



# Madrone Audubon Society

INCORPORATED

September 18, 2023

Transmitted via email September 18, 2023 at 2:58 pm

Mayor and Members of City Council  
City of Petaluma  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Re: **Response from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife** – Mitigation Monitoring –  
Clarification on Exclusion Fencing – Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

**Agenda Item 13** – Introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance Granting Temporary and Permanent Easements and Adoption of a Resolution Granting a License for Replacement of PG&E Gas Main Facilities on the City's Shollenberger Park Property and Making Findings in Accordance with Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15096 of the CEQA Guidelines that Changes or Alterations Have Been Incorporated into the Project which Mitigate or Avoid Potentially Significant Impacts of the Project on the Environment, and that Those Changes or Alterations Are Within the Responsibility and Jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission as Lead Agency for the Project Pursuant to CEQA, and Have Been Adopted by the Commission on August 17

&

Further Discussion - Review of Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigations for PG&E Company Gas Line 012G Replacement Project (L-021G/R-708) Across the Petaluma River – State Clearinghouse No. 2023060440 – Appendices and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Correspondence 07/14/2023

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

In our September 17 Supplement, we noted:

“MM-Bio-2 for Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse mitigations indicates the exclusion fence shall remain in place during all project activities...”

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We submitted the question regarding removal of exclusion fencing after phase 1 and, if a phase 2 is needed a year later, asked for clarification about repeating the process of inspection, flushing, vegetation removal and installation of new exclusionary fencing at that time.

We're grateful an email response to our question was received today from Erin Chappell, Regional Manager/Bay-Delta Region and author of the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife comment letter.

See below for concurrence that needs to be conveyed to PG&E and the State Lands Commission for the Mitigated Negative Declaration Mitigation and Monitoring Program:

. RE: TIME SENSITIVE - PG&E Project/Replace Pipeline/Shollenberger Park/Petaluma River

Yahoo/Inbox

**Chappell, Erin@Wildlife** <erin.chappell@wildlife.ca.gov>

To: Susan Kirks

Mon, Sep 18 at 1:08 PM

Hello Susan,

I checked with our permitting lead and, while not explicitly stated in the comment letter, we agree that it would be preferable to remove the exclusion fencing for salt-marsh harvest mouse between construction phases, such that during extended periods of inactivity the salt-marsh habitat in the project area would be accessible to wildlife. If exclusion fencing is removed, the appropriate methodology for installation of exclusion fencing (as specified in CDFW's CEQA comments and the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for this project) shall be followed to ensure no impacts to salt-marsh harvest mouse occur.

Sincerely,

Erin

**Erin Chappell (she/her)**  
**Bay Delta Regional Manager**  
**California Department of Fish & Wildlife**  
**916-708-2038**

Sincerely,

*Susan Kirks*

Susan Kirks, President  
Madrone Audubon Society

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