

Appendix B

Scoping Meeting Comments

September 03, 2020 Public Scoping Meeting

This virtual meeting was held on September 03, 2020 at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., using Zoom. The audio from this meeting was recorded, as well as a list of attendees. The presentation included an introduction and description of the Project, a discussion of the CPUC process and schedule, information regarding Native American consultation, agency coordination, and the BLM process, as well as EIR content. The meeting was virtually attended by 29 people, including property owners, representatives from agencies, and tribal liaisons. During the meeting, speakers paused to give an opportunity for questions, and at the end, the meeting was opened up to receive comments.

The information presented below was taken from the Zoom recording of the meeting.

Transcription of Comments

Sean Scruggs, Fort Independence Tribe THPO.

“I’m sorry to interrupt.. briefly, I just wanted to know if there were any other THPOs on the meeting?”

“[SH] I don’t know if there are any THPOs. I guess if there are other THPOs maybe they can raise their hand. I see a hand raised, Dawn Hubbs, that may be another person.”

“Ok. But we don’t have Monty ??, Danielle Gutierrez Kathy Bancroft, from any pf the Big Pine or Bishop”

“[SH] I am not seeing them on the call at this moment.”

“Ok again, I don’t want to steal the meeting away, just one second for anybody I haven’t met. Manahuu, Sean Scruggs, that’s my greeting, hello in Paiute for Fort Independence. I did have some concerns or questions about the earlier first presentation with segment 1 later at the end so if we could come back, so I’ll let everyone else go through the rest of the presentation and I’d like to see if we could revisit some of the earlier parts of the presentation”

Dawn D. Hubbs, Consultant to Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

“Good afternoon. I just wanted to point out that I am not THPO nor ESSA for Fort Mojave Indian Tribe but I am consultant to Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and I am on this virtual public scoping on behalf of Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Thank you.”

Sean Scruggs, Fort Independence Tribe THPO, Second Comment

“The primary question that I had was that I went out and looked at the transmission line between Independence and Lone Pine, and this doesn’t have to be answered right now, its, uh you know if we could answer it later on. I looked at a lot of the tower lines, again from Independence Mazourka Road, which is just outside of Independence – south of it – to just north of Lone Pine and it looked like most of the towers are still the type that it looks like you’re replacing, so with that 120, or so odd miles in Segment 1, in my area specifically, again, I haven’t looked north of Independence, just looking to find out how many exact poles are you looking to replace, and which ones? Because there are sensitive cultural resources out there, of course, and we are always concerned about wildlife and even though there might be access roads, we have to think about what kind of equipment is going to be out there and what kind of disruption, you know, so those are – the question is how many poles would be, and then, you know, going into comments, is obviously, were going to have a lot of discussions on cultural resources, and how this is going to impact wildlife and things of that nature. And then I’ll let other people go around the room”

Barbara Durham, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe THPO

“Yes, this is Barbara Durham I’m the THPO for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and I um have uh, I don’t, I guess I have a question about the whole project itself but I also have concerns about tribal consultation and the requirements that have to be abided by, uh we do have cultural resources out there and I totally agree with Sean Scruggs comments, not only for the land itself, but for the roads, and the improvements to the roads, and we would like to be involved with that and through the project itself. Thank you”

Dawn D. Hubbs, Consultant to Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Second Comment

“I have one question, was there any formal type of communication to Tribal Governments regarding protocols for virtual public scoping in view of COVID? I know we received a notice of preparation, but I am wondering if tribal governments received instructions regarding a shift into Public Scoping via Virtual due to COVID. I just want to know that for the record.”

