



El Casco System Project

California SCH #2007071076

To: Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report
From: Juralynne Mosley, CPUC – EIR Project Manager
Subject: **Notice of Availability**, Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed El Casco System Project
Date: December 12, 2007

The California Public Utilities Commission, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for consideration of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) application to build and operate the El Casco System Project (Proposed Project).

SCE proposes to construct a new 220/115/12 kV substation (the proposed El Casco Substation), upgrade the existing Zanja and Banning Substations and SCE's Mill Creek Communications Site, upgrade a total of 15.4 miles of 115 kV electric subtransmission line and associated structures, and install fiber optic communication cables within existing conduits in public streets and on existing SCE structures between the Cities of Redlands and Banning. The entire project would be located within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The Draft EIR details the Proposed Project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of SCE's Proposed Project, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft EIR also evaluates alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA. The Draft EIR was released for public review on December 12, 2007. The 1,000+ page Draft EIR will be available for review at several area libraries and on the project website, as listed on page two of this notice. Copies of the Draft EIR on CD-ROM (without detailed tower maps due to SCE security restrictions) may be requested by phone or fax at (877) 576-8342, or by e-mail at elcasco@aspene.com.

Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than January 25, 2008. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number. Written comments on the Draft EIR should be sent to:

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California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
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E-mail: elcasco@aspene.com.

In order to help affected communities understand the Proposed Project and the Draft EIR, and to explain how the public can participate in the CPUC's decision-making process, the CPUC will hold

informational workshops on January 9, 2008. These informal workshops are an opportunity to speak with the specialists who wrote the Draft EIR and ask questions; the specialists will be available at the times listed below for workshops. While written comments may be submitted during these workshops, there will be no facilities to record oral comments.

In addition, two public participation meetings will be held immediately following each of the workshops on January 9, 2008 to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. The oral comments will be recorded. Details on the informational workshops and public participation meetings are as follows:

Table 1. Informational Workshops and Public Participation Meetings

Location	City of Banning Council Chambers	
Day, Date	Wednesday, January 9 th , 2008	
Time	1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Workshop 3 to 4 p.m. Public Participation Meeting	5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Workshop 7 to 8 p.m. Public Participation Meeting
Address Phone No.	99 East Ramsey Street Banning, CA 92220-0998 (951) 922-3102	
Directions	Exit I-10 at CA-246/8 th Street. Turn north on CA-246/8 th Street. Turn east on Ramsey Street. The Civic Center is on the north side of street.	

Note: The meeting end times are approximate times. Depending on meeting attendance, the meetings may end earlier than noted on the table.

Sources of Project Information

For additional information or to read the Draft EIR online, check the Project Internet website at:

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

Table 2 lists the public repository sites at which project documents, including the Draft EIR, may be reviewed.

Table 2. Repository Sites

Library Sites	Address	Phone Number	Hours
Yucaipa Branch Library	12040 5th Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399	(909) 790-3146	M-Th 10am - 8pm; F 10am - 6 pm; Sat 9 am - 5pm
Calimesa Branch Library	974 Calimesa Boulevard, Calimesa, CA 92320	(909) 795-9807	T, Th, F 10 am - 6 pm; Wed. 12 pm - 8 pm; Sat 10am-6pm
Beaumont Library District	125 East 8th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	(951) 845-1357	M, W, F, Sat 10 am - 6 pm T, Th 10 am - 8 pm
Banning Public Library	21 W Nicolet Street, Banning, CA 92220	(951) 849-3192	M, W 9 am - 7pm; T, Th 9am - 6 pm; F 9am - 5pm; Sat 9am-2pm
University of Redlands Armacost Library	1200 East Colton Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373	(951) 849-5937	M-Th 8am-midnight; F 8am - 9pm; Sat 8am - 9pm; Sun 1 pm - midnight (Fall 2007)