

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co
Form 424B5
June 12, 2013
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-172394

This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933. The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be subject to change. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT DATED JUNE 12, 2013

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated February 23, 2011)

\$ % Senior Notes due
\$ % Senior Notes due

We are offering \$ principal amount of our % Senior Notes due , which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as our 20 notes, and \$ principal amount of our % Senior Notes due , which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as our 20 notes. We collectively refer to both series of notes as our senior notes.

We will pay interest on our senior notes on each and , commencing , 2013. The senior notes will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

We may redeem the senior notes in whole or in part at any time at the respective redemption prices set forth in this prospectus supplement.

The senior notes will be unsecured and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding.

There is no existing public market for the senior notes. We do not intend to list the senior notes on any securities exchange or any automated quotation system.

Investing in these senior notes involves risks. See Risk Factors on page S-1 of this prospectus supplement.

	Per 20	Note	Total	Per 20	Note	Total
Public Offering Price ⁽¹⁾		%	\$		%	\$
Underwriting Discounts and Commissions		%	\$		%	\$
Proceeds to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (before expenses) ⁽¹⁾		%	\$		%	\$

⁽¹⁾ Plus accrued interest, if any, from and including original issuance of the senior notes which is expected to be _____, 2013.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The senior notes are expected to be delivered on or about _____, 2013 through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citigroup

BNP PARIBAS

CastleOak Securities, L.P.

Co-Managers

Mizuho Securities

**US Bancorp
Great Pacific Securities**

**The Williams Capital Group, L.P.
Kota Global Securities**

, 2013

Table of Contents

This prospectus supplement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying prospectus. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the information incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus prepared by us. Neither we nor any underwriter has authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor any underwriter is making an offer to sell the senior notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us is accurate only as of the date hereof or thereof.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-1
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Our Company</u>	S-3
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	S-4
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-4
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-5
<u>Description of the Senior Notes</u>	S-6
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	S-12
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-15
<u>General Information</u>	S-19
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-19
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	1
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	3
<u>Description of the Senior Notes</u>	4
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	15
<u>Experts</u>	16
<u>Legal Matters</u>	16
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	16
<u>Certain Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	17

Unless otherwise indicated, when used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the terms we, our and us refer to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and its subsidiaries, and the term Corp refers to our parent, PG&E Corporation.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the senior notes involves risk. These risks are described under "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2013, each of which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus. Before making a decision to invest in the senior notes, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are necessarily subject to various risks and uncertainties. These statements reflect management's judgment and opinions which are based on current estimates, expectations, and projections about future events and assumptions regarding these events and management's knowledge of facts as of the date of this prospectus supplement.

These forward-looking statements relate to, among other matters, estimated losses associated with various investigations; estimated losses and insurance recoveries associated with the civil litigation arising from our natural gas transmission pipeline rupture and fire that occurred on September 9, 2010 in San Bruno, California (the "San Bruno accident"); forecasts of costs we will incur to make safety and reliability improvements, including costs to perform work under the pipeline safety enhancement plan, that we will not recover through rates; forecasts of capital expenditures; estimates and assumptions used in critical accounting policies, including those relating to environmental remediation, tax, litigation, third-party claims, and other liabilities; and the level of future equity or debt issuances. These statements are also identified by words such as assume, expect, intend, forecast, plan, project, believe, estimate, predict, anticipate, may, should, would, could, and other expressions. We and Corp are not able to predict all the factors that may affect future results. Some of the factors that could cause future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, or from historical results, include, but are not limited to:

the timing and terms of the resolution of pending investigations and enforcement matters related to our natural gas system operating practices and the San Bruno accident, including the ultimate amount of penalties we will be required to pay, the cost of any remedial actions we may be ordered to perform, and whether the resolution is reached through settlement negotiations, or a fully litigated proceeding; the ultimate amount of third-party claims associated with the San Bruno accident and the timing and amount of related insurance recoveries; the ultimate amount of punitive damages, if any, we may incur related to third-party claims; and the ultimate amount of civil or criminal penalties, if any, we may incur related to the criminal investigation;

the outcomes of current ratemaking proceedings, such as the 2014 general rate case and the pending electric transmission owner rate case; the outcome of future ratemaking and regulatory proceedings, such as the 2015 gas transmission and storage rate case; and the outcomes of other ratemaking and regulatory proceedings;

the ultimate amount of costs we incur in the future that are not recovered through rates, including pipeline-related expenses to validate safe operating pressure, conduct strength tests and identify and remove encroachments from transmission pipeline easements; and costs to perform incremental work to improve the safety and reliability of electric and natural gas operations;

the outcome of future investigations or proceedings that may be commenced by the California Public Utility Commission (the "CPUC") or other regulatory authorities relating to our compliance with laws, rules, regulations, or orders applicable to the operation, inspection, and maintenance of its electric and gas facilities;

Table of Contents

whether we are able to repair the reputational harm that we and it have suffered, and may suffer in the future, due to the negative publicity surrounding the San Bruno accident, the related civil litigation, and the pending investigations, including any charge or finding of criminal liability;

the level of equity contributions that Corp must make to us to enable us to maintain its authorized capital structure as we incur charges and costs, including costs associated with natural gas matters and penalties imposed in connection with the pending investigations, that are not recoverable through rates or insurance;

the impact of environmental remediation laws, regulations, and orders; the ultimate amount of costs incurred to discharge our known and unknown remediation obligations; the extent to which we are able to recover compliance and remediation costs from third parties or through rates or insurance; and the ultimate amount of costs we incur in connection with environmental remediation liabilities that are not recoverable through rates or insurance, such as the remediation costs associated with our natural gas compressor station site located near Hinkley, California;

the impact of new legislation or NRC regulations, recommendations, policies, decisions, or orders relating to the operations, seismic design, security, safety, or decommissioning of nuclear facilities, including our Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant (Diablo Canyon), or relating to the storage of spent nuclear fuel, cooling water intake, or other issues; and our ability to relicense the Diablo Canyon units;

the impact of weather-related conditions or events (such as storms, tornadoes, floods, drought, solar or electromagnetic events, and wildland and other fires), natural disasters (such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and pandemics), and other events (such as explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, equipment failures, human errors, and labor disruptions), as well as acts of terrorism, war, or vandalism, including cyber-attacks, that can cause unplanned outages, reduce generating output, disrupt our service to customers, or damage or disrupt the facilities, operations, or information technology and systems owned by us, our customers, or third parties on which we rely; and subject us to third-party liability for property damage or personal injury, or result in the imposition of civil, criminal, or regulatory penalties on us;

