

Fact Sheet

El Casco System Project



Southern California Edison (SCE) has filed an application (No. 07-02-022) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Permit to Construct the El Casco System Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would include construction of the El Casco Substation; upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations; transmission line upgrades and installation from the new El Casco Substation, located in the Norton Younglove Reserve, east to the Banning Substation in the City of Banning; and telecommunications improvements.

The objective of SCE's Proposed Project is to build the electrical facilities necessary to serve forecasted demand in Calimesa, Beaumont, and the surrounding areas of unincorporated northern Riverside County, and to maintain safe and reliable service to customers in the area.

The Proposed Project includes the following components, which are detailed in the attached map.

Construction of the El Casco Substation.

The new 14-acre El Casco 220/115/12 kV Substation would be located on a 28-acre plot within the Norton Younglove Reserve in Riverside County. This component would include associated 220 kV and 115 kV interconnections and new 12 kV distribution line connections (getaways). The substation would be designed with a low profile (structures no taller than 40 feet). Landscaping around the substation would incorporate primarily native vegetation and would be designed to screen views of the substation site.



Looking south towards the proposed site for the El Casco Substation on the Norton Younglove Reserve (existing SCE towers are shown in the background)

Upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations. The 115 kV switchracks within the Zanja and Banning Substations, located in the Cities of Yucaipa and Banning, respectively, would be rebuilt to accommodate the new 115 kV subtransmission line, thereby allowing for at least two subtransmission lines to serve each substation at all times. This would reduce the likelihood of temporary power outages, which currently occur due to the fact that each substation is served by only one 115 kV subtransmission line at a time. If there is a problem with the primary (or “preferred”) line, a brief delay occurs before the secondary (or “emergency”) line can be connected. The upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations would eliminate this delay by providing a connection for a second 115 kV subtransmission line for each substation that would be active at all times. Replacement of the switchracks in both substations would occur within the existing fenced-in areas.

Transmission Line Upgrades and Installation. These upgrades would include replacement of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new, higher capacity lines; tying in existing 115 kV and 220 kV lines to the new El Casco Substation (looping in); and installation of new 12 kV distribution line getaways at the El Casco Substation.

The proposed upgrades of the existing single-circuit subtransmission lines would include the following:

- Approximately 13 miles of single-circuit 115 kV lines would be replaced with 115 kV double-circuit lines between the new El Casco Substation and the Banning Substation, traversing the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, and unincorporated Riverside County. Single-circuit 115 kV structures would be replaced with 115 kV double-circuit structures.
- Approximately 1.9 miles of subtransmission line would be replaced with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and support structures within existing SCE Right-of-Ways (ROWs) in the City of Beaumont and unincorporated Riverside County.
- Approximately 0.5 miles of subtransmission line would be replaced with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines on existing support structures in the City of Beaumont.



Existing 115 kV Subtransmission Line through the Sun Lakes Community

The existing San Bernardino-Maraschino 115 kV subtransmission line would be looped into the new El Casco Substation 115 kV switchrack on two new approximately 900-foot long line segments between the existing ROW and the 115 kV switchrack. The Devers–San Bernardino No. 2 220 kV transmission line would be looped into the new 220 kV switchrack on two new approximately 500-foot long line segments between the existing ROW and the 220 kV switchrack. Two approximately 400-foot-long underground duct banks would be constructed for the 12 kV distribution line getaways, traversing beneath San Timoteo Creek and the railroad tracks. These distribution lines would eventually be connected to future distribution lines in the area.

Telecommunications Improvements. Proposed improvements to the telecommunications systems include the construction of a microwave system at the proposed El Casco Substation and SCE’s existing Mill Creek Communications Site in the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as installation of fiber optic cables within public streets and on existing SCE structures in the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Redlands, and Yucaipa, as well as unincorporated parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties..

Alternatives to the Proposed Project. If it is determined that the Project would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, the following alternatives developed by SCE in their Proponent’s Environmental Assessment, and additional feasible alternatives developed by the CPUC would be considered. SCE’s proposed alternatives include a Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative, and a Vista System Upgrade Alternative. The Northerly Alternative includes a 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route that begins at the El Casco Substation and proceeds east and southeast to the Banning Substation. The Northerly Alternative, unlike the Proposed Project, does not loop into the Maraschino Substation. The Vista System Upgrade Alternative includes the construction and replacement of several 115 kV Subtransmission lines as well as the addition of new transformers at both the Vista and Maraschino Substations. The Vista System Upgrade Alternative would not include the construction of the El Casco Substation.

Additional Project Information. For additional information on the proposed project, please contact Juralynne Mosley, CPUC Project Manager at 415-703-2210, jbm@cpuc.ca.gov.