



# SCE's Proposed Ivanpah-Control Project



CPUC Scoping Meeting  
for Preparation of an  
Environmental Impact Report

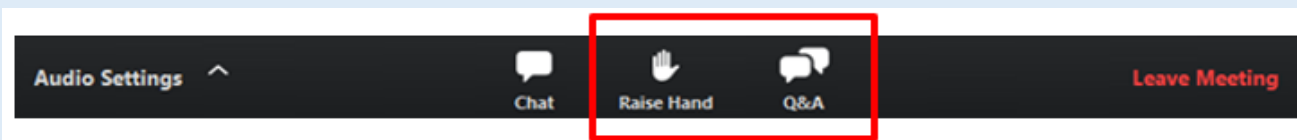
**September 2020**



# Meeting Participation via Zoom



- All attendees will be muted during the presentation
- **Oral Questions:** If you want to ask a question during the presentation, click on the hand icon to use the **RAISE HAND** feature, and we will unmute you and call on you to speak, either during or after the presentation
- **Written Questions:** Use the **Q&A** feature if you want to type a question during the presentation. Click on Q&A and type your question in the Q&A bar. We will answer questions either during or after the presentation.
- **Oral Scoping Comments:** If you would like to make a scoping comment, please wait until the end of the presentation. When we ask for scoping comments, use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will call on you to speak.
- **Note:** This meeting is being recorded.





# Speaker Panel and Agenda



- **Introduction of Speakers; Agenda Summary; Purpose of Scoping**  
*Sandra Alarcón-Lopez, Aspen Environmental Group*
- **Description of Proposed Project**  
*Susan Lee, Aspen*
- **CPUC Process and Schedule**  
*John Forsythe, CPUC*
- **Native American Consultation; BLM Process; Agency Coordination**  
*Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental*
- **EIR Content**  
*Susan Lee, Aspen*
- **Comments from the Public and Agencies**



# The Purpose of Scoping



- To inform the public and responsible agencies about an upcoming project for which an EIR will be prepared
- To inform the public about the environmental review process
- To solicit input regarding potential alternatives to the proposed project and the appropriate scope of issues to be studied in the EIR
- To identify issues of concern and areas of potential controversy
- A Scoping Report will be prepared and placed on the project website