the impact of environmental laws and regulations aimed at the reduction of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases, and whether we are able to recover associated compliance costs, including the cost of emission allowances and offsets, that we may incur under cap-and-trade regulations;

changes in customer demand for electricity and natural gas resulting from unanticipated population growth or decline in our service area, general and regional economic and financial market conditions, the extent of municipalization of our electric distribution facilities, changing levels of direct access customers who procure electricity from alternative energy providers, changing levels of customers who purchase electricity from governmental bodies that act as community choice aggregators, and the development of alternative energy technologies including self-generation and distributed generation technologies;

the adequacy and price of electricity, natural gas, and nuclear fuel supplies; the extent to which we can manage and respond to the volatility of energy commodity prices; our ability and our counterparties to post or return collateral in connection with price risk management activities; and whether we are able to recover timely its energy commodity costs through rates;

whether our information technology, operating systems and networks, including the advanced metering system infrastructure, customer billing, financial, and other systems, can continue to function accurately while meeting regulatory requirements; whether we are able to protect its operating systems and networks from damage, disruption, or failure caused by cyber-attacks, computer viruses, or other hazards; whether our security measures are sufficient to protect confidential customer, vendor, and financial data contained in such systems and networks; and whether we can continue to rely on third-party vendors and contractors that maintain and support some of our operating systems;

Table of Contents

the extent to which costs incurred in connection with third-party claims or litigation are not recoverable through insurance, rates, or from other third parties;

our ability to access capital markets and other sources of debt and equity financing in a timely manner on acceptable terms;

the impact on the availability and costs of borrowing if we were to lose its investment grade credit ratings;

the impact of federal or state laws or regulations, or their interpretation, on energy policy and the regulation of utilities and their holding companies, including how the CPUC interprets and enforces the financial and other conditions imposed on holding company;

the outcome of federal or state tax audits and the impact of any changes in federal or state tax laws, policies, or regulations; and

the impact of changes in generally accepted accounting principles, standards, rules, or policies, including those related to regulatory accounting, and the impact of changes in their interpretation or application.

For more information about the significant risks that could affect the outcome of these forward-looking statements and our future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, you should read the sections titled **Risk Factors** in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the documents that we have included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part and the documents that we refer to under the section of the accompanying prospectus titled **Where You Can Find More Information** completely and with the understanding that our actual future results could be materially different from what we expect when making the forward-looking statements. We qualify all our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the date of the document incorporated by reference. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

OUR COMPANY

We are a leading vertically integrated electricity and natural gas utility. We were incorporated in California in 1905 and are a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. We operate in northern and central California and are engaged in the businesses of electricity and natural gas distribution, electricity generation, procurement and transmission, and natural gas procurement, transportation and storage. At March 31, 2013, we served approximately 5.2 million electricity distribution customers and approximately 4.4 million natural gas distribution customers. The principal executive offices of PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company are located at 77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177, and the telephone number of Pacific Gas and Electric Company is (415) 973-7000.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the fiscal years indicated and for the three months ended March 31, 2013.

Three Months Ended					
March 31, 2013	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
2.58x	2.51x	3.12x	3.12x	2.96x	2.79x

For the purpose of computing our ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represent net income adjusted for the income or loss from equity investees of less than 100% owned affiliates, equity in undistributed income or losses of less than 50% owned affiliates, income taxes and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest). Fixed charges include interest on long-term debt and short-term borrowings (including a representative portion of rental expense), amortization of bond premium, discount and expense, interest on capital leases, allowance for funds used during construction debt, and earnings required to cover the preferred stock dividend requirements and preferred security distribution requirements of majority-owned trust. Fixed charges exclude interest on tax liabilities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We expect to use the proceeds from this offering to purchase up to \$500 million principal amount of our outstanding 4.80% Senior Notes due March 1, 2014 (2014 Notes) that are tendered by holders and accepted by us pursuant to the tender offer announced by us on May 28, 2013 to purchase up to \$500 million principal amount of the 2014 Notes (the Tender Offer) and to pay accrued interest, premiums, fees and expenses incurred in connection with the Tender Offer, and for general corporate purposes, including to repay a portion of our outstanding commercial paper. At June 11, 2013, the outstanding commercial paper was approximately \$866.4 million, the weighted average yield on our outstanding commercial paper was approximately 0.29% per annum and the average maturity on our outstanding commercial paper was 36.28 days.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of March 31, 2013, as adjusted to give effect to (i) the issuance and sale of the senior notes, and (ii) the use of net proceeds from this offering as set forth under "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement. This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2013, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

	As of March 31, 2013	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(in millions)	
Current Liabilities:		
Short-term borrowings(1)	\$ 369	\$
Total long-term debt, classified as current	\$ 1,399	\$
Capitalization:		
Long-term debt(2)	\$ 11,168	\$
Shareholders' equity(3)	13,889	
Total capitalization	\$ 25,057	\$

- (1) Actual short-term borrowings primarily included commercial paper and as adjusted short-term borrowings gives effect to the use of proceeds of this offering to repay a portion of our outstanding commercial paper.
- (2) Actual long-term debt consisted of \$1,268 million of pollution control bonds and \$9,901 million of senior notes and as adjusted long-term debt includes the senior notes offered hereby, in each case, net of any discounts and premiums, and reflects the payment of \$500 million of our 2014 Notes, assuming the tender thereof and acceptance by us pursuant to the Tender Offer. See "Use of Proceeds."
- (3) Includes \$258 million of preferred stock without mandatory redemption provisions.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES

General

You should read the following information in conjunction with the statements under Description of the Senior Notes in the accompanying prospectus.

As used in this section, the terms we, us and our refer to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and not to any of our subsidiaries.

The 20 notes are being offered in the aggregate principal amount of \$ and will mature on . The 20 notes are being offered in the aggregate principal amount of \$ and will mature on .

We will issue the senior notes under an existing indenture, which was originally entered into on March 11, 2004 and amended and restated on April 22, 2005, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee, as supplemented by supplemental indentures between us and the trustee. Please read the indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as holders of the senior notes. We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a copy of the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part.

Pursuant to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the 1939 Act, if a default occurs on the senior notes, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. may be required to resign as trustee under the indenture if it has a conflicting interest (as defined in the 1939 Act), unless the default is cured, duly waived or otherwise eliminated within 90 days.

For each series of senior notes, we may without consent of the holders of that series issue additional senior notes of that series under the indenture, as we are doing in this offering, having the same terms in all respects to the senior notes of that series (except for the public offering price and the issue date and, in some cases, the first interest payment date) so that those additional notes will be consolidated and form a single series with the other outstanding senior notes of that series.

