MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C04 was approved as Minute Item No. 04 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 08/21/96 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C04

A 8
S 4

08/21/96
PRC 7906 W 25284
L. Burks

GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT OF WAY USE

APPLICANT:
Delta Gas Gathering, Inc.
555 University Avenue, Suite 180
Sacramento, California 95825

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
A 0.62 acre parcel, more or less, of tide and submerged land located in the Sacramento River between Merritt (Yolo County) and Randall Island (Sacramento County).

LAND USE:
Construction of a six-inch welded steel natural gas pipeline to extend Delta's existing gas gathering system in Yolo County next to the Hudson #1 well (off South River Road) across the Sacramento River to Sacramento County.

PROPOSED LEASE TERMS:
Lease period:
Twenty years beginning August 15, 1996.

Consideration:
$ 139.50 per annum, with the State reserving the right to fix a different rental on each fifth anniversary of the lease.

Surety bond:
$ 10,000.

Public liability insurance:
Combined single limit coverage of $500,000.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003.

APPLICANT STATUS:

Applicant is permittee of upland.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Filing fee and processing costs have been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. Public Resources Code: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:

10/16/96

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15025), the staff has prepared a Proposed Negative Declaration identified as ND 675, State Clearinghouse No. 96052119. Such Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

   Based upon the Initial Study/Negative Declaration, the Proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15074(b).

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Sacramento and Yolo Counties, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, Reclamation District No. 150 (Yolo), Reclamation District No. 755 (Sacramento), The State Reclamation Board, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

State Lands Commission.

EXHIBITS:

A. Land Description
B. Location Map
C. Negative Declaration (SCH 96052119)
D. Summary of Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Proposed Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA
FINDING:

1. CERTIFY THAT A PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ND 675, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 96052119, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

3. ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN, AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT "D", ATTACHED HERETO.

SIGNIFICANT LANDS
INVENTORY FINDING:

THIS ACTIVITY INVOLVES LANDS IDENTIFIED AS POSSESSING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ. BASED UPON THE STAFF'S CONSULTATION WITH THE PERSONS NOMINATING SUCH LANDS AND THROUGH THE CEQA REVIEW PROCESS, IT IS THE STAFF'S OPINION THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, IS CONSISTENT WITH ITS USE CLASSIFICATION.

AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO DELTA GAS GATHERING, INC. OF A 20-YEAR GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT OF WAY USE, BEGINNING AUGUST 15, 1996; IN CONSIDERATION OF $ 139.50 PER ANNUM, WITH THE STATE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO FIX A DIFFERENT RENTAL ON EACH FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING DATE OF THIS LEASE; PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT COVERAGE OF $500,000; AND PROVISION OF A $10,000 SURETY BOND FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SIX-INCH WELDED STEEL NATURAL GAS PIPELINE CROSSING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER TO EXTEND DELTA'S EXISTING GAS GATHERING SYSTEM IN YOLO COUNTY NEXT TO THE HUDSON #1 WELL (OFF SOUTH RIVER ROAD) ACROSS THE SACRAMENTO RIVER TO SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

LAUGENOUR AND MEIKLE
CIVIL ENGINEERS

1757-16
January 26, 1996
P. J. A.

DESCRIPTION
for
CALIFORNIA ENERGY EXCHANGE CORPORATION
PROPOSED BORE LOCATION
RANDALL ISLAND
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A portion of projected Section 28, Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Yolo and Sacramento Counties, California, being more particularly described as follows:

A strip of land fifty (50) feet wide, lying twenty-five (25) feet on each side of the following described centerline:

Beginning at a point in the center of the levee road known as the South River Road (also known as County Road No. 140) on the Northwesterly or right bank of the Sacramento River in Yolo County, said point being distant South 80°20'05" West 77.78 feet from the most Southerly Southwest corner of Parcel 1 as said Parcel appears on Parcel Map No. 3405, filed September 24, 1985, in Book 7 of Parcel Maps, at Page 89, Yolo County Records; thence, from said POINT OF BEGINNING, leaving said levee road South 20°25'44" East 8.32 feet; thence South 13°01'11" East 653.86 feet to a point on the levee road on the Southeasterly or left bank of the Sacramento River in Sacramento County on Randall Island and being the end of this strip of land.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion lying above the ordinary high water marks of the Sacramento River.

CALENDAR PAGE
MINUTE PAGE

EXHIBIT "A"32
W25284 001373

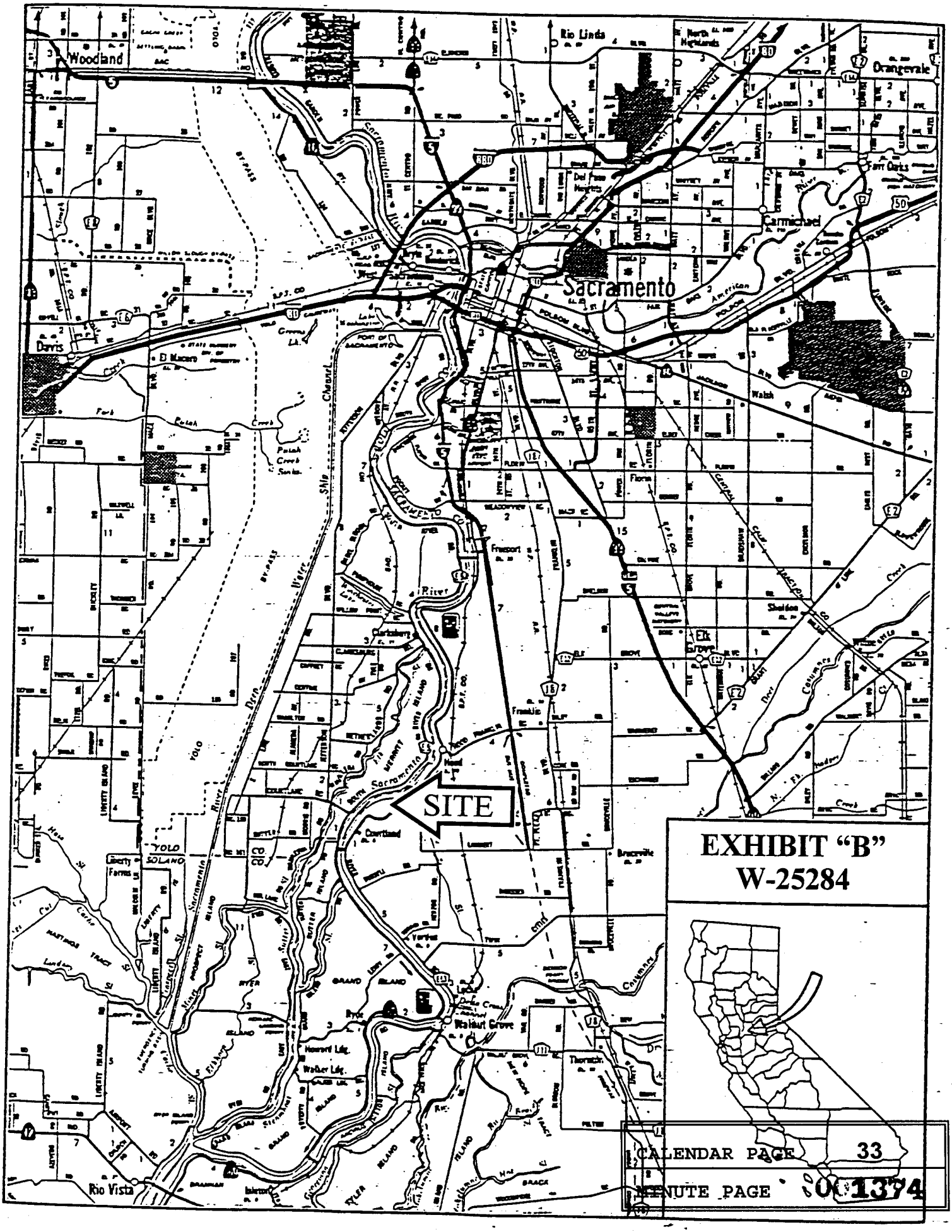


EXHIBIT "B"
W-25284

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

EXHBIT "C"

PETE WILSON, Governor

ROBERT C. HIGHT, *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 Fax (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service from TDD Phone 1-800-735-2922
from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2929

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

File:W25284
ND 675
SCH: 96052119

Project Title: East Courtland Pipeline

Proponent: Delta Gas Gathering, Inc.

Project Location: Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

Project Description: A six inch welded steel pipeline will be installed under the Sacramento River between Merrit Island (Yolo County) and Randall Island (Sacramento County).

