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Response to Emergency Authorization Request for Temporary Public Access Closure, Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Humboldt County- Waiver of Emergency Permit

Kris Vardas

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CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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January 27, 2016

Kris Vardas
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
1000 King Salmon Avenue
Eureka, CA 95503

VIA EMAIL: KAV6@pge.com

RE: Response to Emergency Authorization Request for Temporary Public Access Closure,
Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Humboldt County – Waiver of Emergency Permit

Dear Mr. Vardas:

On December 23, 2015, Commission staff received your telephone request to conduct emergency development without a permit. Based on the information you provided, Commission staff understands that PG&E identified damage caused by storm waves and high King Tides to the public access trail along the Humboldt Bay Power Plant shoreline. The trail is required pursuant to Coastal Development Permit No. E-05-001. You stated that conditions at the time of your request were too dangerous to allow a full inspection of the trail, though you noted that a gate had been damaged and water was over some sections of the trail. PG&E proposed to immediately close the trail to prevent hazards to public safety and to continue the temporary closure until January 31, 2016. The closure until the end of January would encompass the King Tides occurring in mid-January and would allow PG&E to conduct the necessary trail inspections during calmer conditions. As part of the closure, PG&E was to place signs at either end of the trail alerting the public to the temporary closure. The closure does not include the overlook at the south end of the trail, which provides a tsunami escape route to the residents and visitors in the nearby community of King Salmon.

I have determined that PG&E's emergency action is consistent with the provisions of Section 30611 of the Coastal Act, which allows the executive director to waive permit requirements for emergency situations such as you described. We will report this determination to the Coastal Commission at the next Commission meeting February 10-12 in Morro Bay, California. Please contact Tom Luster of the Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division at 415-904-5248 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


(cc) CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director