The 20 notes will bear interest from at % per annum, payable semiannually on each and , commencing on , 2013, to holders of record on the 15th day prior to the interest payment date.

The 20 notes will bear interest from at % per annum, payable semiannually on each and , commencing on , 2013, to holders of record on the 15th day prior to the interest payment date.

We will issue the senior notes in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Each series of senior notes will be redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at any time as described under Optional Redemption for Senior Notes Optional Redemption for 20 Notes and Optional Redemption for Senior Notes Optional Redemption for 20 Notes below.

Interest on the senior notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. If any payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, the payment will be made on the next business day, but we will consider that payment as being made on the date that the payment was due to you. In that event, no interest will accrue on the amount payable for the period from and after such payment date to such next business day.

Table of Contents

We will issue the senior notes in the form of one or more global securities, which will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, and registered in the name of DTC's nominee. Information regarding DTC's book-entry system is set forth below under Book-Entry System; Global Notes.

Ranking

The senior notes will be our direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally with all our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The senior notes will be effectively subordinated to all our secured debt. As of March 31, 2013, we had approximately \$11.35 billion of notes outstanding under the indenture for senior notes. The indenture contains no restrictions on the amount of additional indebtedness that may be incurred by us.

As of March 31, 2013, we did not have any outstanding secured debt for borrowed money.

Optional Redemption for Senior Notes

Optional Redemption for 20 Notes

At any time prior to , we may, at our option, redeem the 20 notes in whole or in part at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the 20 notes to be redeemed; or

as determined by the Quotation Agent, the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the 20 notes to be redeemed (not including any portion of payments of interest accrued as of the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis at the Adjusted Treasury Rate plus basis points, plus, in either case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date.

At any time on or after , we may redeem the 20 notes, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal amount of the 20 notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date.

Optional Redemption for 20 Notes

At any time prior to , we may, at our option, redeem the 20 notes in whole or in part at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the 20 notes to be redeemed; or

as determined by the Quotation Agent, the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the 20 notes to be redeemed (not including any portion of payments of interest accrued as of the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis at the Adjusted Treasury Rate plus basis points, plus, in either case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date.

At any time on or after , we may redeem the 20 notes, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal amount of the 20 notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date.

Table of Contents

General Senior Note Optional Redemption Terms

The redemption price will be calculated assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

We will mail notice of any redemption at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of the senior notes to be redeemed.

Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the senior notes or portions of the senior notes called for redemption.

As used in this section *Optional Redemption for Senior Notes*, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Adjusted Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for the redemption date.

Business Day means any day that is not a day on which banking institutions in New York City are authorized or required by law or regulation to close.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the applicable Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the senior notes to be redeemed that would be used, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the senior notes to be redeemed.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date:

the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for that redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations; or

if we obtain fewer than four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations so received.

Quotation Agent means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us for the senior notes.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (1) each of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and their respective successors, unless any of them ceases to be a primary dealer in certain U.S. government securities (*Primary Treasury Dealer*), in which case we shall substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer; and (2) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by us, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to us by that Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding that redemption date.

If we redeem only some of the senior notes, DTC's practice is to choose by lot the amount to be redeemed from the senior notes held by each of its participating institutions. DTC will give notice to these participants, and these participants will give notice to any street name holders of any indirect interests in the senior notes to be redeemed according to arrangements among them. These notices may be subject to statutory or regulatory requirements. We will not be responsible for giving notice of a redemption of the senior notes to be redeemed to anyone other than the registered holders of the senior notes to be redeemed, which is currently DTC. If senior notes to be redeemed are no longer held through DTC and fewer than all the senior notes are to be redeemed, selection of senior notes for redemption will be made by the trustee in any manner the trustee deems fair and appropriate.

Table of Contents

Subject to the foregoing and to applicable law (including, without limitation, United States federal securities laws), we or our affiliates may, at any time and from time to time, purchase outstanding senior notes by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

No Sinking Fund

There is no provision for a sinking fund for either the 20 notes or the 20 notes.

Covenants

The indenture restricts us and any of our subsidiaries which are significant subsidiaries from incurring or assuming secured debt or entering into sale and leaseback transactions, except in certain circumstances. The accompanying prospectus describes this covenant (see Description of the Senior Notes Restrictions on Liens and Sale and Leaseback Transactions in the accompanying prospectus) and other covenants contained in the indenture in greater detail and should be read prior to investing.

Book-Entry System; Global Notes

Except as set forth below, the senior notes of each series will initially be issued in the form of one or more global notes. Each series of the senior notes will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered security certificate will be issued for each of the 20 notes and the 20 notes in the aggregate principal amount of such series, and will be deposited with DTC or the trustee on behalf of DTC and registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. If, however, the aggregate principal amount of either the 20 notes or the 20 notes exceeds \$500 million, one certificate will be issued with respect to each \$500 million of principal amount and an additional certificate will be issued with respect to any remaining principal amount of senior notes. Investors may hold their beneficial interests in a global note directly through DTC or indirectly through organizations which are participants in the DTC system.

Unless and until they are exchanged in whole or in part for certificated notes, the global notes may not be transferred except as a whole by DTC or its nominee or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

DTC has advised us as follows:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for participants (Direct Participants) and also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC). DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (Indirect Participants). The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Purchases of the senior notes under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the senior notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each senior note, or the beneficial owner, is, in turn, to be recorded on the direct and indirect

Table of Contents

participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participant through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the senior notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of direct and indirect participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in senior notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the senior notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all senior notes deposited by direct participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of senior notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the senior notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the senior notes are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The direct and indirect participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial owners of the senior notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the senior notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults and proposed amendments to the senior note documents. For example, beneficial owners of senior notes may wish to ascertain whether the nominee holding the senior notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to beneficial owners. In the alternative, beneficial owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the senior notes are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the senior notes to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to senior notes unless authorized by a direct participant in accordance with DTC's MMI procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts senior notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

Redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments on the senior notes will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the issuer or the agent on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of the participant and not of DTC nor its nominee, agent or the issuer, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the issuer or agent, disbursement of the payments to direct participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners will be the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

Table of Contents

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the senior notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the issuer or the agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, senior note certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, senior note certificates will be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of DTC and are subject to changes by it.