Contact Person: Goodyear K. Walker Phone: (916) 574-1893

This document is prepared pursudant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code Regulations), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code Regulations).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

__X__ this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

___ mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

CALENDAR PAGE	34
MINUTE PAGE	001375

Delta Gas Gathering Inc.

East Courtland Pipeline
Project Description

I. **Overview of Project:**

A. **Applicant** - Delta Gas Gathering, Inc. (DGG) is an independent, privately owned gas gathering company presently operating in Yolo and Solano Counties. DGG has designed and constructed, and now owns and operates nearly eleven (11) miles of gas gathering pipelines. Although DGG is not considered a utility, it constructs and operates in compliance with regulations as found in the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Transportation, Subchapter D, Pipeline Safety, U.S. Department of Transportation* and the *California Public Utilities Commission General Order No. 112D.* These regulations provide strict guidelines for the design, construction, and operation of pipelines as may be operated by DGG. All of the pipelines operated by DGG are equipped with the applicable safety devices and systems to guarantee that our operations comply with reasonable standards for safety.

B. **Project Brief** - DGG proposes to install a six-inch welded steel natural gas pipeline beneath the Sacramento River between Merritt Island, in Yolo County, and Randall Island, in Sacramento County (see attached map). The crossing of the Sacramento River will be accomplished utilizing horizontal directional boring technology. The construction procedure is environmentally safe, and causes minimal disruption to any landowner activity. The actual length of the bored crossing will be 1,410 feet, and will maintain a minimum clearance beneath the river bed of 35 feet. The construction time is estimated to be 3 to 5 days during daylight hours only, and involve four crew members. The project area is not viewable from the public road, as the construction area is on private agricultural property and set back at least 200' from public roads. In addition, the entry and exit points are at partially graveled locations so that dust emission will be minimal. All equipment used will have industry standard mufflers to assure that noise is kept at a minimum. Traffic will also be minimal, as only one or two trucks will enter or exit the site during the construction. The California State Lands Commission, the primary jurisdictional body involved in this project, is designated as lead agency.

C. **Siting/Cultural Resources** - The project site for the pipeline crossing is the main channel of the Sacramento River. It is bounded on both shores by levees which are maintained by Reclamation Districts on each side of the river. The upland areas, outside of the levees, are on private agricultural lands. There are no known cultural, historic or archaeological features in the area of the project which will be impacted either during construction or operation of the pipeline.

Although no known cultural resources exist at this location, and the project area affected is less than 1/4 acre, should any cultural resources such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, human remains, or architectural remains be encountered during construction, all work will be suspended and the State Lands Commission will be notified and no construction activity will be resumed until the find has been evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and the construction site has been cleared for continued work. If human remains are found and are determined to be of Native American origin, the requirement for discovery outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act shall apply.

All construction activity will take place on private agricultural land, outside the bounds of the Sacramento River levees. The bore entry point will be set back over 500' from the south bank of the Sacramento River in Sacramento County and the bore exit point will be set back approximately 300' from the north bank of the Sacramento River in Yolo County. No disturbance or removal of any vegetation, other than agricultural, is involved, nor is there anticipated to be any displacement of endangered species during this short project. In addition, two soil exploration borings were taken by Raney Geotechnical of Sacramento at both entry and exit points of the project to confirm the suitability and stability of the soil for a bore at this location.

D. **Schedule** - Installation of this project is scheduled to occur during a 3 to 5 day period, between June 1 and July 31, 1996.

E. **Purpose** - The proposed pipeline crossing is a project to extend DGG's existing gas gathering system in Yolo County next to the Hudson #1 well (off South River Road - aka County Road E9 - just east of County Road 143) across the Sacramento River to Sacramento County.

The project is intended to offer access for new potential gas gathering and encourage further gas exploration. There is proprietary seismic data in the general vicinity of the project area, and at least two wells have been drilled approximately three miles south of the project area in the past year. Although it is unknown whether the gas wells are capable of commercial production, the existence of pipeline access is a necessity to any operator attempting to market its gas production. As a result, the potential exists for drilling operators, should they be successful in finding gas, to build a pipeline from their wells to DGG's pipeline to get the gas to market. Although the economic viability of constructing a pipeline from new wells to the DGG pipeline will depend on the amount of reserves of the gas discovered, the potential environmental impact of a new pipeline or pipelines leading to the proposed pipeline crossing should be minimal because there would be no change in the land use but merely a brief interruption in farming activity while a new pipeline would be built Any new pipeline project will be of relatively short duration on similar agricultural lands, and any future construction to DGG's pipeline will undergo whatever environmental review may be necessary with the appropriate public agencies having jurisdiction over the proposed route(s) at that time.

II. **Pipeline:**

A. **Specifications:**

1. Materials - The line pipe shall consist of 6.625" diameter by .280" wall thickness welded steel, weighing 18.97 lbs/ft. This pipe shall meet or exceed the quality standards established in the American Petroleum Institute (API) bulletin 5L (X-42). Mill welding by Electric Resistance Welding (ERW) steel will be mill-tested by radiography and hydrostatic means in conformity with API 5-L. The pipe shall be coated with 12 mils Fusion Bonded Epoxy or X-tru coating.

2. Design:

Yield Pressure	2,383 PSI
Test Pressure	1,847 PSI
Maximum Working Pressure	1,318 PSI

There will be no appurtenances such as flanges, junctions, reducers, pipe supports, anchors, thrust blocks, diffusers, manholes or any other devices, within or adjacent to the bored crossing. The pipeline shall be protected against external corrosion by cathodic means. Protection will consist of sacrificial anodes and Cathodic test stations. An anode

bed consisting of four 37.5 pound magnesium anodes will be located at the southern end of the bored crossing. Cathodic test stations will be located on both ends of the bored crossing.

B. **Installation:**

The following is the basic construction sequence and plan for the directionally drilled river crossing of the Sacramento River on the East Courtland Pipeline project.

1. A comprehensive survey of the directional route of the pipeline will be conducted, and the exact entry and exit points will be shot using EDM (Electronic Distance Measurement) equipment. Both horizontal and vertical control points will be established at the entry and exit points.

2. The following construction areas will be prepared:

   a. Drilling Site Area (south of river) - A shallow containment pit approximately 18" to 24" deep will be excavated covering a 10' by 10' area. The earth removed during excavation will be bermed around the perimeter of the pit. The center of this pit will be the insertion point of the pilot hole.

   b. Receiving (Exit) Site Area (north of river) - A shallow containment pit approximately 18" to 24" deep will be excavated covering a 10' by 10' area. The earth removed during excavation will be bermed around the perimeter of the pit. The center of this pit will be the exit point of the pilot hole.

   c. Pipe String Make-up Area (north of river and next to exit site area) - All brush and debris will be cleared from this area. Wooden cradles will be placed to accommodate the welding and testing of the product pipe string.

3. The product pipe string (6.625" ERW .280" Wall ASTM Grade X42 coated pipe) will be welded out, radiographically inspected, and hydrostatically tested to 1847 psi. The hydrostatic test water required to perform pre-installment testing on the pipeline will be sourced from the landowner's irrigation system on Randall Island. We calculate the water required to conduct the test will be 2,714 gallons. After the test has been conducted by out crew, the water will also be tested by a member of the landowner's staff. If the water meets acceptable standards, it will be utilized for irrigation in the orchard. If the water is unacceptable to the landowner, it will transported off site with a vacuum truck and disposed of at a licensed disposal site, as determined by the California Division of Oil & Gas.

4. The drilling contractor will use the following equipment at the drilling site:

   a. (1) Small drilling rig
   b. (1) Mud pump trailer
   c. (1) Backhoe
   d. (2) Sideboom tractors
   e. (2) Hydraulic boom trucks
   f. (1) Excavator

Access to the respective sides of the river is by either county road or state highway. There are adequate parking and storage areas at entry and exit areas. No clearing or disturbance of work areas is required, as these areas are presently used for agricultural equipment access and storage.

5. A steering tool system consisting of a probe located in the drilling head assembly, interface unit, and computer workstation will be used. The probe is the heart of the steering tool system and has six sensors which allow the driller to track the direction of the bore. A pilot hole utilizing the probe will be drilled and horizontal and vertical adjustments will be made at approximately 15 foot intervals to assure that the drilling profile matches the planned profile. Drilling mud (Bentonite slurry) will be used during advancement to erode the formation and aid in stabilizing the pilot hole.

