



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

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Mike Thomas, Chief, Conservation Planning Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825

Re: Request for time extension of the public comment period for Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's San Francisco Bay Area Operations and Maintenance, Federal Register/Vol. 82, No. 56/Friday, March 24, 2017.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) respectfully requests a 60-day time extension for the above referenced Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (PGE HCP). The Federal Register Notice states comments are due by April 24, 2017.

Despite the fact that CCCR has indicated an interest in the status of the proposed PGE HCP for several years, inquiring repeatedly of when the draft would be available for public review, we received no notice of the release of the draft document. The draft PGE HCP is formidable in size, the draft HCP itself is 570 pages, and the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA), another 280 pages. This document covers a vast area of nearly 402,500 acres and portions of ten Bay Area counties. The PGE HCP proposes to provide an incidental take permit for 32 federally listed species for a period of thirty years. The PGE HCP covers an array of habitats ranging from tidal marsh to oak savannah.

The Federal Register references a Notice of Intent (NOI) and 30-day public scoping period that occurred in 2006, over a decade ago, and states, "No significant issues were identified during the 30-day public scoping period." Clearly the environmental landscape has changed in the intervening years. Habitats have become more fragmented due to ever increasing development of open space and climate disruption is dramatically changing the ecological landscape for numerous species.

We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide the public adequate time to review the proposed HCP and EA, so that we may provide substantive comments. We are requesting a 60-day time extension.

Sincerely,

Carin High
CCCR Co-Chair