S-11

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following summary describes certain United States federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the senior notes as of the date hereof. This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as well as final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations and administrative and judicial decisions. Legislative, judicial and administrative changes may occur, possibly with retroactive effect, that could affect the accuracy of the statements described herein. This summary generally is addressed only to original purchasers of the senior notes, deals only with senior notes held as capital assets and does not purport to address all United States federal income tax matters that may be relevant to investors in special tax situations, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to mark to market, holders of senior notes that are held as a hedge or as part of a hedging, straddle or conversion transaction, certain former citizens or residents of the United States, or United States holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the United States dollar. **Persons considering the purchase of the senior notes should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of United States federal income tax laws, as well as the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdictions, to their particular situations.**

If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of a senior note, the treatment of such partnerships, or a partner in the partnership, will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A beneficial owner of a senior note that is a partnership, and partners in such a partnership, should consult their tax advisors about the United States federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the senior notes.

United States Holders

This section describes the tax consequences to a United States holder. A United States holder is a beneficial owner of a senior note that is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or any state (including the District of Columbia), (iii) an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of the senior note, or (iv) a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust (or certain trusts that have made a valid election to be treated as a United States person).

If you are not a United States holder, this section does not apply to you. See **Non-United States Holders** below.

Payment of Interest

The senior notes will not be issued with more than a *de minimis* amount of original issue discount for United States federal income tax purposes. Interest on a senior note will therefore be taxable to a United States holder as ordinary interest income at the time it accrues or is received, in accordance with the United States holder's method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

Sale, Exchange or Retirement of Senior Notes

Upon the sale, exchange or retirement of a senior note, a United States holder will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized from the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition (other than amounts attributable to accrued interest not previously included in income, which will be taxable as ordinary interest income) and the United States holder's adjusted tax basis in the senior note. A United States holder's adjusted tax basis in a senior note will generally equal the cost of the senior note to such holder (excluding amounts attributable to pre-issuance accrued interest) increased by the amount of any accrued but

Table of Contents

unpaid interest previously included in income. Such gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the senior note has been held for more than one year. Capital losses are subject to certain limitations.

Tax on Net Investment Income

For tax years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain non-corporate United States holders of senior notes generally will be subject to a 3.8% tax on their net investment income for the relevant taxable year. Subject to certain exceptions, a United States holder's calculation of its net investment income generally will include its interest income on, and its net gains from the disposition of, the senior notes. A United States holder that is an individual, estate or trust is urged to consult its tax advisor regarding the applicability of this tax to its income and gains in respect of your investment in the senior notes.

Non-United States Holders

This section describes the tax consequences to a non-United States holder. You are a non-United States holder if you are the beneficial owner of a senior note (other than a partnership, including an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) and are not a United States holder for United States federal income tax purposes.

Payment of Interest

A non-United States holder generally will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax with respect to payments of principal and interest on the senior notes, provided that (i) the non-United States holder does not actually or constructively own 10 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote, (ii) the non-United States holder is not for United States federal income tax purposes a controlled foreign corporation related to us (directly or indirectly) through stock ownership, and (iii) the beneficial owner of the senior notes certifies to us or the fiscal and paying agent (on Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or applicable form) under penalties of perjury as to its status as a non-United States holder and complies with applicable identification procedures. Special rules apply to partnerships, estates and trusts and, in certain circumstances, certifications as to foreign status and other matters may be required to be provided by partners and beneficiaries thereof.

Sale, Exchange or Retirement of Senior Notes

A non-United States holder of a senior note generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a senior note, unless the non-United States holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of sale, retirement or other disposition and certain other conditions are met. In such case, the non-United States holder generally will be subject to a 30 percent tax on any capital gain recognized on the disposition of the senior notes, after being offset by certain United States source capital losses.

United States Trade or Business

If a non-United States holder of a senior note is engaged in a trade or business in the United States and income or gain from the senior note is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business, the non-United States holder will be exempt from withholding tax if appropriate certification has been provided, but will generally be subject to regular United States federal income tax on such income and gain in the same manner as if it were a United States holder. In addition, if such non-United States holder is a foreign corporation, it may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30 percent (or lower applicable treaty rate) of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to adjustments.

Table of Contents

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act or FATCA provisions, impose a 30% United States withholding tax on certain types of payments made to certain foreign entities. Failure to comply with the additional certification, information reporting and other specified requirements imposed under FATCA could result in United States withholding tax being imposed on payments of interest and principal under the senior notes and sales proceeds of the senior notes held by or through a foreign entity. United States Treasury Regulations provide that FATCA withholding generally will apply to (i) payments of interest and principal made after December 31, 2013, (ii) gross proceeds from the sale, exchange or retirement of debt obligations paid after December 31, 2016, (iii) certain pass-thru payments (other than foreign pass-thru payments) received with respect to instruments held through foreign financial institutions after December 31, 2016 and (iv) certain foreign pass-thru payments received with respect to debt obligations held through foreign financial institutions after the later of December 31, 2016 and the date that final regulations defining the term foreign pass-thru payments are issued. The term foreign financial institution is defined very broadly for this purpose, and includes any foreign entity that accepts deposits in the ordinary course of a banking or similar business; as a substantial portion of its business, holds financial assets for the account of others; or is engaged, or holds itself out as being engaged, primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in (or in interests in) securities, partnership interests or commodities. However, the FATCA provisions do not apply to debt obligations issued on or prior to December 31, 2013, such as the senior notes. Therefore, the FATCA provisions only would apply to payments under the senior notes if there were a significant modification of the senior notes after December 31, 2013. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding FATCA and its effect on them.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, payments of interest and the proceeds of sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of the senior notes payable by a United States paying agent or other United States intermediary will be subject to information reporting. With respect to a non-United States holder, we must report annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to each non-United States holder the amount of any interest paid to such holder regardless of whether any tax was actually withheld. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest payments to a non-United States holder and the amount of any tax withheld also may be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-United States holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. In addition, backup withholding at the then applicable rate (currently 28 percent) will generally apply to these payments if:

in the case of a United States holder, the holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number, fails to certify that the holder is not subject to backup withholding or fails to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on its United States federal income tax returns; or

in the case of a non-United States holder, the holder fails to provide the certification on Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or applicable form or otherwise does not provide evidence of exempt status.