6. Upon completion of the pilot hole, the steerable bottom hole assembly will be replaced with a reaming device of approximately eight (8) inches in diameter. The reamer will then be rotated and pulled back along the pilot hole profile toward the entry side. Bentonite slurry will be injected through the drill string to the reamer providing a carrier for the reamer cuttings and stabilizing the reamed hole. When the reamer reaches the entry side it will be pushed back through the hole to the exit side with Bentonite again injected to stabilize the hole.

7. The reamer assembly will then be replaced by a pulling swivel and circulating sub assembly. The product pipe will be made up to this assembly and the entire product string will be pulled into the hole. Bentonite slurry will be injected from the circulating sub to fill the annular space between the product pipe and the reamed wall of the hole. All excess Bentonite slurry, with entrained bore "cuttings," will be hauled off-site and disposed of at licensed disposal site, as determined by the California Division of Oil & Gas. The total quantity will be approximately 40 to 80 barrels.

8. The drilling contractor will rig down and move equipment from location. Conventional pipe tie-ins will be made with mainline construction, and entry and exit points back-filled.

C. **Quality Control** - All construction, including pipe joining (welding), will be in accordance with the requirements of the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Transportation, Subchapter D, Pipeline Safety, U.S. Department of Transportation* and the *California Public Utilities Commission General Order No. 112D.* The joining of pipe will be by the electric arc process. All welders will be qualified in accordance with the requirements of API Standard 1104 Section 3. All electrodes used for pipe joining (welding) will conform to ASTM Grades E6010, E7010, and E8010 as applicable. All welds will be radiographically inspected in accordance with the requirements of API 1104. Required hydrostatic tests will be conducted and documented in accordance with the requirements of CPUC 112-D paragraphs 192.503 and 192.505.

D. **Contingency Plans** - Attached are DGG's contingency plans covering possible deviations from the project plan:

1. Directionally Drilled River Crossing Subsurface Rupture Contingency Plan

2. Abandonment Contingency Plan

3. Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan

In addition, the contractor shall maintain on-site equipment sufficient to control and extinguish any fire which might result from the welding, cutting, or related work necessary for the pipeline construction.

DELTA GAS GATHERING, INC.
Subsurface Rupture Contingency Plan
for a Directionally Drilled River Crossing

The directionally drilled river crossing procedure includes a very accurate monitoring and control system to track the progress and exact location of the drilling head at all times. Fine horizontal and vertical adjustments are made throughout the procedure to assure that the drilling profile matches the planned profile. Drilling mud (Bentonite slurry) is used during the advancement of the drill string to erode the formation and aid in stabilizing the pilot hole. The specific weight of the drilling mud is adjusted throughout the procedure to ensure hydrological stability. However, in the event a subsurface rupture should occur or that seepage of Bentonite slurry is noticed in the project area, operations will stop immediately and the following procedure will be implemented:

Containment and Control

1. Should seepage occur on the ground in the project area, on-site materials consisting of industrial grade PVC mesh with steel T-posts and natural straw bales will be installed around the seepage area to contain the fluid.

2. Should seepage occur beneath the waterway, on-site materials consisting of industrial grade PVC mesh with steel T-posts and natural straw bales will be installed above and below the crossing site where the depth of the waterway allows.

    a. Note: Bentonite is a naturally occurring substance that would eventually be physically and biologically degraded without intervention.

3. After this entire procedure is implemented, any Bentonite seepage that has occurred will be removed using a vacuum truck and then transported to a disposal site as approved by the California Division of Oil & Gas.

Notification Procedures - The following agencies will be notified immediately in the event this contingency plan is implemented:

1. California State Lands Commission
   Mr. Kirk Walker
   916-574-1822

2. State Department of Fish and Game
   Environmental Services
   916-358-2929

3. The Reclamation Board
   Mr. Donald L. Jackson
   916-653-5434

Evaluation Plan - After the above action has been taken, DGG management and the contract drilling engineer will evaluate the feasibility of continuing the boring procedure or implementing the Abandonment Contingency Plan (ACP) after evaluating the following:

1. The exact location of the drilling head assembly will be verified with portable locating equipment. If it is determined that the drilling profile does not match the planned profile, and exceeds design limits, the ACP will be implemented.

2. If the location and profile are within design limits, the specific weight of the drilling mud will be verified to ensure a slightly overbalanced condition to the surrounding formation. The specific weight will be adjusted if necessary.

3. If location, profile, and drilling mud weight are determined to be within design limits, and seepage of Bentonite slurry is controlled, the contract drilling engineer may proceed.

4. Should it be determined that the stability of the bored crossing is in serious question, even if location, profile, and drilling mud weight are deemed satisfactory, the ACP will be implemented.

DELTA GAS GATHERING, INC.
Abandonment Contingency Plan
for a Directionally Drilled River Crossing

The following general plan would be executed if for any reason the drilling operation were forced to be suspended and the partially completed drilled hole abandoned.

During Pilot Hole Drilling

If drilling were to be suspended during pilot hole drilling, the following general procedure would be executed.

1. Advancement of the drill string would be halted.
2. Cement or Bentonite mixing and pumping equipment would be mobilized to the drilling location.
3. Cement or Bentonite pumping equipment would be rigged up to the drill string.
4. Drill string would be withdrawn and hole pumped with cement or industry approved fill material to displace to displace the Bentonite slurry material.

During Reaming

If drilling were to be suspended during the reaming of the hole, the following general procedure would be executed.

1. Pull-back of the reaming string would be halted.
2. Cement or Bentonite mixing and pumping equipment would be mobilized to the drilling location.
3. Cement or Bentonite pumping equipment would be rigged up to the drill string.
4. If possible, the reamer would be pushed back to the exit end and:
   a. The reamer would be replaced with a cementing head.
   b. Drill string would be withdrawn and hole pumped with cement or industry approved fill material to displace to displace the Bentonite slurry material.
5. If reamer could not be pushed back to exit end, then:
   a. Drill string would be withdrawn and hole pumped with cement or industry approved fill material to displace to displace the Bentonite slurry material.
   b. Drilling rig would rig down at entry end and rig up at exit end.
   c. Run in pilot hole with cement head on pilot hold drill string until previously cemented reamed hole is bumped .
   d. Drill string would be withdrawn and hole pumped with cement or industry approved fill material to displace to displace the Bentonite slurry material.

DELTA GAS GATHERING, INC.
Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan
for a Directionally Drilled River Crossing

Construction Phase

The only known hazardous materials which will be on site during the construction phase will be fuels and lubricants in construction equipment. No fuels or lubricants will be stored on the construction location. The exposure to a fuel or lubricant spill will be limited to the actual tank capacity of the equipment.

In the event of a fuel or lubricant spill on the construction location the following plan is to be followed.

1. Primary Action at the spill location

   A. Notify of the Project Supervisor.
   B. Contain the spill by building earth dikes to surround the spill.

2. Secondary Action

   A. For small quantity spill, apply absorbent pads, which are carried in each supervisor's vehicle, with additional pads stored in the construction storage container on site. All absorbent pads to be disposed of in plastic bags and placed into container marked for proper disposal.

   B. For larger quantity spills, request the contracted hazardous waste removal contractor to mobilize to the site with a vacuum truck.

   C. If any hazardous material reaches any waterway or ditch containing water, deploy absorbent booms which are stored at the construction container on site.

3. Final Clean-up

   A. All contaminated soil or other contaminated materials to be removed and placed into plastic bags or other approved containers and disposed of off site by the contracted hazardous waste contractor.