Sean Scruggs, Fort Independence Tribe THPO, Third Comment

“Ok, can you hear me again? Ok, thanks again for the opportunity to speak, I don’t want to downplay my experience, or knowledge with this THPO position, just briefly, I’ve only been doing it about 2 and a half to 3 years, I’m learning every day more and more from Kathy, Monty, and Barbara, you know all the THPOs we work with every day. And, you know, we always have, just to set the tone, for at least myself, just in general, THPOs, you know, obviously the first concern we always have is the wildlife, the air, the water, anything that might get contaminated and just life in and of itself. And the cultural resources go beyond what people can just even see with the tower or the project that they are working on so as soon as a vehicle you know, goes off the road, there may be flakes, there may be beads there may be a grave that we know about that hasn’t been shared with anybody so in the footwork of people doing cultural resource surveys and bringing up site references, that’s obviously necessary, but what you are going to find is a lot more stuff out there. The reason I say that is were going through this, if anybody is familiar with it – south of Lone Pine – Olancha Cartago the highway 395, they’re building a 12-mile expansion and there’s been ten rotations of archaeology teams that have gone out there just to do data collection. You’re talking years now with Caltrans and treatment plants and things that they’ve found that- in my mind – I don’t want to make it bigger than what it seems but, other THPOs will chime in and the Tribes will give all of their input individually as they need to and as they should. As to the concerns, remember that when the first, all of this stuff was first done, there was very little consultation, and not that maybe people didn’t reach out to the tribes, the tribes didn’t have as much, as many rights, there weren’t as many protective laws, there wasn’t as much interaction because of you know, now we have email and zoom and can just call almost any time. The ability to reach out and consult with tribes was very minimal to the engagement that you have the 5 THPOs and other THPOs outside of just the area I’m even familiar with. Are so engaged work on big projects., we have worked on projects that have gone to Congress in the last year and a half that the Air Force is working on. So we have these other levels of experience, and not only how to start navigating the written laws but also how to speak for the resources and the life that is out there. And you know we’re, there would just be a lot of work you know that is necessary that is just kind of setting the tone. This is you know, going to be extensive, and you know if, there’s people that aren’t experienced in 106 consultation with tribes, right now, because of COVID, because of the need for us to engage with our general counsel, that communication we even have with our tribes is limited and slow, so I can’t just make a decision and say hey that’s good or I’m going to speak for this area, these are types of communications that, you know, begin now and could literally take just a year to get done and what could have even been done in three months. And you know that’s just kind of a comment, a general comment. I’ll leave it open

for if anyone wants to comment on that, ask questions, give Barbara a chance, or other Fort Mojave to chime in as well, Thank you”

September 10, 2020 Public Scoping Meeting

This virtual meeting was held on September 10, 2020 at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., using Zoom. The audio from this meeting was recorded, as well as a list of attendees. The presentation included an introduction and description of the Project, a discussion of the CPUC process and schedule, information regarding Native American consultation, agency coordination, and the BLM process, as well as EIR content. This meeting was virtually attended by 17 people, including property owners, representatives from agencies, and tribal liaisons. During the meeting, speakers paused to give an opportunity for questions, and at the end, the meeting was opened up to receive comments.

The information presented below was taken from the Zoom recording of the meeting.

Summary of Comments

- During this meeting, there was one question presented regarding personal property. There were no comments received at September 10 meeting.



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.