Certain United States holders (including, among others, corporations) are not subject to information reporting or backup withholding. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the holder's United States federal income tax liability and may entitle the holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. Holders of the senior notes should consult their tax advisors as to their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement between us and the underwriters named below, for whom Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and CastleOak Securities, L.P. are acting as representatives, we have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has severally and not jointly agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of senior notes set forth opposite its name below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of 20 Notes	Principal Amount of 20 Notes
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$	\$
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.		
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.		
CastleOak Securities, L.P.		
Mizuho Securities USA Inc.		
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.		
The Williams Capital Group, L.P.		
Great Pacific Securities		
Kota Global Securities Inc.		
 Total	 \$	 \$

The underwriters have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, to purchase all of the senior notes if any of the senior notes are purchased.

The underwriters propose to offer each series of the senior notes directly to the public at the respective public offering prices specified on the cover page to this prospectus supplement and may also offer the senior notes to certain dealers at the respective public offering prices less a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the 20 notes and % of the principal amount of the 20 notes. The underwriters may allow, and these dealers may reallow, concession to certain brokers and dealers not to exceed % of the principal amount of the 20 notes and % of the principal amount of the 20 notes. After the initial offering of the senior notes, the underwriters may change the offering prices and concessions.

The senior notes have no established trading market. We currently have no intention to list the senior notes on any securities exchange or automated dealer quotation system. The underwriters may make a market in the senior notes after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to make a market in the senior notes and may discontinue such market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the senior notes or that an active public market for the senior notes will develop. If an active public trading market for the senior notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the senior notes may be adversely affected.

We will agree to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments which the underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof.

We estimate the expenses for this offering, other than the underwriting discount, to be approximately \$.

We will agree with the underwriters not to, during the period three business days from the date of the underwriting agreement, sell, offer to sell, grant any option for the sale of, or otherwise dispose of any debt securities other than the senior notes, without the prior written consent of each of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and CastleOak Securities, L.P. This agreement will not apply to issuances of commercial paper or other debt securities with scheduled maturities of less than one year and the sale or remarketing of tax-exempt bonds issued by a governmental authority or body for our benefit.

Table of Contents

In order to facilitate the offering, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the senior notes. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with the offering, creating short positions in the senior notes for their own accounts. In addition, to cover over-allotments or to stabilize the price of the senior notes, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, senior notes in the open market. The underwriters may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or dealer for distributing senior notes in the offering if the underwriters repurchase previously distributed senior notes in transactions to cover short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the senior notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time without notice.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might also have an effect on the price of a security to the extent that it were to discourage resales of the security.

Neither we nor any underwriter makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the senior notes. In addition, neither we nor any underwriter makes any representation that the underwriters will engage in such transactions or that such transactions once commenced will not be discontinued without notice.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged and may in the future engage in transactions with, and, from time to time, have performed and may perform investment banking, corporate trust and/or commercial banking services for, us and certain of our affiliates in the ordinary course of business, for which they have received and will receive customary compensation. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments including serving as counterparties to certain derivative and hedging arrangements and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer. Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us may routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, these underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. or their affiliates are dealers under our commercial paper program and may receive proceeds from this offering. Additionally, one or more affiliates of the other underwriters are dealers under our commercial paper program and part of a consortium of banks that participates in our revolving credit facility or Corp s revolving credit facility and may also hold our debt securities.

Table of Contents

Selling Restrictions

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by the issuer for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes shall require the issuer or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

This prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of the notes. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Company or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither the Company nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Company or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This communication is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (iii) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). The notes are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any of their contents.

Each underwriter has represented, warranted and agreed that:

- 1.1 it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of

Table of Contents

Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA would not, if the issuer was not an authorised person apply to the issuer; and

- 1.2 it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

The notes have been accepted for clearance through DTC and have been assigned the following identification number:

	CUSIP Number
20 notes	
20 notes	

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the senior notes will be passed upon for us by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, San Francisco, California. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York represents the underwriters. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has in the past performed, and continues to perform, legal services in connection with federal regulatory and transactional matters for us and our affiliates.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Senior Notes

We may offer and sell from time to time an indeterminate principal amount of senior notes in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the senior notes that may be offered.

Each time we sell senior notes, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the offering and the terms of the offered senior notes. The prospectus supplement also may add, delete, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement for the specific offering before you invest in any of the senior notes. This prospectus may not be used to sell senior notes unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The senior notes may be sold to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to other purchasers. A prospectus supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of the senior notes, the aggregate principal amount of senior notes to be purchased by them and the compensation they will receive.

See Risk Factors on page 1 for information on certain risks related to the purchase of our securities.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

February 23, 2011

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	1
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	3
<u>Description of the Senior Notes</u>	4
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	15
<u>Experts</u>	16
<u>Legal Matters</u>	16
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	16
<u>Certain Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	17

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell an indeterminate principal amount of senior notes in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with only a general description of the senior notes that we may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For additional information regarding us and the offered senior notes, please refer to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Each time we sell senior notes, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the offering and the terms of the offered senior notes. The prospectus supplement also may add, delete, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should rely only on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement if this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement are inconsistent. Before purchasing any senior notes, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described under the section of this prospectus titled Where You Can Find More Information. In particular, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described under the section titled Risk Factors or otherwise included in any applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before you decide whether to purchase the senior notes. These risks and uncertainties, together with those not known to us or those that we may deem immaterial, could impair our business and ultimately affect our ability to make payments on the senior notes.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor any underwriter, dealer or agent will make an offer to sell the senior notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the dates on their covers. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Table of Contents

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

We are a public utility operating in northern and central California. We engage in the businesses of electricity and natural gas distribution, electricity generation, procurement and transmission, and natural gas procurement, transportation and storage.

We were incorporated in California in 1905. Our principal executive offices are located at 77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177, and our telephone number at that location is (415) 973-7000.

Unless otherwise indicated, when used in this prospectus, the terms we, our, ours and us refer to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and its subsidiaries, and the term Corp refers to our parent, PG&E Corporation.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please see risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and other reports filed with the SEC, which are all incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable supplement to this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations, financial results and the value of our securities.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement contain forward-looking statements that are necessarily subject to various risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on current estimates, expectations and projections about future events, and assumptions regarding these events and management's knowledge of facts as of the date of this report. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other matters, estimated capital expenditures, estimated Utility rate base, estimated environmental remediation liabilities, estimated tax liabilities, the anticipated outcome of various regulatory and legal proceedings, future cash flows, and the level of future equity or debt issuances, and are also identified by words such as assume, expect, intend, plan, project, believe, estimate, anticipate, aim, may, might, should, would, could, goal, potential and similar expressions. We are not able to predict all the factors that could affect future results. Some of the factors that could cause future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, or from historical results, include, but are not limited to:

our ability to efficiently manage capital expenditures and operating and maintenance expenses within authorized levels and timely recover its costs through rates;

the outcome of pending and future regulatory, legislative or other proceedings or investigations, including the investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board, or NTSB, and the California Public Utilities Commission, or CPUC, into the cause of the San Bruno accident and the safety of our natural gas transmission pipelines in our northern and central California service territory, the CPUC investigation of the Rancho Cordova accident, whether we incur civil or criminal penalties as a result of these proceedings, whether we are required to incur additional costs for third-party liability claims or to comply with regulatory or legislative mandates that we are unable to recover through rates or insurance and whether we incur third-party liabilities or other costs in connection with service disruptions that may occur as we comply with regulatory orders to decrease pressure on our natural gas transmission system;

reputational harm that Corp and we may suffer depending on the outcome of the various investigations, including those by the NTSB and the CPUC, the outcome of civil litigation, and the extent to which civil or criminal proceedings may be pursued by regulatory or governmental agencies;