   B. Perform any remedial backfill and grading to restore area of spill.

4. Notifications

   A. Immediately notify on site contractor supervisor and owner representative.

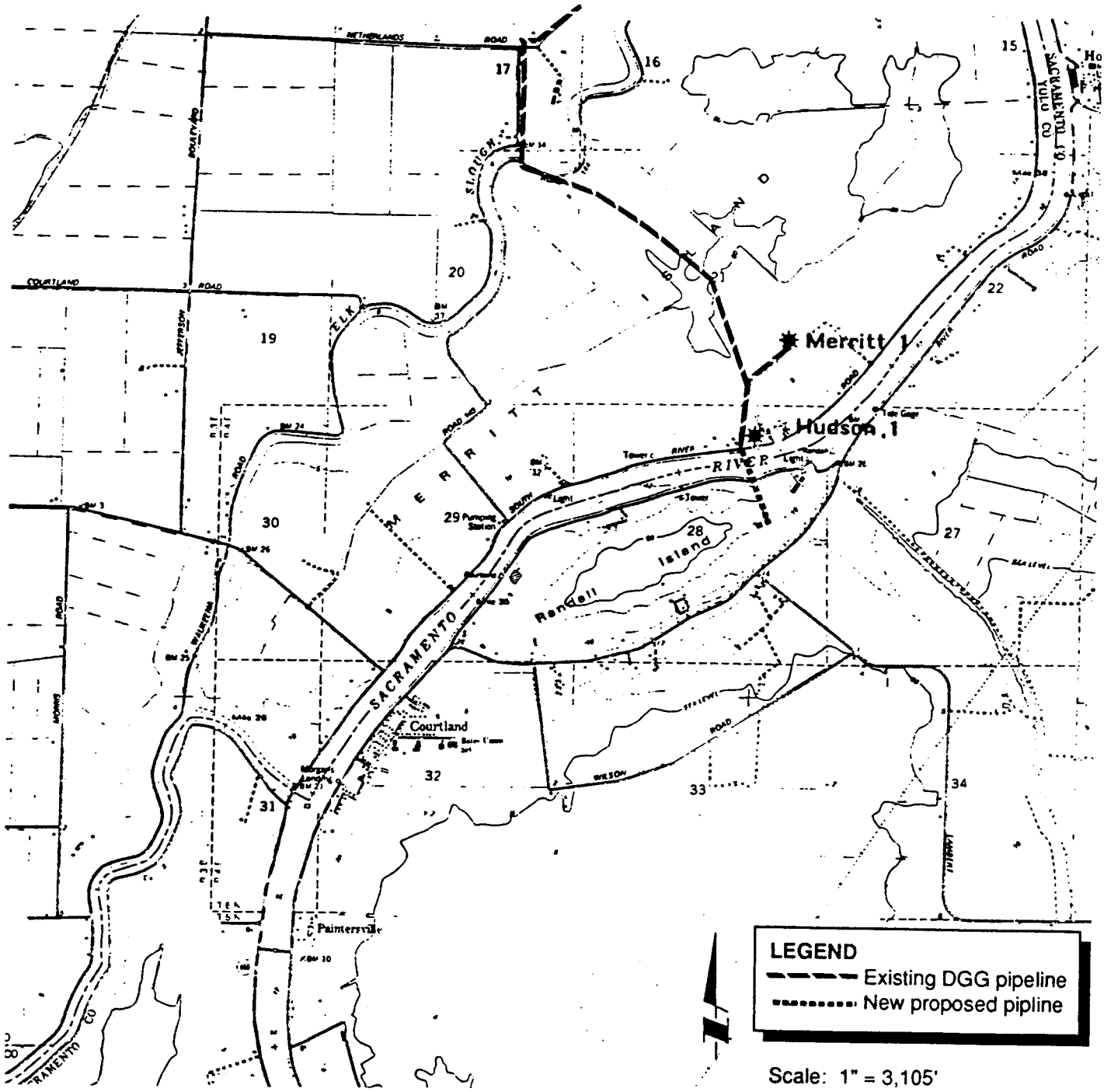
   B. Make all notifications to county and state agencies as appropriate and as required. A copy of this notification information is in the possession of the contractor site supervisor.

Sacramento County Office Of Emergency Services	(916) 389-6330
California Office Of Emergency Services	(800) 852-7550
State Lands Commission	(310) 590-5201

Operation Phase

There will be no hazardous materials on the project location after the pipeline is placed into operation.

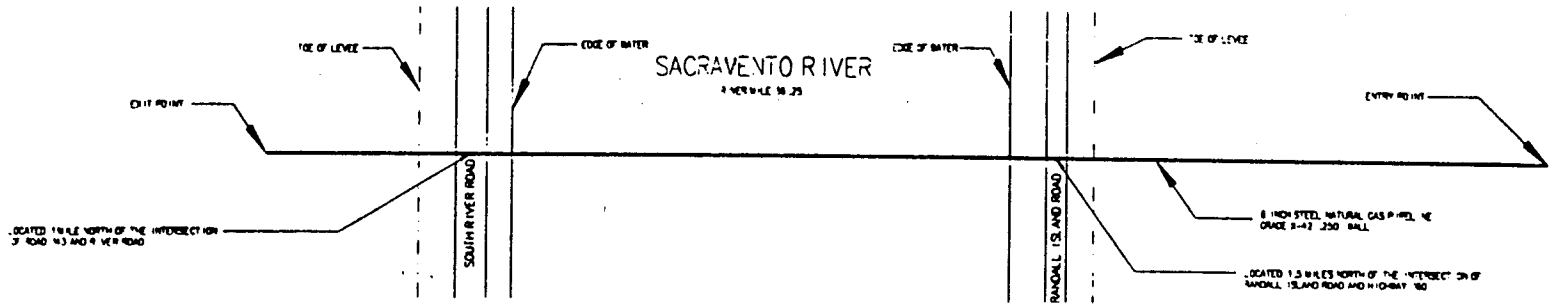
East Courtland Pipeline Extension
Delta Gas Gathering, Inc.



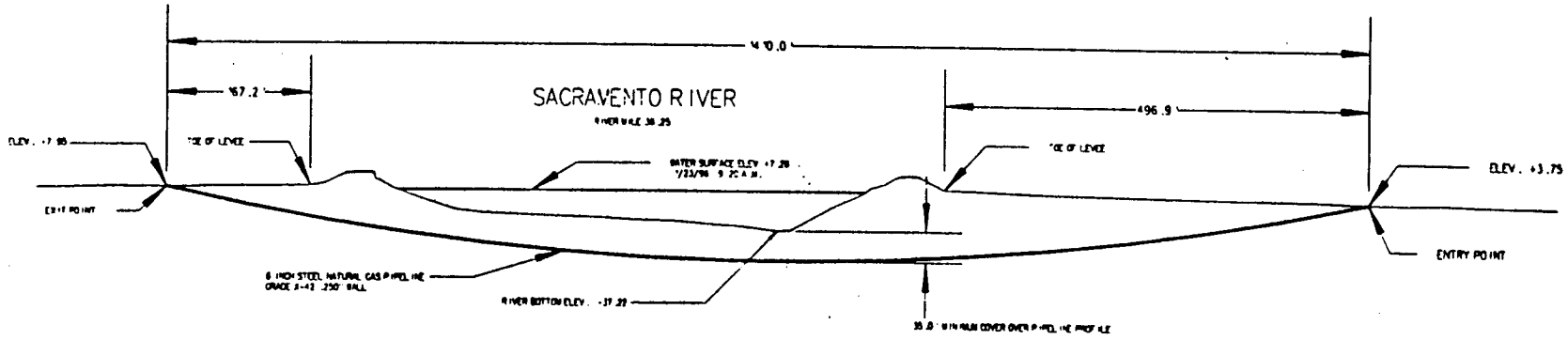
Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.

Figure 1
Site Location

CALENDAR PAGE	43
MINUTE PAGE	001384



PLAN VIEW



CROSS SECTION

CALENDAR PAGE 44
MINUTE PAGE 1385

Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.

Figure 2
Cross Sections

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

I. BACKGROUND

1. Project Title: East Courtland Pipeline Project

2. Name of Project Applicant: Delta Gas Gathering Inc. (Contact: Brian G. Habersack)

3. Address and Phone Number of Applicant: 555 University Avenue, Ste. 180, Sacramento, Ca 95825

   Phone: (916) 567-1145

4. Lead Agency and Contact Person: State Lands Commission (Contact: G. Kirk Walker)

5. Lead Agency Address and Phone Number: 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South, Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

   Phone: (916) 574-1893

6. Date Checklist Completed: April 15, 1996

7. Party Completing Checklist: Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc., 2600 V Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95818-1914, Phone (916) 737-3000

8. Project Location: The project extends from an entry point in Sacramento County under the Sacramento River channel to an exit point in Yolo County (Appendix A, Figures 1 and 2). In Sacramento County, the project starts from a point on Randall Island approximately 500 feet southeast of the bank of the Sacramento River and approximately 1.6 miles northeast of Courtland. In Yolo County, the project is located on Merritt Island approximately 300 feet north of the bank of the Sacramento River and approximately 1 mile east-northeast of the intersection of Courtland Road and South River Road.

9. General Plan Designation: Yolo County: Agriculture; Sacramento County: Agricultural Cropland

10. Zoning Classification: Yolo County: A-1; Sacramento County: AG-20

11. Description of Project *(Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or offsite features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary)*: See first section of this report

12. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting *(Briefly describe the project's surroundings)*: The project sites are located in the rural Delta region of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Land uses in this area generally consist of agricultural cropland and related uses. The proposed entry point is located on the Sacramento County side in a small cleared area in the middle of an extensive pear orchard. This area contains a large slash pile and accommodates equipment used to support the operation of the orchard. The proposed exit point is located in Yolo County adjacent to existing structures that support farming operations, including a large abandoned greenhouse. The proposed trace of the underground pipeline between the two points lies under the orchard, the two Sacramento River levees, and the bed of the river itself.

