



## Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission Project

California SCH #2005061161

Federal Docket No. 05-12734



**To:** Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement  
**From:** John Boccio, CPUC, EIR Project Manager  
Marian Kadota, USDA Forest Service, EIS Project Manager  
**Subject:** **Notice of Availability**, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission Project  
**Date:** July 21, 2006

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for consideration of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) application to build and operate the Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission Project (proposed Project).

SCE proposes to construct a new, 25.6-mile 500-kV transmission line between SCE's existing Antelope and Pardee substations in north Los Angeles County. This project would replace an existing 66-kV line and traverse approximately 13 miles of National Forest System (NFS) lands. The proposed 500-kV transmission line would start at the Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster, traverse the Angeles National Forest (ANF), and terminate at the Pardee Substation in the City of Santa Clarita.

The Draft EIR/EIS details the proposed Project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Project, identifies those impacts that could be adverse, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CPUC, USDA Forest Service, or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize those impacts. The Draft EIR/EIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposed Project; these alternatives include the following:

- *Alternative 1: Antelope-Pardee Partial Underground.* This alternative would place two portions of the proposed transmission line underground and would reduce visual impacts, minimize constraints on USDA Forest Service management activities, such as wildland fire suppression, and decrease the risk of avian collisions and electrocutions.
- *Alternative 2: Antelope-Pardee East Mid-Slope Alternative.* This alternative would take a more easterly route through the ANF, would reduce the visual prominence of transmission towers along Del Sur Ridge and other locations, minimize constraints on USDA Forest Service management activities, such as wildland fire suppression, and decrease the risk of avian collisions and electrocutions.
- *Alternative 3: Antelope-Pardee Single-Circuit 500-kV Towers between Haskell Canyon and Pardee Substation.* Instead of removing the existing single-circuit towers along the southern portion of the proposed transmission route and replacing them with double-circuit towers, this alternative would retain the existing towers and construct a new parallel set of single-circuit 500-kV towers from Haskell Canyon to Pardee Substation (entirely on non-NFS lands).
- *Alternative 4: Antelope-Pardee Re-Routing of New Right-of-Way along Haskell Canyon.* In this alternative, the transmission line would follow a different alignment than the proposed Project in the vicinity of Haskell Canyon. This alternative would circumvent the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch and a planned residential development (known as Meadow Peak) located between the southern boundary of the ANF and the City of Santa Clarita.
- *Alternative 5: Antelope-Pardee Sierra-Pelona Re-Route.* This alternative would establish a new overhead transmission line between the Antelope and Pardee substations along a route that was originally proposed to circumvent the ANF. This new transmission ROW would be located along the eastern edge of the ANF boundary and traverse the ANF for approximately one-half mile along this route.
- *No Project/Action Alternative.* This EIR/EIS also includes analysis of a No Project/Action alternative. With the No Project/Action Alternative, the CPUC and USDA Forest Service would deny SCE's applications and the Project would not be constructed. No amendments would be necessary to the Forest Land Management Plan.

The Draft EIR/EIS will be available for review at several area libraries, other community locations, and on the Project website (see below). Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS on CD or a separately bound Executive Summary may be requested by phone or fax at (661) 215-5152 or by e-mail at antelope-pardee@aspenerg.com.

*Written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than September 18, 2006. Please be sure to include your name and address.* Written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS should be sent to:

**John Boccio/Marian Kadota**  
**CPUC/USDA Forest Service**  
 c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
 30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215  
 Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
 Fax: (661) 215-5152  
 E-mail: antelope-pardee@aspenerg.com.

The CPUC and USDA Forest Service will hold public meetings on August 28, 29, and 30, 2006. These public meetings are an opportunity for interested parties to provide oral and written comments about the Draft EIR/EIS. Details on the public meetings are as follows:

Public Meetings			
Location	Quartz Hill, CA	Santa Clarita, CA	Agua Dulce, CA
Date	Monday, August 28, 2006	Tuesday, August 29, 2006	Wednesday, August 30, 2006
Time	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	2:30 to 4:30 p.m. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Address	George Lane Park Auditorium 5520 West Avenue L-8 Quartz Hill, CA 93536	City of Santa Clarita Activities Center Santa Clarita Room 20880 Centre Point Parkway Santa Clarita, CA 91350	Agua Dulce Women's Club Clubhouse 33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Road Agua Dulce, CA 91390

### Sources of Project Information

For additional information, to read the Draft EIR/EIS online, or to find repository sites, check the Project website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/antelopepardee/antelopepardee.htm>