Table of Contents

the adequacy and price of electricity and natural gas supplies, the extent to which we can manage and respond to the volatility of electricity and natural gas prices, and the ability of us and our counterparties to post or return collateral;

explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, the disruption of information technology and systems, human errors, and similar events that may occur while operating and maintaining an electric and natural gas system in a large service territory with varying geographic conditions that can cause unplanned outages, reduce generating output, damage our assets or operations, subject us to third-party claims for property damage or personal injury, or result in the imposition of civil, criminal, or regulatory fines or penalties on us;

the impact of storms, earthquakes, floods, drought, wildfires, disease, and similar natural disasters, or acts of terrorism or vandalism, that affect customer demand or that damage or disrupt the facilities, operations, or information technology and systems owned by us, our customers, or third parties on which we rely;

the potential impacts of climate change on our electricity and natural gas businesses;

changes in customer demand for electricity and natural gas resulting from unanticipated population growth or decline, general economic and financial market conditions, changes in technology that include the development of alternative technologies that enable customers to increase their reliance on self-generation, or other reasons;

the occurrence of unplanned outages at our two nuclear generating units at Diablo Canyon Power Plant (Diablo Canyon), the availability of nuclear fuel, the outcome of our application to renew the operating licenses for Diablo Canyon, and potential changes in laws or regulations promulgated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or environmental agencies with respect to the storage of spent nuclear fuel, security, safety, cooling water intake, or other matters associated with the operations at Diablo Canyon;

whether we earn incentive revenues or incur obligations under incentive ratemaking mechanisms, such as the CPUC's incentive ratemaking mechanism relating to energy savings achieved through implementation of the utilities' customer energy efficiency programs;

the impact of federal or state laws or regulations, or their interpretation, on energy policy and the regulation of utilities and their holding companies;

whether we can successfully complete our program to install advanced meters for our electric and natural gas customers, allay customer concerns about the new metering technology, and integrate the new meters with our customer billing and other systems while also implementing the system design changes necessary to accommodate retail electric rates based on dynamic pricing (i.e., electric rates that can vary with the customer's time of use and are more closely aligned with wholesale electricity prices) by the CPUC's due dates;

how the CPUC interprets and enforces the financial and other conditions imposed on Corp when Corp became our holding company and the extent to which the interpretation or enforcement of these conditions has a material impact on Corp;

the extent to which we or Corp incurs costs in connection with third-party claims or litigation, including those arising from the San Bruno accident, that are not recoverable through insurance, rates, or from other third parties;

Edgar Filing: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co - Form 424B5

the ability of us, Corp, and counterparties to access capital markets and other sources of credit in a timely manner on acceptable terms;

the impact of environmental laws and regulations addressing the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, water, the remediation of hazardous waste, and other matters, and whether we are able to recover the costs of compliance with such laws, including the cost of emission allowances and offsets that we may incur under federal or state cap and trade regulations;

Table of Contents

the loss of customers due to various forms of bypass and competition, including municipalization of our electric distribution facilities, increasing levels of direct access by which consumers procure electricity from alternative energy providers, and implementation of community choice aggregation, which permits cities and counties to purchase and sell electricity for their local residents and businesses; and

the outcome of federal or state tax audits and the impact of changes in federal or state tax laws, policies, or regulations, such as The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

For more information about the more significant risks that could affect the outcome of these forward-looking statements and our and Corp's future financial condition and results of operations, you should read the sections of the documents incorporated herein by reference titled Risk Factors as well as the important factors set forth under the heading Risk Factors in the applicable supplement to this prospectus.

You should read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplements, the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus, the documents that we have included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and the documents that we refer to under the section of this prospectus titled Where You Can Find More Information completely and with the understanding that our actual future results could be materially different from what we expect when making the forward-looking statement. We qualify all our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus, the date of the document incorporated by reference or the date of any applicable prospectus supplement. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.12x	3.12x	2.96x	2.79x	2.98x

For the purpose of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represent income from continuing operations adjusted for income taxes and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest). Fixed charges include interest on long-term debt and short-term borrowings (including a representative portion of rental expense), amortization of bond premium, discount and expense, interest on capital leases and allowance for funds used during construction related to the cost of debt. Fixed charges exclude interest on tax liabilities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Each prospectus supplement will describe the uses of the proceeds from the issuance of the senior notes offered by that prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES

This prospectus describes certain general terms of the senior notes that we may sell from time to time under this prospectus. We will describe the specific terms of each series of senior notes we offer in a prospectus supplement. The senior notes will be issued under an indenture dated as of April 22, 2005 (which supplemented, amended and restated the original indenture dated as of March 11, 2004 as thereafter supplemented) and one or more supplemental indentures that we will enter into with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. and successor to BNY Western Trust Company), as trustee. We have summarized selected provisions of the indenture and the senior notes below. The information we are providing you in this prospectus concerning the senior notes and the indenture is only a summary of the information provided in those documents, and the summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of the indenture, including the forms of senior notes attached thereto. You should consult the senior notes themselves and the indenture for more complete information on the senior notes as they, and not this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, govern your rights as a holder. The indenture is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The indenture has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act, and the terms of the senior notes will include those made part of the indenture by the Trust Indenture Act.

In this section, references to we, our, ours and us refer only to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and not to any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries or affiliates except as expressly provided.

General

The senior notes are our unsecured general obligations and will rank equally in right of payment to all our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The senior notes will be entitled to the benefit of the indenture equally and ratably with all other senior notes issued under the indenture.

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt we or our subsidiaries may issue under it or otherwise. We may issue senior notes from time to time under the indenture in one or more series by entering into supplemental indentures or by resolution of our board of directors.