13. Other Agencies Whose Approval Is Required *(e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)*: Permit or endorsement applications have been filed with the following agencies: Yolo

County Public Works Department, Sacramento County Public Works Department, Reclamation District 150 (Yolo County), Reclamation District 755 (Sacramento County), State Lands Commission, State Reclamation Board, State Water Resources Control Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

II. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. *A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question.* A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault-rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is *substantial evidence* that an effect is significant.

4. Mitigation Identified: *Negative Declaration* applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from potentially significant to less than significant. The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.

5. No Mitigation Identified: *EIR* applies where there is substantial evidence than an effect is significant and no mitigation is identified or more analysis is needed. When this determination is made, an EIR is required.

6. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D).

7. References to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances) should be provided. *Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.* A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Include explanations for all answers by adding text to form or on attached pages.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
1. Land Use and Planning				
a. Does the project conflict with adopted land use plans or policies that are applicable to the project site or to the project vicinity? [Note that on a project-specific basis, such applicable land use plans and policies may include those imposed by local agencies, by local or regional agencies, and by statewide land use agencies.]	X			
b. Would the project conflict with open space, low-income housing, or other adopted land use goals that are applicable to the project location?	X			
c. Would the project conflict with established recreational, educational, religious, or scientific uses at the project location?	X			
d. Would the project require cancellation of Williamson Act agricultural contracts, or convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use within an area designated as Important Farmland by the Department of Conservation, or an area designated as Prime Farmland by the Soil Conservation Service of the federal Department of Agriculture?	X			
e. Would the project cause a nuisance to existing or planned land uses? Would existing or planned land uses cause a nuisance to the residents or users of the project?		X		

The proposed project would require construction in areas that are designated and currently used for agricultural cropland uses in both counties (Yolo County Community Development Agency 1983, Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department 1993). As stated in the project description, the project will be constructed during a three- to five-day period. After the pipeline is installed, the entry and exit points for the boring operation will be backfilled and restored to original conditions. The pipeline will then be connected to existing subsurface mainlines. No permanent surface structures will be constructed. There will, therefore, be only a short-term disturbance of a limited ground-surface area at the entry and exit points; there will be no long-term changes in land use. Agricultural operations and productivity would not be affected. No conflicts with onsite or adjacent land uses would result. The project would be consistent with existing land use plans and policies.

The project sites are located within an area subject to the Delta Protection Act of 1992 (Senate Bill 1866). This law regulates development activities occurring within the Delta region and mandates the creation of a Resource Management Plan for the region. The project sites are located within the Primary Zone, as defined in the legislation. Exploration or extraction of gas and hydrocarbons are specifically excluded from the statutory definition for "development" contained in this law. Thus, the provisions of the law would not apply to this project.

Because the pipeline will be bored under the Sacramento River, there will be no disturbance to the riverbed, banks, or levees. Recreational uses associated with the Sacramento River would not be affected. Construction activities would not be viewable by recreational users of the river because the levees will screen views of the construction sites from the river.

The project involves short-term construction in an area that is sparsely populated and used primarily for agricultural production. Construction noise may be considered a nuisance to some residents in this area. However, project construction will only occur during daylight hours over a very short duration of three to five days. In addition, the nearest residences are approximately 300 feet away and would likely be minimally affected. There are no nuisance conditions that would exist after completion of the project.

Potential effects associated with any future gas exploration projects that may connect to the proposed pipeline would be addressed in separate environmental documents. At the present time there are no known gas exploration projects under proposal in the immediate area.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
2. Population, Employment, and Housing				
a. Does the project conflict with population, employment, or housing policies or projections established by government agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	X			
b. Will the project directly or indirectly cause substantial growth or concentration in the population beyond current levels?	X			
c. Will the project directly or indirectly cause a net loss in the number of jobs in the community or cause substantial job or income losses by changing the employment opportunities in a community?	X			
d. Does the project displace existing residences or otherwise create or exacerbate a housing shortage?	X			

This project involves short-term construction of natural gas infrastructure and will not generate any changes to population, housing, or employment in this region.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
3. Geology, Soils, and Seismicity				
a. Would the project conflict with applicable legal requirements regarding geohazards and soil conservation?	X			
b. Is the project likely to expose people or structures to significant geohazards? In particular, is the project located within an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone, within a known active fault zone, in an area characterized by surface rupture that might be related to a fault, or in an area designated as geologic hazard area or subject to geohazard safety measures in a local plan or ordinance?		X		
c. Does the substrate at the project site consist of material that is subject to liquefaction or other secondary seismic hazards in the event of ground shaking?	X			

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
d. Is there any evidence of static hazards, such as landsliding or slopes in excess of 15%, that could result in slope failure?	X			
e. Is the project located on or in the vicinity of soil that is likely to collapse or subside, as might be the case with fill, old mining properties, or areas of subsidence caused by groundwater drawdown?		X		
f. Are soils characterized by shrink/swell potential that might result in deformation of foundations or damage to structures?	X			
g. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?	X			
h. Would the project result in loss of (or lost access to) mineral resources, including rock/sand/gravel resources, or other known resources such as those identified in a Mineral Resource Zone identified by the California Department of Mines and Geology?	X			
i. Would the project result in loss of a unique geographical feature of statewide or national significance?	X			

The entry and exit points for this project are situated on ground that has been leveled to support agricultural production. The project area is generally flat and the period of ground disturbance would be brief; thus, no significant soil erosion is expected. Because of the high peat content of the soils in the Delta region, land subsidence has occurred historically throughout the Delta, resulting in ground elevations that, in some areas, are below sea level. Land subsidence that occurs in the project area is not expected to affect this project.

There are no known faults in the project area (Jennings 1994). The sites are not located within an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone (Hart 1994). Although damage to property (the new pipeline) may occur during an earthquake, this project will not expose people to new earthquake hazards, as it will be built to all applicable codes .

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
4. **Hydrology and Water Quality**				
a. Would the project conflict with applicable legal requirements relating to hydrology and water quality?	X			
b. Would the project cause direct or indirect wastewater discharges that would result in acute or eventual exposures to levels of hazardous materials that would adversely affect human health, wildlife, or plant species? Would the project otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality?	X			

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c. Would the project substantially degrade groundwater quality, interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, or deplete groundwater resources in a manner that would cause water-related hazards such as subsidence?	X			
d. Would the project alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that results in flooding, erosion, or siltation, on- or off-site?	X			
e. Is the project located in a flood-prone area, based on either historical flood records or potential risks relating to existing or planned changes to flood control measures?		X		

The entry and exit points are located in flood-prone areas that are protected from inundation by the existing levee system along the Sacramento River. Project construction will occur over a brief period and will not increase the level of flood-risk exposure. The only hazardous substances to be used in the boring operation are fuels and lubricants associated with the operation of construction equipment at the sites. A nontoxic drilling mud (bentonite slurry) will be used in the bore hole. The bentonite slurry will be pumped and disposed of offsite at the completion of the project. Bore cuttings will be transported offsite to an approved landfill for disposal. A hazardous materials contingency plan is on file with the State Lands Commission and will be executed in the event a fuel or lubricant spill occurs at the construction sites.

In the event that a subsurface rupture occurs or that seepage of bentonite slurry is noticed in the project area, operations will stop immediately and the "directionally drilled river crossing subsurface rupture contingency plan" will be implemented. A copy of the plan is on file with the State Lands Commission and is included as an attachment to the project description. This plan includes containment and control procedures, notification procedures (including the Department of Fish & Game), and an evaluation plan to determine the execution of the abandonment contingency plan.

Ground water quality will not be substantially degraded because the intrusion into the substrate will occupy a very small area at the entry and exit points of the bored area, and there will be no subsurface discharge of any contaminants due to the use of containment pits described in the project description at II. B. 2. a. Both construction areas will be restored to their original condition after construction is completed.

No alterations to existing drainage patterns will occur as part of this project. In addition, there will be no construction that would disturb existing drainages or watercourses. No siltation impacts are expected.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
5. **Biological Resources**				
a. Would the project violate any environmental law or regulation designed to protect wildlife, fisheries, plant species, or habitat areas?	X			
b. Would the project directly harm a sensitive species or cause a net loss to the habitat of the species?		X		

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established resident or migratory corridors?		X		
d. Would the project cause any fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels?	X			
e. Would the project cause a net loss of any riparian lands, wetlands, marshes, or other environmentally sensitive habitat areas?	X			
f. Would the project result in the loss of any "specimen tree" or tree with historic value?	X			

Appendix B is a detailed description of the biological evaluation conducted for this project. A wildlife biologist conducted prefield research on the project area to determine the likelihood of special-status species occurring on the project sites. In addition, the entry and exit points for the boring operation were surveyed by a wildlife biologist to determine whether special-status plant and wildlife species exist on the project sites and whether the project would have an adverse effect on these species. The only special-status species enccountered at the project sites was a northern harrier flying over an adjacent field.