# Key Players and their Roles in the CEQA Process

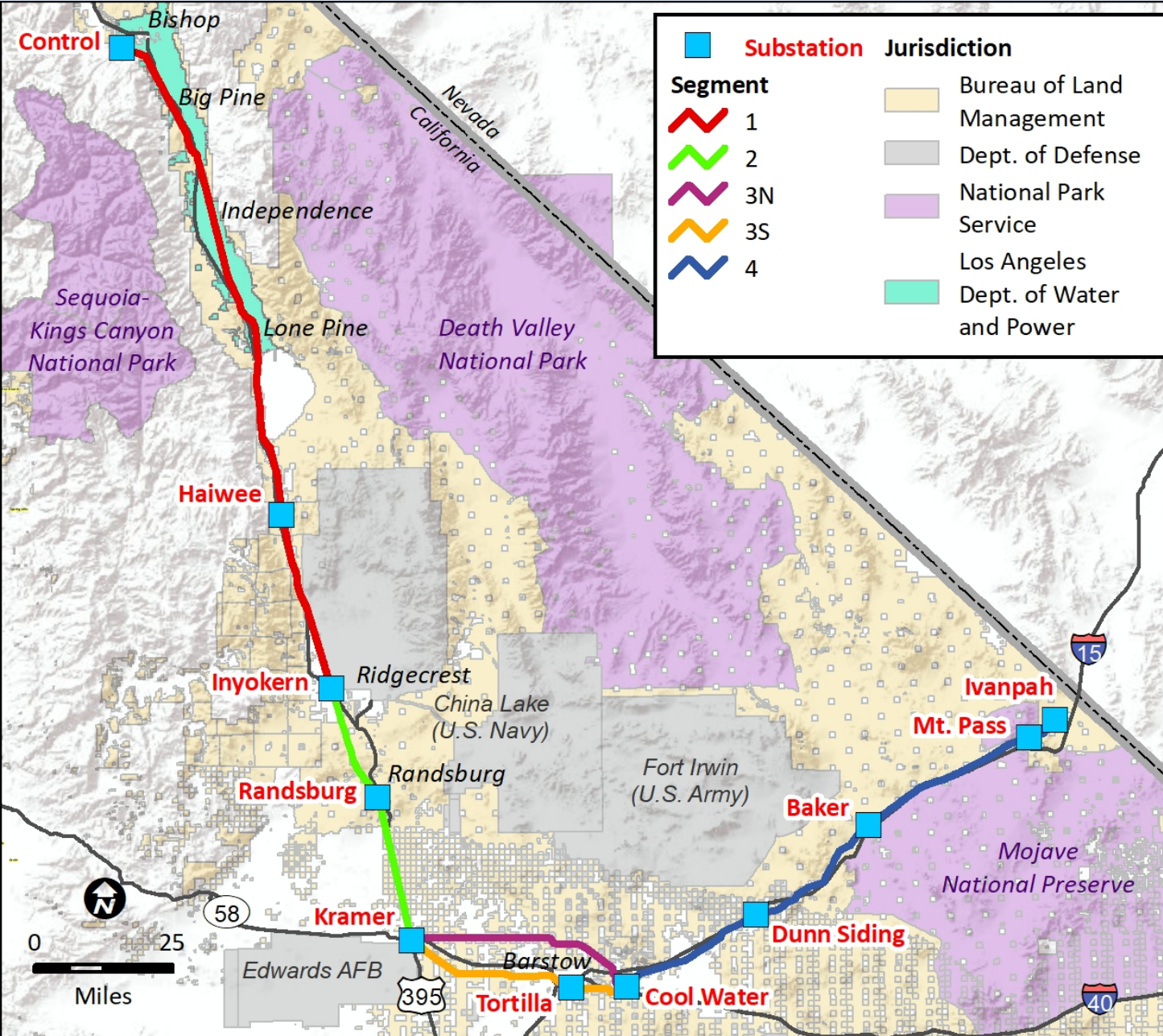


- **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)**
  - Lead Agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- **Southern California Edison Company (SCE):** the Applicant
- **Aspen Environmental Group and Panorama Environmental**
  - Environmental Consultants to the CPUC

For the National Environmental Policy Act:

- **The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is the Lead Agency
  - The BLM is preparing a separate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





- Segment 1:**  
Inyo County and Kern County
- Segment 2:**  
Kern County and San Bernardino County
- Segments 3N and 3S:**  
San Bernardino County
- Segment 4:**  
San Bernardino County

Ivanpah-Control Project is divided into 5 segments, numbered from north to south, then west to east



# Description of the Proposed Project: Transmission Components



## Major elements of SCE’s Ivanpah-Control Project: 358 miles

- Overall purpose is to ensure reliability by replacing old towers/poles and lines
- **Segments 1 and 2:** Replace all existing structures with new structures; install new conductor
- **Segments 3N, 3S:** Replace 10-15% of existing structures; install new conductor
- **Segment 4:** Replace 10-15% of existing structures; derate line
- **Construction** would start in 2023 and finish in 2026

| Segment                                      | New Towers | Removed Towers | Segment                                       | New Towers | Removed Towers |
|--|------------|----------------|---|------------|----------------|
| 1. Control Substation to Inyokern Substation | 905        | 1,161          | 3S. Kramer Substation to Coolwater Sub.       | 42         | 42             |
| 2. Inyokern Substation to Kramer Substation  | 342        | 390            | 4. Coolwater Substation to Ivanpah Substation | 62         | 60             |
| 3N. Kramer Substation to Coolwater Sub.      | 45         | 43             |   |            |                |







# Description of Project Construction Activities



## In addition to transmission structure replacement:

- **Staging Yards:** Typically between one and five acres for each yard, located along the transmission route
- **Work Areas:** From  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre to  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre at each pole site
- **Access Roads:** Approximately 426 miles of existing access roads and spur roads. Public roads would also be used, and no new permanent access roads would be developed.
- **Vegetation Removal:** During road rehabilitation and preparation of staging areas, vegetation would be trimmed or removed, as needed.
- **Helicopter Use:** SCE would use helicopters to support construction activity.
- **Construction Personnel:** SCE anticipates approximately 200 construction personnel working on a given day.