Audio Settings ^

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

Leave Meeting

Ivanpah-Control Project EIR



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



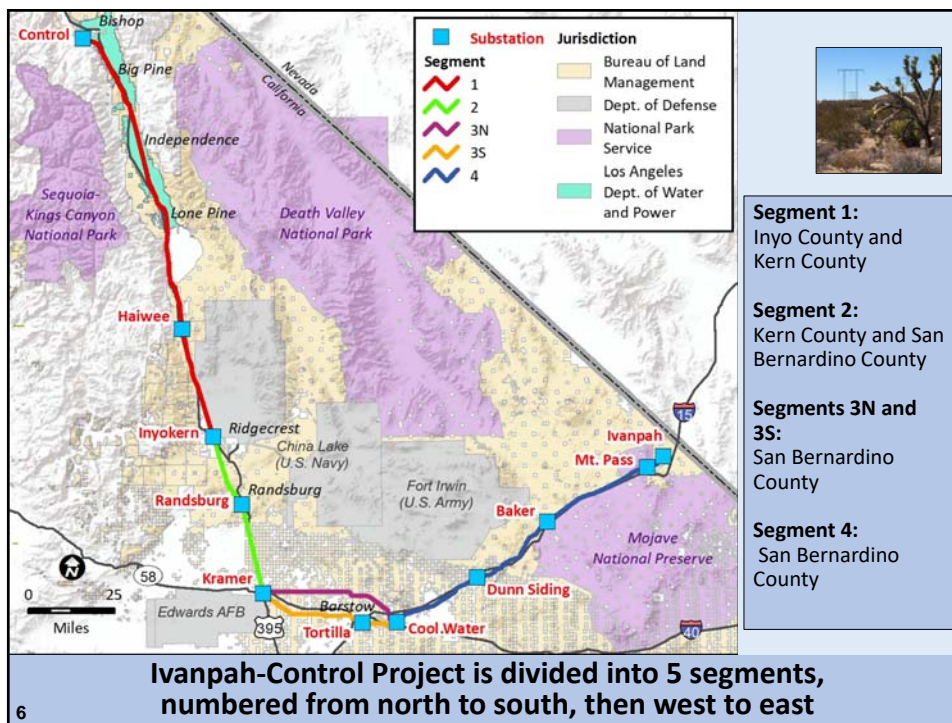
Key Players and their Roles in the CEQA Process



- **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)





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



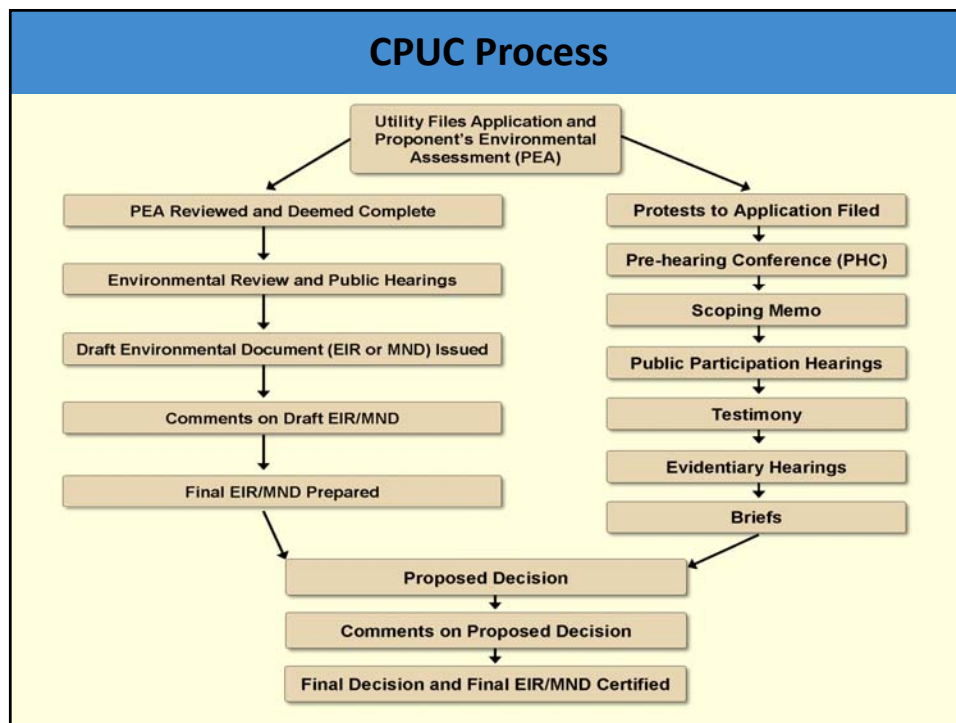
The CPUC is conducting two parallel review processes for this SCE Application for a Permit to Construct (PTC):