Impacts on biological resources are expected to be minimal. Project construction will occur in relatively small areas that have been substantially disturbed by farming activities. The potential for impacts on special-status species is negligible.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
6. **Cultural and Historical Resources**				
a. Would the project conflict with the cultural and historic protection measures established by federal, state, or local regulatory programs?	X			
b. Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a prehistoric, historic, or cultural site that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, or a Register of Historic Resources that has been adopted by resolution or ordinance of a local government?		X		
c. Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a structure, parcel, or other feature of historic or cultural significance to a community, ethnic, or social group?		X		
d. Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a unique paleontological site?		X		
e. Would the project cause the disturbance of any human remains?		X		

The project sites lie within two separate jurisdictions of the California Historical Resources File System. One site is within the jurisdiction of the Northwest Information Center, and the other is within the jurisdiction of the North Central Information Center. Records searches were conducted at both information centers. The records search at the Northwest Information Center, located at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California, was conducted in March 1996. The records search at the North Central Information Center, located at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), was conducted in April 1996.

The records searches were conducted to identify previously known cultural resources in or near the project area. The searches revealed one linear survey conducted in 1988 in conjunction with the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Werner 1988). The area surveyed, referred to as 36.1L (Werner 1988), is situated on Randall Island on the south side of the Sacramento River in Sacramento County. This area generally lies directly west of the project area but includes its northwest corner. Although the survey revealed a number of cultural features, Werner (1988) found that all of the features appeared to be of recent origin and required no further consideration. Archaeological surveys have not been conducted in most of the project area.

This project will disturb a relatively small area (less than 1/4 acre). No known cultural resources exist at this location. However, because the Delta region and Sacramento River are highly sensitive areas for cultural resources, the potential exists for construction crews to encounter subsurface resources during boring operations. As described in the project description (Appendix A), specific actions will be taken by the construction crew in the event subsurface resources are found. If any

cultural resources, such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, human remains, or architectural remains are encountered during construction, all work will be suspended and the State Lands Commission will be notified. Construction activity will not resume until the find has been evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and the construction site has been cleared for continued work. If human remains are found and are determined to be of Native American origin, the requirement for discovery outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act shall apply.

			Potentially Significant Impact	
	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
7. Traffic and Transportation				
a. Would the project cause a new violation, or exacerbate an existing violation, of an applicable legal standard or goal relating to traffic levels of service (LOS) or volume/capacity (V/C) ratios, of a state or local agency? (LOS ratings range from "A" to "F", with many California agencies ranking "E" and "F" as unacceptable. V/C ratios range from 0 to 1.0, with many California agencies ranking an incremental worsening of 0.02 as unacceptable for intersections already operating at LOS E or F. These significance thresholds should be used to evaluate average and peak-hour project traffic impacts if the local agency has not adopted any particular significance standards for the project area.)		X		
b. Does the project conflict with an applicable Congestion Management Plan, air quality plan, or other plan or policy relating to automobiles or transit systems, adopted by a federal, state, or local agency?		X		

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c. Would the project add traffic to a roadway that has design features (e.g., narrow width, roadside ditches, sharp curves, poor sight distance, inadequate pavement structure) or supports uses that would be incompatible with substantial increases in traffic (e.g., rural roads used by farm equipment, livestock, horseback riders, or pedestrians) that would result in safety problems with the addition of project-related traffic?		X		
d. Does the project have adequate internal circulation capacity, including entrance and exit routes, to safely accommodate average and peak-hour traffic loads?	X			
e. Does the project provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle circulation?	X			
f. Does the project provide sufficient parking capacity for the projected numbers of automobiles and bicycles? If not, is there sufficient commercial parking capacity available in the immediate project vicinity? If not, will unmet project parking demand worsen parking availability for existing residents or commercial enterprises?	X			
g. Is the project currently served by the community transit program? Is there sufficient capacity on the existing transit system for the project? If not, is there an adopted and funded plan to increase transit capacity to meet project demand?	X			

The existing roadways in the project area consist of county-maintained rural roadways that have relatively low volumes of local traffic. In addition, State Route 160 is located near the project site in Sacramento County. The proposed project will generate very little traffic in the vicinity of the project sites. The drilling operation will involve the use of eight pieces of equipment, including two trucks, that will be present for three to five days. The levee roads that would be used to access the sites are relatively narrow and are used primarily by local farmers. Although these roads will be used to bring the heavy construction equipment to the sites, there would be minimal impacts to traffic in the project area because the vehicles would be driven to and from the site only once. There would generally be no change in daily traffic volumes attributable to the project. Access to the entry and exit points is currently available via private driveways maintained by the respective land owners. No new access roads would be constructed. There are no impacts related to alternative modes of transportation, including mass transit.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
8. **Visual Quality and Aesthetics**				
a. Would the project conflict with the applicable vista protection standards, scenic resource protection requirements, and design criteria of federal, state, and local agencies?	X			

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
b. Does the project alter or obstruct existing public view sheds from or across the project site, including scenic features associated with designated scenic highways?		X		
c. Does the project change the existing visual quality and character at the project site in a manner that is inconsistent with other uses that currently exist or have been approved for the area? Are such changes attributable to project size, massing, density, landscaping, regrading, or other changes to the physical environment?	X			
d. Does the project increase light and glare in the project vicinity so as to cause a hazard or nuisance condition?	X			
e. Does the project significantly reduce sunlight or introduce shadows in public areas? Would loss of sunlight or increase in shadows adversely affect sensitive species or habitats?	X			

Two designated scenic roadways are located in close proximity to the portions of the project sites that will be subject to surface disturbances. South River Road, which is near the Yolo County site, is a designated scenic highway (Yolo County Community Development Agency 1983). Both State Highway 160 and Randall Island Road, which are near the Saramento County site, are designated scenic corridors (Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department 1993). Impacts on scenic resources are considered less-than-significant because of the short-term nature of the construction activities and the small areas that would be affected. No significant permanent changes to surface features will occur. Project construction will not take place after sunset; thus, there would be no glare from construction lighting. It is questionable whether the Sacramento County construction site could be seen from public roads because the site is in the middle of a fruit orchard.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
9. **Air Quality**				
a. Would the project violate any law or regulation designed to achieve or maintain compliance with ambient air quality standards or protect against adverse health effects caused by air pollution?	X			
b. Would the project violate any approved plan or policy regarding air pollution, including federal or state air quality management plans for achieving or maintaining compliance with applicable ambient air quality standards, local or regional growth or congestion management plans, and local or regional CEQA significance standards for air quality?	X			
c. Would the project result in a net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project area has not attained applicable federal or state ambient air quality standards? Would such a net increase exceed any of the specific parameters listed below?		X		

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
d. Using the approved or established risk assessment methodologies of the air quality control agencies, would project toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions cause a significant short- or long-term health risk? Would project TAC emissions cause an increased cancer risk of greater than ten per million?	X			
e. Would the project require the removal or demolition of building components containing asbestos, or the excavation or crushing of serpentine rock containing asbestos?	X			
f. Would the project require the removal or movement of soils contaminated by hazardous materials that can cause adverse health impacts if airborne?	X			
g. Would the project concentrate vehicle trips or vehicle-related emissions in a localized area (e.g., intersections, parking areas), which would cause a violation of the carbon monoxide ambient air quality standard?	X			
h. Does the project have the potential to cause an odor, visibility, or other problem that would create a public nuisance condition?	X			

Both Sacramento and Yolo Counties are classified as state nonattainment areas for PM10 and ozone and as federal nonattainment areas for ozone. In addition, Sacramento County is a federal nonattainment area for PM10. (Air Resources Board 1994.) Construction projects generally have the potential to generate ozone precursors and PM10 during earthmoving activities and from engine exhaust. In this case, however, very small ground surface areas will be affected during construction, which will take place only during daylight hours for three to five days. The equipment to be utilized is diesel powered, conforms to industry standards, and is used for boring projects regularly. Use of the equipment will have only an insignificant impact on ambient conditions. In addition, the construction area and roads, as needed, will be wet down to control dust. Because the period of construction is very brief, engine emissions would be relatively minor, and the contribution to regional ozone and PM10 concentrations would be negligible.