# Need for the Proposed Ivanpah-Control Project



**SCE states that the Ivanpah-Control Project will focus on meeting the following objectives:**

- Improve safety and reliability:
  - Ensure compliance with CPUC General Order 95 and NERC Facility Ratings
  - Continue to provide safe and reliable electrical service
- Meet Proposed Project needs while minimizing environmental impacts
- Design and construction of the physical components of the Proposed Project in conformance with industry and SCE's approved standards





# CPUC Review Process



**The CPUC is conducting two parallel review processes for this SCE Application for a Permit to Construct (PTC):**

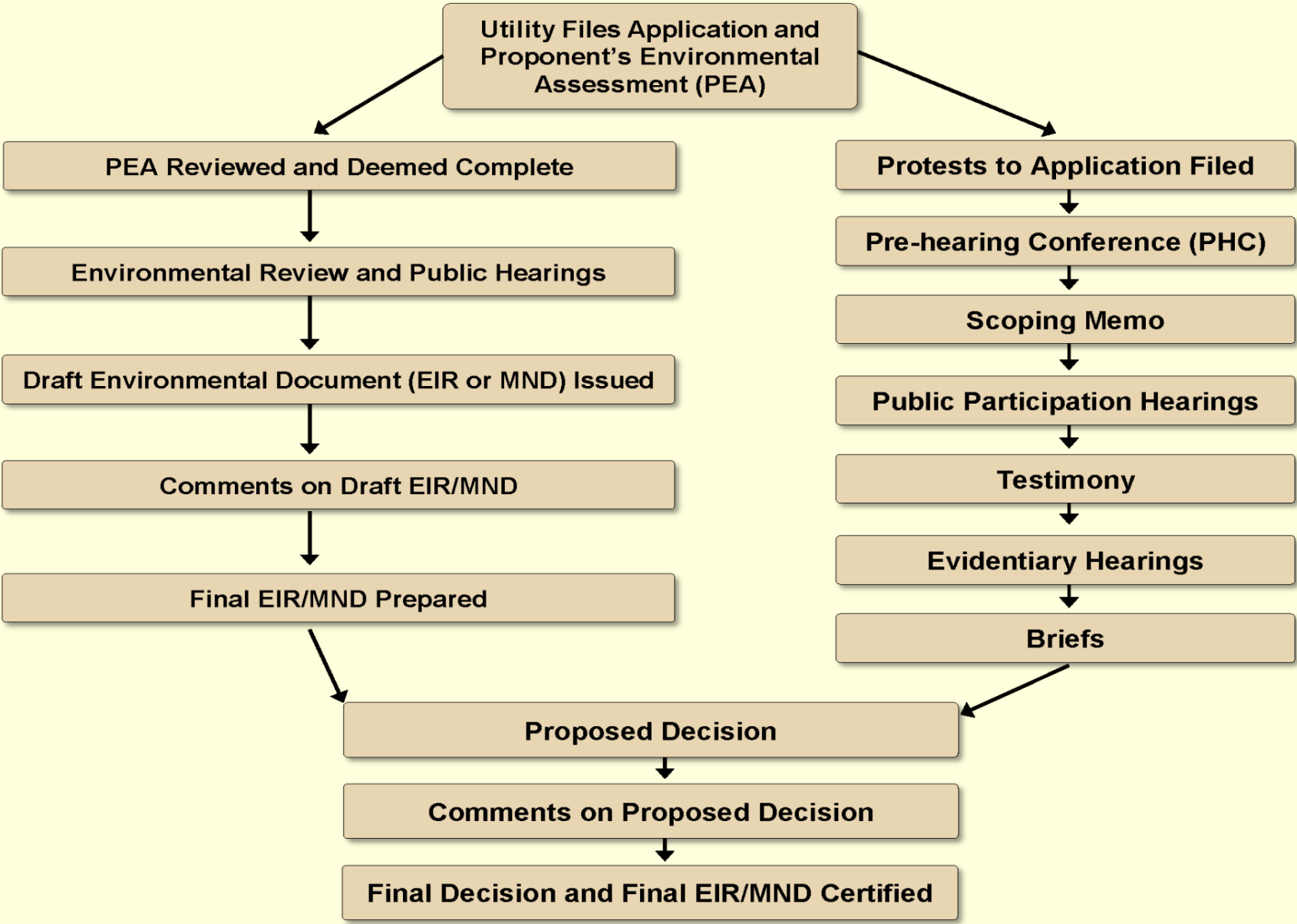
**1. General Proceeding: Application # A.19-07-015**

- Assigned Commissioner *Genevieve Shiroma*
- Administrative Law Judge *Hallie Yacknin*
- See flow chart on next slide

**2. Environmental Review: the CEQA process**

- Application is typically deemed complete before Scoping begins, but for I-C, SCE is still completing the required cultural resources reports
- Reports are expected in October/November of 2020; if they are delayed, the EIR schedule will be delayed
- Schedule includes ongoing consultation with Native American Tribes

