 7/22/13.



Photo 24, of dead immature red-tailed hawk as observed on ground in northern portion of site 8/12/13.



Photo 25, of juvenile western diamond back rattlesnake prior to safe release off site, 8/30/13.



Photo 26, of stick nest as observed by PG&E Compliance Manager, 9/4/13.



Photo 27, exclusion area delineated by PG&E Compliance Manager, 9/4/13.



Photo 28, of undetermined dead bird species reported by the PG&E Compliance Manager, 11/11/13.