This project will not include any demolition activities or generate significant vehicle trips, directly or indirectly, that would cause significant quantities of air pollutants, including toxic air contaminants. No nuisance conditions would be created by this project.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
10. **Noise and Vibration**				
a. Would the project violate any established noise or vibration law, regulation, or standard?	X			
b. Would the project cause a permanent increase in ambient noise or vibration levels that would be perceptible to humans in the project vicinity, and that is perceptibly greater than the noise or vibration levels caused by existing development in the project area?	X			

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c. Would the project cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise or vibration levels that would be perceptible to humans in the project vicinity, and that is perceptibly greater than the noise or vibration levels caused by existing development and activity in the project area?		X		
d. Can the project noise and vibration level during construction activities be limited to daylight, weekday hours and be comparable to that required for construction of existing development in the project area?	X			

The project sites are located in a sparsely populated rural area with relatively low levels of ambient noise. Major noise sources in the vicinity of the project include roadway noise from South River Road and State Highway 160, recreational boating on the Sacramento River, and heavy agricultural machinery. The proposed project will generate noise from construction equipment during the three- to five-day boring operation, which will occur only during daylight hours. However, this noise would be comparable in magnitude to noise from agricultural operations. In addition, the nearest residences are approximately 300 feet from the construction site. For these reasons, noise impacts from the boring operation are considered less than significant.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
11. **Utilities and Infrastructure**				
a. *Electricity*: Will the project require expansions in existing electrical generating facilities and existing high-power transmission lines?	X			
b. *Water*: Will the project comply with water conservation and supply requirements imposed by state and local agencies? Will the project require expansions in existing water supply treatment facilities or trunk conveyance lines? Has the water purveyor determined that it has adequate treatment facilities, conveyance capacity, and water supplies to serve project demand? Will the water supply be drawn from a groundwater basin that is overdrawn in relation to demand and historical levels?	X			
c. *Wastewater Treatment*: Will the project comply with wastewater pretreatment standards enforced by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies? Will the project require expansions of the wastewater treatment facilities and trunk conveyance lines? Has the wastewater treatment provider determined that it has adequate treatment and conveyance capacity to serve project demand?	X			

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
d. *Solid Waste*: Will the project comply with state and local requirements relating to recycling, litter control, and solid waste handling? Is a landfill available with sufficient capacity to accommodate on a long-term basis (10 or more years) solid waste generated by the proposed project?		X		

The proposed project will not generate any new requirements for infrastructure in the project area either during construction or after construction is completed. No new requirements for electricity, or wastewater treatment will be created. Minimal new water requirements will be generated but will be short-term. The project will generate solid waste in the form of cuttings from the bore hole, including bentonite clay slurry. This waste material will be hauled from the site and disposed of at an approved landfill.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
12. **Public Services**				
a. *Sheriff*: Will the project require additional staff or equipment to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives?	X			
b. *Fire*: Will the project require additional staff or equipment to maintain an acceptable level of service (i.e., response time, equipment capacity)?	X			
c. *Schools*: Will the project increase the population of school-age children in a K-12 school district that is or will be operating without adequate staff, equipment, or facilities?	X			
d. *Parks and Recreation*: Will the project increase use of existing park and recreational facilities, or require the creation of new park and recreational facilities, to comply with locally adopted park and recreational service standards?	X			

Because this project is of a short-term nature, there will be no impacts on public services. There will no impact on law enforcement and fire protection services beyond the routine notification of the local fire department informing them of the project. A fire watch will be maintained during any periods of cutting or welding. Public schools and local recreational facilities will not be affected.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
13. **Energy**				
a. Does the project comply with applicable laws and regulations regarding energy conservation?	X			
b. Does the project require quantities of nonrenewable sources of energy in excess of quantities required by recent, similar projects?	X			
c. Do the energy suppliers have the capacity to supply the project's energy needs with existing and planned energy sources and conveyance systems?	X			

This project will result in a minimal expenditure of energy over a brief period of time. Because the project consists of constructing a natural gas pipeline, the net effect of the project would be to increase the amount of energy available to consumers.

	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact: Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	Potentially Significant Impact: No Mitigation Identified - EIR
14. **Hazardous Materials**				
a. Will the project comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and standards relating to hazardous materials?	X			
b. Is the soil or groundwater at the project site contaminated by hazardous materials? Is such contamination known to exist at another location that is within 2,000 feet of the project site?	X			
c. Does the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	X			
d. Does the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials to the environment?		X		
e. Will the project interfere with community emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans in the event of a reasonably foreseeable emergency situation involving a hazardous material exposure or release?	X			
f. Are there hazardous material re-use, or one or more hazardous waste treatment or disposal, facilities available to lawfully accept and handle hazardous wastes generated by the project?	X			

No hazardous materials would be used during the construction of this project except fuel and lubricants used for the construction vehicles. Diesel fuel and the petroleum based lubricants will be stored in approved containers and be handled in a safe manner. Fuels and lubricants will be kept at a safe distance from any potential ignition sources so as to minimize the risk of hazard. A hazardous materials contingency plan is on file with the State Lands Commission and will be executed in the event of a fuel or lubricant spill at the construction sites.

			Potentially Significant Impact	
	No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
15. Mandatory Findings of Significance				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	X			
c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively significant when placed in the context of other reasonably foreseeable projects?	X			
d. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	X			

As documented in this checklist, there are no potentially significant impacts associated with this project. The proposed project includes provisions that will reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. No mitigation is required. This project will not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term goals. In addition, no cumulative impacts would result because any future gas exploration projects that would use the proposed pipeline would require separate permits and environmental documentation. No significant adverse impacts on human beings, direct or indirect, would result.

IV. DETERMINATION BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

On the basis of this Initial Study evaluation:

☐ The proposed project is CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT from CEQA under Class(es) ___, and there are no unusual circumstances or specified statutory conditions present that render reliance on such applicable Categorical Exemption(s) unlawful.

☒ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described [above/in the attached list] will be a required condition of project approval, and accordingly a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.

☐ There is substantial evidence that the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT should be required.

Date: Jan 3, 1996

Dorothy K. Walls
(Signature)

For _____

CALENDAR PAGE	60
MINUTE PAGE	001401

Appendix A. Biological Resources Evaluation East Courtland Pipeline Project

INTRODUCTION

This appendix contains information on wildlife, vegetation, and wetland resources in the project area. Information pertaining to biological resources is organized into the following categories: survey methods, survey results, and environmental impacts.

METHODS

The information provided in this appendix is based on a prefield investigation and field surveys conducted by a Jones and Stokes Associates wildlife biologist. The purpose of the field surveys was to assess the habitat types and potential for special-status species to occur at the project sites and to determine whether the proposed installation of the gas pipeline would result in adverse effects on biological resources.

Definitions of special-status species and the methods used during the prefield investigation and field surveys are described below.

Definitions of Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plant and animal species that are legally protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or other regulations, and species that are considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing.

Prefield Investigation

A prefield investigation was conducted to identify special-status species that could occur on the project sites. Part of this investigation involved searching the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) (Natural Diversity Data Base 1995) for special-status wildlife documented on the project sites or in surrounding areas. Jones and Stokes Associates' file information was also reviewed.

Field Surveys

A Jones & Stokes Associates wildlife biologist conducted field surveys of the project sites on March 29, 1996. The surveys consisted of intensive ground searches for special-status wildlife

vegetation, and wetland resources. Ground searches were conducted throughout the project sites and were concentrated in the areas proposed for the installation of the gas pipeline. During the ground searches, trees and shrubs were inspected for nests of bird species, particularly raptors. Vegetation was also inspected for special-status plants and wetland resources. All wildlife species observed during field surveys were recorded in field notes.

RESULTS

Results of the prefield investigation and field surveys for special-status wildlife, vegetation, and wetland resources are presented below.

Prefield Investigation

No special-status wildlife or plants in the project vicinity were identified in the NDDB search. However, the NDDB documented three special-status wildlife and two special-status plant species in the surrounding areas. The special-status wildlife species were the white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni)*. Special-status plants were the Delta tule pea (*Lathyrus jepsonii*) and California hibiscus (*Hibiscus lasiocarpus*). Information contained in Jones and Stokes Associates' files identified two other special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur at or near the project sites. These species include the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) and northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Descriptions of the status, distribution, habitat, and reason for concern for the special-status plant and wildlife species listed above are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Field Surveys

Drilling Entry Site

Plant communities encountered at the proposed drilling entry site (Sacramento County) include a pear orchard and ruderal area. The pear trees are uniform in size and spacing and average approximately 15 feet high. The ruderal area occurs in an opening in the orchard. The opening is used for equipment and material storage, and little vegetation is present.