# CPUC Process





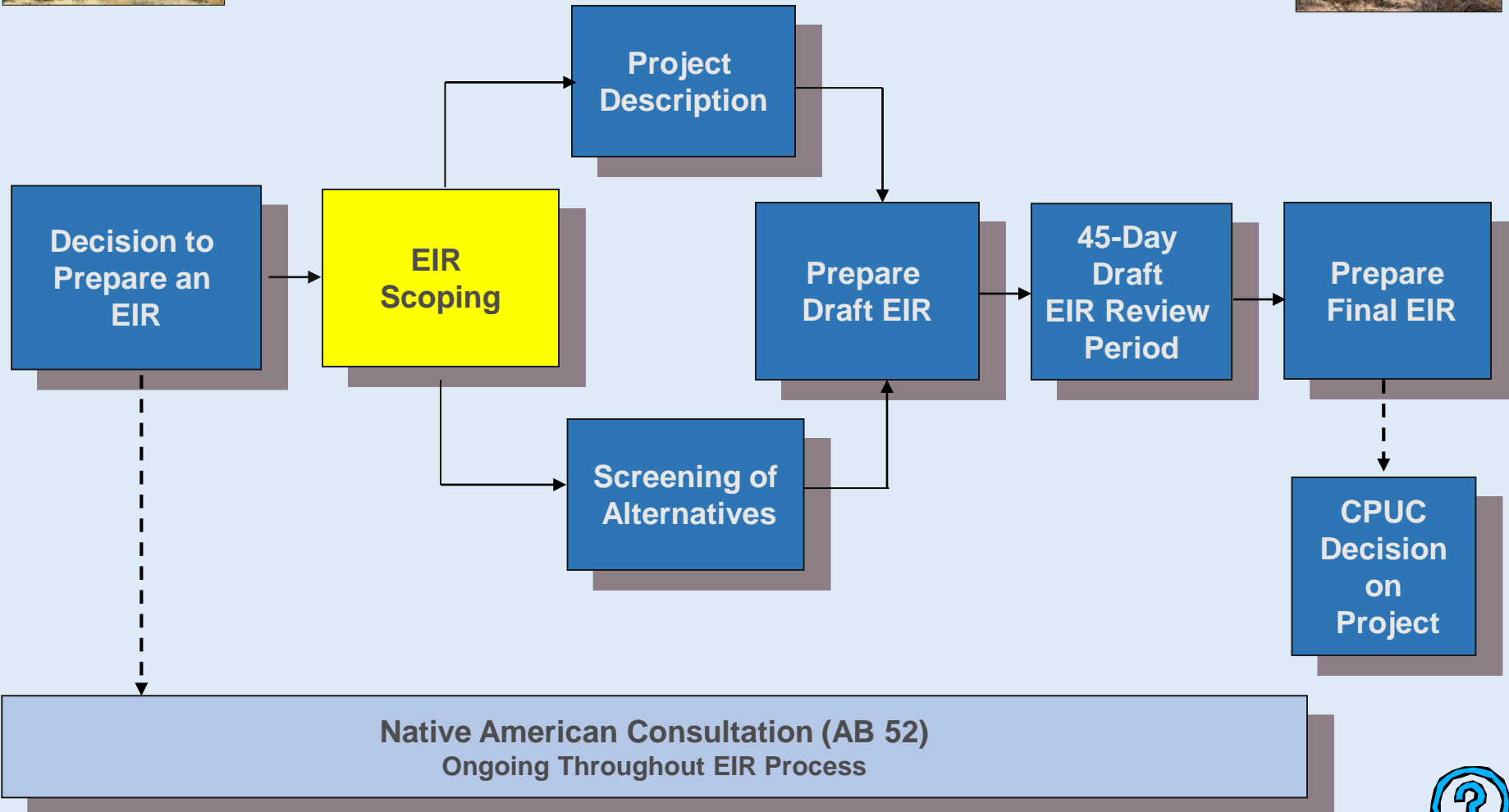
# CEQA Tentative Environmental Review Schedule



|  |   |
|--|---|
| SCE filed PTC Application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment   | Initial: July 2019<br>Amended: April 2020 |
| Initiate Native American AB 52 Consultation  | Late August 2020                          |
| Notice of Preparation for EIR  | September 1, 2020                         |
| Public Scoping for EIR   | September 1-30, 2020                      |
| Public Review of Draft EIR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 45-day Comment Period</li><li>• Public Meetings</li></ul> | Estimated early 2021                      |
| Final EIR  | Estimated late 2021                       |
| EIR Certified by CPUC  | Estimated early 2022                      |