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





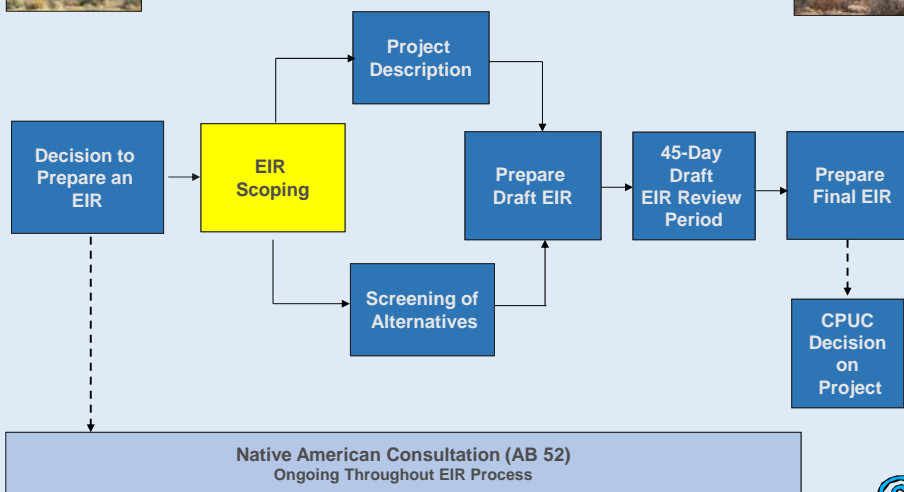
CEQA Tentative Environmental Review Schedule



SCE filed PTC Application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment	Initial: July 2019 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"> 45-day Comment Period Public Meetings 	Estimated early 2021
Final EIR	Estimated late 2021
EIR Certified by CPUC	Estimated early 2022



The EIR Process





Native American Consultation Under AB 52



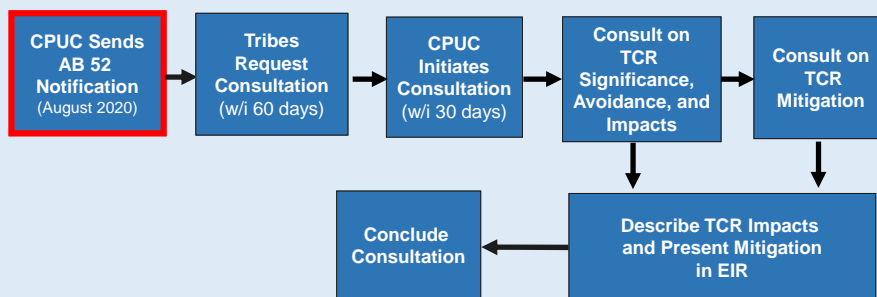
- The CPUC began informal outreach to potentially affected Native American tribes in late 2018
 - Several conference calls have been held during 2019 and 2020 with interested tribes
- The CPUC initiated formal consultation in late August 2020
 - Points of contact are John Forsythe (CPUC) and Beth Bagwell (Senior Cultural Resources Specialist)
- 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

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Ivanpah-Control Project EIR



AB 52 Consultation Process



TCR: Tribal Cultural Resources

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Ivanpah-Control Project EIR



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

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Ivanpah-Control Project EIR



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

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Ivanpah-Control Project EIR





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.



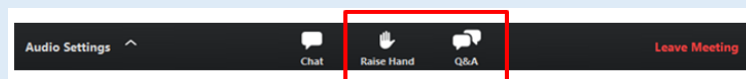
Make Scoping Comments via Zoom



- Attendees will be muted until we unmute you.
- **Oral Scoping Comments:** If you would like to make a scoping comment, please use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will unmute you and call on you to speak.
- **Written Comments:** Use the **Q&A** feature if you want to type a comment. Click on Q&A and type your question in the Q&A bar.
 - 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

**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@aspeneg.com
- Call the Project Information Line: (800) 535-2572
- For AB 52 information or consultation, please contact Beth Bagwell, Senior Cultural Resources Specialist
 - Telephone: (916) 926-2736
 - Email: Bbagwell@Aspeneg.com



Thank you for coming!