A limited variety of wildlife species occur in the proposed drilling entry site. Common species at or on the margins of the site include house finches, American crows, and pocket gophers. Scientific names for the common species mentioned in the text are presented in Table 3.

Table 1. Special-Status Plant Species with the Potential to Occur on the Delta Gas Gathering Project Sites

Species	Status* Federal/CNPS	California Distribution	Habitats
Rose mallow *Hibiscus lasiocarpus*	--/2	Central Valley from Butte to San Joaquin County and adjacent Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta areas	Riparian habitats with freshwater marsh vegetation in areas with slow water velocities, such as canals, sloughs, ponds, and oxbows
Delta tule pea *Lathyrus jepsonii* var. *jepsonii*	--/1B	Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and Central Valley from Butte County to Tulare County	River and canal banks in brackish and freshwater marshes and riparian woodlands, at the upper margin or above the zone of tidal influence

* Status explanations:

Federal

-- = no status definition

CNPS

1B = List 1B species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

2 = List 2 species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.

Table 2. Special-Status Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur on the Delta Gas Gathering Project Sites

Species	Status* Federal/State	California Distribution	Habitats	Reason for Decline or Concern
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T/--	Streamside habitats below 3,000 feet through the Central Valley of California	Riparian and oak savanna habitats with elderberry shrubs; elderberries are host shrubs	Loss and fragmentation of riparian habitats
Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*	T/T	Central Valley from Fresno north to the Gridley/Sutter Buttes area; has been extirpated from areas south of Fresno	Sloughs, canals, and other small waterways where there is a prey base of small fish and amphibians; requires grassy banks and emergent vegetation for basking and areas of high ground protected from flooding during winter	Loss of habitat from agriculture and urban development
White-tailed kite *Elanus caeruleus*	--/FP	Lowland areas west of Sierra Nevada from head of Sacramento Valley south, including coastal valleys and foothills to western San Diego County at the Mexico border	Low foothills or valley areas with valley or live oaks, riparian areas, and marshlands near open grasslands for foraging	Loss of grassland and wetland habitats to agriculture and urban development
Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*	--/SSC	Throughout lowland California; has been recorded in fall at high elevations	Grasslands, meadows, marshes, and seasonal and agricultural wetlands providing tall cover	Loss of habitat to agricultural and urban development
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	--/T	Lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, the Klamath Basin, and Butte Valley; the state's highest nesting densities occur near Davis and Woodland, Yolo County	Nests in oaks or cottonwoods in or near riparian habitats; forages in grasslands, irrigated pastures, and grain fields	Loss of riparian, agriculture, and grassland habitats; vulnerable to human disturbance at nest sites

*Status explanations

Federal
T = listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
-- = No status definition.

State
T = listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.
FP = fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code,
SSC = species of special concern in California.
-- = No status definition.

Table 3. Wildlife Species Mentioned in the Text

Common Name	Scientific Name
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*
Giant garter snake	*Thamnophis gigas*
White-tailed kite	*Elanus caeruleus*
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*
Northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
Scrub jay	*Aphelocamo coerulescens*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*
House finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*

Drilling Exit Site

There is a ruderal grassland at the proposed drilling exit site (Yolo County) within the equipment yard of a private farm. The site is frequently driven over by trucks and farm equipment. Vegetation includes ruderal grasses and weeds that provide little wildlife habitat. Trees around the equipment yard include box elder and black walnut. Common wildlife species found at the proposed drilling exit site include scrub jays, Brewer's blackbirds, and northern flickers.

Special-Status Species

No special-status plants were found during the field surveys; one special-status wildlife species, a northern harrier, was found. The northern harrier was flying low over a fallow field and pear orchard north of the proposed drilling exit site. No wetland resources occur on the project sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Criteria for Determining Impact Significance

Impacts on biological resources are considered significant if they would result in:

- direct mortality or the permanent loss of existing or potential habitat for species that are federally or state-listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered;
- loss or disturbance of substantial portions of local populations of federal candidate species, California Native Plant Society list 1B, 2, 3, or 4 plant species; California state species of special concern; or game species;
- adverse effects on a substantial portion of a vegetation type (including sensitive natural communities) in a local region;
- temporary loss of habitat that may result in increased mortality or lowered reproductive success of special-status wildlife species; or
- avoidance by wildlife of biologically important habitat for substantial periods at the risk of increased mortality or lower reproductive success.

Impacts of the Proposed Project

Drilling Entry and Exit Sites

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the temporary disturbance (3-5 days) of the orchard and ruderal area at the drilling entry site. This impact is considered less than significant because the area is small and already highly disturbed; the disturbance would be short-term; and the habitat types affected are locally and regionally common.

Implementation of the proposed project could also result in a temporary disturbance of resident wildlife as a result of human activity and mechanical noise. Impacts on common wildlife species, however, would be less than significant because these species are regionally or locally abundant and widely distributed.

Special-Status Plant Species

Drilling Entry and Exit Sites. Delta tule pea and California hibiscus are found in the vicinity of the project sites. However, because the project sites lack suitable habitat, the project will not have adverse effects on these special-status plant species.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in adverse environmental impacts on special-status wildlife species. The reasons for this conclusion are discussed for each species below.

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. There would be no impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle because its required habitat—elderberry shrubs—was not found during field surveys at the proposed project sites.

White-tailed kite and northern harrier. Low-quality foraging habitat for white-tailed kite and northern harrier would be temporarily disturbed during drilling. This impact is considered less than significant because the proposed project sites are considered low-quality foraging habitat for these species, disturbance will be temporary (3-5 days), and high-quality foraging habitat is abundant in the project vicinity. No mitigation is required.

Swainson's Hawk (nesting). Because Swainson's hawks could potentially be nesting in the area during the implementation of the proposed project, construction activities near an active nest could significantly impact this species. A Swainson's hawk pair was recorded nesting approximately one mile west of the proposed drilling exit site in 1988, but no recent records of nesting Swainson's hawks have been reported since 1988. Both the entry and exit sites lack suitable nest trees, and no

Swainson's hawks were observed during the field surveys. Suitable nest trees are present at distances of approximately 1/4 mile from the proposed project Yolo County site but adequate buffers are present between these potential nest trees and the proposed project sites to limit disturbances to any nesting Swainson's hawks. No mitigation is required.

Swainson's Hawk (foraging). No impacts on foraging Swainson's hawks will occur because the project sites lack suitable foraging habitat, such as alfalfa, fallow fields, low-growing row crops, irrigated pasture, and grain crops.

Giant Garter Snake. The proposed project would have no impacts on the giant garter snake because its required habitat is not present at the proposed project sites.

Appendix B. Citations

PRINTED REFERENCES

California Air Resources Board. 1994. Amendments to the area designations for state ambient air quality standards with maps of area designations for the state and national ambient air quality standards. November 9, 1994. Sacramento, California.

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Natural Diversity Data Base. 1995. Records search for the Courtland 7.5-minute quadrangle. California Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, California.

Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department. 1993. Sacramento County general plan update. Sacramento California.

Yolo County Community Development Agency. 1983. Yolo County general plan, part 1: the plan. July 1983. Woodland, California.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Vancomo, John. Planner. Yolo Community Development Agency, Woodland, CA. April 9, 1996 - telephone conservation.

Warner, Laurie. Associate environmental analyst. Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment, Sacramento, CA. April 9, 1996 - telephone conversation.

Exhibit D

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASUSRES INCORPORATED INTO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1. The pipeline bore will be maintained with a minimum clearance of 35 feet below the natural bed of the river at all times.

2. The entry and exit pits for the pipeline bore will be adequately bermed to contain any spills.

3. The contractor will notify the State Lands Commission at least 24 hours in advance of beginning the directional bore.

4. The contractor will follow all procedures in the "Rupture Contingency Plan" approved by the State Lands Commission at all times.

5. The contractor will follow the "Abandonment Contingency Plan" approved by the State Lands Commission in the event that a bore must be abandoned for any reason.

6. The contractor will comply with the provisions of the "Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan" approved by the State Lands Commission at all times.

7. At the completion of the project, the bentonite/cuttings slurry will be collected and taken to a certified disposal site.

8. Any bentonite seepage discovered in the course of drilling will be collected by a vacuum truck, and taken to a certified disposal site.

9. All engine driven equipment will kept in good condition and proper tune at all times.

10. Construction shall take place only during daylight hours.

11. If any cultural artifacts or human remains are discovered in the course of construction, all work shall stop, and the State Lands Commission shall be immeadiately notified.

12. All dirt access roads shall be wet down during construction to minimize dust generation.