# The EIR Process





# Native American Consultation Under AB 52



- The CPUC began informal outreach to potentially affected Native American tribes in late 2018
  - Several conference calls have been held during 2019 and 2020 with interested tribes
- The CPUC initiated formal consultation in late August 2020
- Consultation will continue throughout the CEQA process, and may include:
  - Sharing of confidential site records assembled during SCE's surveys (for tribes with BLM data sharing agreements)
  - Meetings or calls to discuss tribal concerns and recommendations
  - Information gathering about tribal cultural resources
  - Site visits to areas of concern



# BLM Process and Schedule



- A revised ROW grant must be issued to cross BLM-administered lands: nearly 50% of the 358-mile route
- SCE plans to file an updated Plan of Development with BLM in October 2020
- BLM will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register, likely in early 2021
  - NOI will be followed by a public scoping period
- BLM will hold Government-to-Government Consultation with interested Tribes concurrent with EIS preparation





# CPUC Consultation with Responsible and Permitting Agencies



- CPUC is coordinating with the BLM to ensure consistency between the CEQA and NEPA processes
- CPUC has reached out to cities, counties, and agencies along the route, including:
  - Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties
  - Cities of Bishop and Barstow
  - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
  - Caltrans
  - CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - CA State Historic Preservation Office
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





# General Contents and Purpose of an EIR



## Contents:

- Describe the environmental setting of the project area
- Disclose the potential environmental impacts of the project and alternatives
- Propose measures to reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures)

## Purpose:

- Provide technically sound information for decision-makers to consider in evaluating the proposed project



# Major Elements of an EIR



- Detailed Project Description
- Description of Alternatives Screening Process and Alternatives Carried Forward
- Impacts of Proposed Project
- Impacts of Alternatives
- Mitigation Measures
- Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Growth Inducing Effects
- Mitigation Monitoring



# Environmental Disciplines Included in an EIR



- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, Paleontology
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire



# Alternatives Analysis



- Alternatives for the EIR will be determined by CEQA requirements:
  1. Consistency with most project objectives
  2. Ability to reduce or avoid impacts of proposed project
  3. Feasibility
- Alternatives may include changes to structure design or location within the project right-of-way
- The No Project Alternative will also be considered
- Scoping comments suggesting alternatives are welcome





# Most Useful EIR Scoping Comments



1. Identify the location and extent of environmental impacts of the proposed project.
2. Recommend issues to be addressed in the EIR.
3. Recommend alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts of the proposed project.



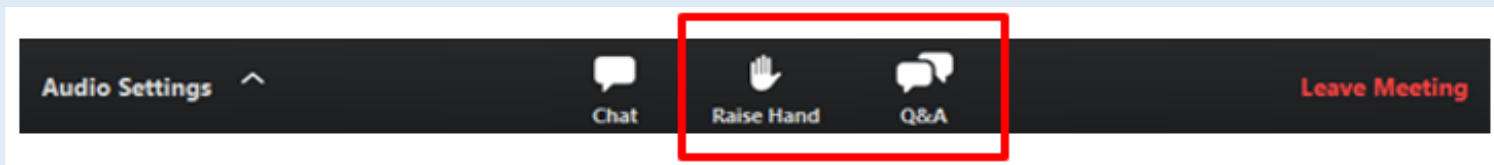
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  - You can also email or mail comments.
  - **COMMENTS ARE DUE:** September 30, 2020.

## If joining via telephone ONLY:

- Press \*9 to raise your hand
- When called on:  
Press \*6 to unmute





# SCOPING COMMENTS





**Written Scoping Comments  
Must be Received (Email) or  
Postmarked (US Mail) by  
September 30, 2020**



**MAILED COMMENTS:**

John Forsythe  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 640  
San Francisco, CA 94104

*or*

E-mail: [Ivanpah-Control@aspeneg.com](mailto:Ivanpah-Control@aspeneg.com)

**Please be sure to include your name, address,  
and phone number on all comments.**



## For More Information:



- Check our website for detailed documents, updates on the project schedule, and comment deadlines:

<https://tinyurl.com/ivanpahcontrol>

- E-mail us at: [Ivanpah-Control@aspenerg.com](mailto:Ivanpah-Control@aspenerg.com)
- Call the Project Information Line: (800) 535-2572



**Thank you for coming!**