Provisions of a Particular Series

The prospectus supplement applicable to each series of senior notes will specify, among other things:

the title of the senior notes;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the senior notes;

the date or dates on which the principal of the senior notes is payable, including the maturity date, or the method or means by which those dates will be determined, and our right, if any, to extend those dates and the duration of any extension;

the interest rate or rates of the senior notes, if any, which may be fixed or variable, or the method or means by which the interest rate or rates will be determined, and our ability to extend any interest payment periods and the duration of any extension;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, the dates on which we will pay interest on the senior notes and the regular record date, if any, for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;

any periods or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions on which the senior notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

Edgar Filing: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co - Form 424B5

any obligation of ours to redeem, purchase or repay the senior notes pursuant to any sinking fund or other mandatory redemption provisions or at the option of the holder and the terms and conditions upon which the senior notes will be so redeemed, purchased or repaid;

Table of Contents

the denominations in which we will authorize the senior notes to be issued, if other than \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000;

whether we will offer the senior notes in the form of global securities and, if so, the name of the depository for any global securities;

if the amount payable in respect of principal of or any premium or interest on any senior notes may be determined with reference to an index or other fact or event ascertainable outside the indenture, the manner in which such amount will be determined;

covenants for the benefit of the holders of that series;

the currency or currencies in which the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the senior notes will be payable if other than U.S. dollars and the method for determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars;

if the principal of the senior notes is payable from time to time without presentation or surrender, any method or manner of calculating the principal amount that is outstanding at any time for purposes of the indenture; and

any other terms of the senior notes.

We may sell senior notes at par or at a discount below their stated principal amount. We will describe in a prospectus supplement material U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, and any other special considerations for any senior notes we sell that are denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars.

Payment

Except as may be provided with respect to a series, interest, if any, on the senior notes payable on each interest payment date will be paid to the person in whose name that senior note is registered as of the close of business on the regular record date for the interest payment date. However, interest payable at maturity will be paid to the person to whom the principal is paid. If there has been a default in the payment of interest on any senior notes, the defaulted interest may be paid to the holders of the senior notes as of a date between 10 and 30 days before the date we propose for payment of defaulted interest or in any other manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange on which those senior notes may be listed, if the trustee finds it practicable.

Redemption

Any terms for the optional or mandatory redemption of a series of senior notes will be set forth in a prospectus supplement for the offered series. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, senior notes will be redeemable by us only upon notice by mail not less than 30 nor more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption and, if less than all the senior notes of a series are to be redeemed, the particular senior notes to be redeemed will be selected by the method provided for that particular series, or in the absence of any such provision, by such method of random selection as the registrar deems fair and appropriate.

We have reserved the right to provide conditional redemption notices for redemptions at our option or for redemptions that are contingent upon the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an event or condition that cannot be ascertained prior to the time we are required to notify holders of the redemption. A conditional notice may state that if we have not deposited redemption funds with the trustee or a paying agent on or before the redemption date or we have directed the trustee or paying agent not to apply money deposited with it for redemption of senior notes, we will not be required to redeem the senior notes on the redemption date.

Table of Contents

Restrictions on Liens and Sale and Leaseback Transactions

The indenture does not permit us or any of our significant subsidiaries (as defined below) to, (i) issue, incur, assume or permit to exist any debt (as defined below) secured by a lien (as defined below) on any of our principal property (as defined below) or any of our significant subsidiaries principal property, whether that principal property was owned when the original indenture was executed (March 11, 2004) or thereafter acquired, unless we provide that the senior notes will be equally and ratably secured with the secured debt or (ii) incur or permit to exist any attributable debt (as defined below) in respect of principal property; provided, however, that the foregoing restriction will not apply to the following:

to the extent we or a significant subsidiary consolidates with, or merges with or into, another entity, liens on the property of the entity securing debt in existence on the date of the consolidation or merger, provided that the debt and liens were not created or incurred in anticipation of the consolidation or merger and that the liens do not extend to or cover any of our or a significant subsidiary's principal property;

liens on property acquired after March 11, 2004 and existing at the time of acquisition, as long as the lien was not created or incurred in anticipation thereof and does not extend to or cover any other principal property;

liens of any kind, including purchase money liens, conditional sales agreements or title retention agreements and similar agreements, upon any property acquired, constructed, developed or improved by us or a significant subsidiary (whether alone or in association with others) which do not exceed the cost or value of the property acquired, constructed, developed or improved and which are created prior to, at the time of, or within 12 months after the acquisition (or in the case of property constructed, developed or improved, within 12 months after the completion of the construction, development or improvement and commencement of full commercial operation of the property, whichever is later) to secure or provide for the payment of any part of the purchase price or cost thereof; provided that the liens do not extend to any principal property other than the property so acquired, constructed, developed or improved;

liens in favor of the United States, any state or any foreign country or any department, agency or instrumentality or any political subdivision of the foregoing to secure payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or cost of constructing or improving the property subject to the lien, including liens related to governmental obligations the interest on which is tax-exempt under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, or any successor section of the Code;

liens in favor of us, one or more of our significant subsidiaries, one or more of our wholly owned subsidiaries or any of the foregoing combination; and

replacements, extensions or renewals (or successive replacements, extensions or renewals), in whole or in part, of any lien or of any agreement referred to in the bullet points above or replacements, extensions or renewals of the debt secured thereby (to the extent that the amount of the debt secured by the lien is not increased from the amount originally so secured, plus any premium, interest, fee or expenses payable in connection with any replacements, refundings, refinancings, remarketings, extensions or renewals); provided that replacement, extension or renewal is limited to all or a part of the same property (plus improvements thereon or additions or accessions thereto) that secured the lien replaced, extended or renewed.

Notwithstanding the restriction described above, we or any significant subsidiary may, (i) issue, incur or assume debt secured by a lien not described in the immediately preceding six bullet points on any principal property owned at March 11, 2004 or thereafter acquired without providing that the outstanding senior notes be equally and ratably secured with that debt and (ii) issue or permit to exist attributable debt in respect of principal property, in either case, so long as the aggregate amount of that secured debt and attributable debt, together with

Table of Contents

the aggregate amount of all other debt secured by liens on principal property not described in the immediately preceding six bullet points then outstanding and all other attributable debt in respect of principal property, does not exceed 10% of our net tangible assets, as determined by us as of a month end not more than 90 days prior to the closing or consummation of the proposed transaction.

For these purposes:

attributable debt in respect of a sale and leaseback transaction means, at the time of determination, the present value of the obligation of the lessee for net rental payments during the remaining term of the lease included in the sale and leaseback transaction, including any period for which the lease has been extended or may, at the option of the lessor, be extended. The present value shall be calculated using a discount rate equal to the rate of interest implicit in the transaction, determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals, or GAAP.

capital lease obligation means, at the time any determination is to be made, the amount of the liability in respect of a capital lease that would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet in accordance with GAAP.

debt means any debt of ours for money borrowed and guarantees by us of debt for money borrowed but in each case excluding liabilities in respect of capital lease obligations or swap agreements.

debt of a significant subsidiary means any debt of such significant subsidiary for money borrowed and guarantees by the significant subsidiary of debt for money borrowed but in each case excluding liabilities in respect of capital lease obligations or swap agreements.

excepted property means any right, title or interest of us or any of our significant subsidiaries in, to or under any of the following property, whether owned at March 11, 2004 or thereafter acquired:

all money, investment property and deposit accounts (as those terms are defined in the California Commercial Code as in effect on March 11, 2004), and all cash on hand or on deposit in banks or other financial institutions, shares of stock, interests in general or limited partnerships or limited liability companies, bonds, notes, other evidences of indebtedness and other securities, of whatever kind and nature;

all accounts, chattel paper, commercial tort claims, documents, general intangibles, instruments, letter-of-credit rights and letters of credit (as those terms are defined in the California Commercial Code as in effect on March 11, 2004), with certain exclusions such as licenses and permits to use the real property of others, and all contracts, leases (other than the lease of certain real property at our Diablo Canyon power plant), operating agreements and other agreements of whatever kind and nature; and all contract rights, bills and notes;

all revenues, income and earnings, all accounts receivable, rights to payment and unbilled revenues, and all rents, tolls, issues, product and profits, claims, credits, demands and judgments, including any rights in or to rates, revenue components, charges, tariffs, or amounts arising therefrom, or in any amounts that are accrued and recorded in a regulatory account for collection by us or any significant subsidiary;

all governmental and other licenses, permits, franchises, consents and allowances including all emission allowances (or similar rights) created under any similar existing or future law relating to abatement or control of pollution of the atmosphere, water or soil, other than all licenses and permits to use the real property of others, franchises to use public roads, streets and

Edgar Filing: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co - Form 424B5

other public properties, rights of way and other rights, or interests relating to the occupancy or use of real property;

all patents, patent licenses and other patent rights, patent applications, trade names, trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property, including computer software and software licenses;

all claims, credits, choses in action, and other intangible property;

Table of Contents

all automobiles, buses, trucks, truck cranes, tractors, trailers, motor vehicles and similar vehicles and movable equipment; all rolling stock, rail cars and other railroad equipment; all vessels, boats, barges and other marine equipment; all airplanes, helicopters, aircraft engines and other flight equipment; and all parts, accessories and supplies used in connection with any of the foregoing;

all goods, stock in trade, wares, merchandise and inventory held for the purpose of sale or lease in the ordinary course of business; all materials, supplies, inventory and other items of personal property that are consumable (otherwise than by ordinary wear and tear) in their use in the operation of the principal property; all fuel, whether or not that fuel is in a form consumable in the operation of the principal property, including separate components of any fuel in the forms in which those components exist at any time before, during or after the period of the use thereof as fuel; all hand and other portable tools and equipment; and all furniture and furnishings;

all personal property the perfection of a security interest in which is not governed by the California Commercial Code;

all oil, gas and other minerals (as those terms are defined in the California Commercial Code as in effect on March 11, 2004) and all coal, ore, gas, oil and other minerals and all timber, and all rights and interests in any of the foregoing, whether or not the minerals or timber have been mined or extracted or otherwise separated from the land; and all electric energy and capacity, gas (natural or artificial), steam, water and other products generated, produced, manufactured, purchased or otherwise acquired by us or any significant subsidiary;

all property which is the subject of a lease agreement other than a lease agreement that results from a sale and leaseback transaction designating us or any significant subsidiary as lessee and all our, or a significant subsidiary's right, title and interest in and to that property and in, to and under that lease agreement, whether or not that lease agreement is intended as security (other than certain real property leased at our Diablo Canyon power plant and the related lease agreement);

real, personal and mixed properties of an acquiring or acquired entity unless otherwise made a part of principal property; and

all proceeds (as that term is defined in the California Commercial Code as in effect on March 11, 2004) of the property listed in the preceding bullet points;

lien means any mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, security interest, encumbrance, easement, lease, reservation, restriction, servitude, charge or similar right and any other lien of any kind, including, without limitation, any conditional sale or other title retention agreement, any lease of a similar nature, and any defect, irregularity, exception or limitation in record title or, when the context so requires, any lien, claim or interest arising from anything described in this bullet point.

net tangible assets means the total amount of our assets determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with GAAP, less (i) the sum of our consolidated current liabilities determined in accordance with GAAP and (ii) the amount of our consolidated assets classified as intangible assets determined in accordance with GAAP, including, but not limited to, such items as goodwill, trademarks, trade names, patents, and unamortized debt discount and expense and regulatory assets carried as an asset on our consolidated balance sheet.

principal property means any property of ours or any of our significant subsidiaries, as applicable, other than excepted property.

Edgar Filing: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co - Form 424B5

significant subsidiary has the meaning specified in Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act; provided that, significant subsidiary shall not include any corporation or other entity substantially all the assets of which are excepted property.

swap agreement means any agreement with respect to any swap, forward, future or derivative transaction or option or similar agreement involving, or settled by reference to, one or more rates,

Table of Contents

currencies, commodities, equity or debt instruments or securities, or economic, financial or pricing indices or measures of economic, financial or pricing risk or value or any similar transaction or any combination of these transactions.

Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance or Other Transfer

We may not consolidate with or merge with or into any other person (as defined below) or convey, otherwise transfer or lease all or substantially all of our principal property to any person unless:

the person formed by that consolidation or into which we are merged or the person which acquires by conveyance or other transfer, or which leases, all or substantially all of the principal property is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, association, company, joint stock company or business trust, organized and existing under the laws of the United States, or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

the person executes and delivers to the trustee a supplemental indenture that in the case of a consolidation, merger, conveyance or other transfer, or in the case of a lease if the term thereof extends beyond the last stated maturity of the senior notes then outstanding, contains an assumption by the successor person of the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all senior notes then outstanding and the performance and observance of every covenant and condition under the indenture to be performed or observed by us;

in the case of a lease, the lease is made expressly subject to termination by us or by the trustee at any time during the continuance of an event of default under the indenture;