

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

D.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the scoping and public participation program completed by the CPUC before issuance of the Final EIR.

D.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

This section summarizes the CPUC's program of public notice and participation to maximize agency and public input for the Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project environmental review process.

D.2.1 SCOPING PROCESS

The scoping process for the Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project EIR consisted of five elements, each of which is explained in more detail in the following sub-sections:

- (1) Issuance of a Notice of Preparation (NOP), Initial Study, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings soliciting comments from public agencies, as required by CEQA, in December of 1999.
- (2) Public scoping meetings and meetings with agencies in January and February 2000.
- (3) Preparation of a Scoping Report summarizing scoping comments in February 2000.
- (4) Distribution of the scoping report and scoping comments to: the commenting agencies (as appropriate), scoping meeting attendees requesting a copy, the EIR team members for use in work planning and impact analysis, and to public libraries designated as project repository sites for members of the public interested in reviewing the report and comments, March 2000.
- (5) Establishment of an Internet web site, electronic mail address, and a telephone hotline (December 1999).

D.2.1.1 Notice of Preparation

The CPUC issued the NOP on December 17, 1999 and distributed it to the State Clearinghouse and to affected city, county, state and federal agencies, affected state and federal legislators, and local elected officials. An Initial Study was attached to the NOP. There was a 30-day legally required period for interested parties to submit comments regarding the content of the EIR prior to its preparation. There were approximately 80 copies of the NOP mailed out and an additional 15 copies distributed at the scoping meetings. A copy of the NOP and Initial Study was included in Appendix 2 of the Draft EIR.

D.2.1.2 Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings were conducted as part of the scoping process to receive input regarding the scope and content of this EIR. The following scoping meetings were held prior to preparation of this document:

- \$ January 12, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. at the Fremont Public Library, Fremont
- \$ January 12, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Milpitas.

D.2.1.3 Scoping Report

On March 12, 2000 a scoping report was issued summarizing issues and concerns received from the public and various agencies. This report was made available for review at the five repositories listed in Section D.2.4, and was mailed to those agencies and individuals who attended the scoping meetings or requested copies.

D.2.2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

D.2.2.1 Notification for Scoping Meetings

Notices of the scoping meetings were posted in four newspapers in the project area in advance of their occurrence. Following is a list of newspapers and the date that the public notices appeared:

- \$ The Milpitas Post (January 6, 2000)
- \$ Santa Clara Valley Weekly (January 5, 2000)
- \$ The Argus (Fremont; January 5, 2000)
- \$ San Jose Mercury News (January 5, 2000).

D.2.2.2 Newsletter

A newsletter was prepared in March 2000 and distributed to the project mailing list (agencies, CPUC Service List, parties submitting scoping comments, and others requesting project information). The newsletter described the EIR process and the alternatives selected for detailed analysis in the Draft EIR.

D.2.2.3 Notice of Release of Draft EIR and Property Owner Notification

A Notice of Release of the Draft EIR was mailed to property owners and occupants within 300 feet of the proposed and alternative routes in June 2000. The notification included the dates and times for the informational meetings and public participation hearings. A newspaper notice was also published to announce the release of the Draft EIR; following is a list of newspapers and the dates that the notices appeared:

- \$ The Milpitas Post (June 14 and June 28, 2000)
- \$ Santa Clara Valley Weekly (June 14 and June 29, 2000)

- \$ The Argus (Fremont; June 14 and June 29, 2000)
- San Jose Mercury News (June 14 and June 28, 2000).

D.2.3 INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Following the release of the Draft EIR, two informational meetings were held on July 6, 2000 at the Fremont Public Library and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the meetings was to help affected communities understand the proposed project, the findings of the Draft EIR, and to explain how to participate in the CPUC's decision making processes. At the workshop, EIR preparers and CPUC staff were available to respond to attendee questions and provide clarification regarding the technical aspects of the proposed project and the impact analysis presented in the Draft EIR.

There was a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on July 27, 2000. Two public participation hearings were held by the CPUC's Administrative Law Judge on July 11 and 12 at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Fremont Public Library, respectively, to receive oral and written testimony on the Draft EIR from interested parties.

D.2.4 SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIR

The Supplemental Draft EIR was issued on October 1, 2000. A 45-day public comment period followed this release, ending on November 27, 2000. At the time of the release of the Supplemental Draft EIR, a Notice of Availability was mailed to approximately 2,000 residents, business occupants, and agencies, including all recipients of the Draft EIR and all property owners and occupants near the new alignments discussed in the Supplemental Draft EIR in October 2000.

D.2.5 PROJECT INFORMATION AND REPOSITORY SITES

Placing documents in "repository" sites can be an effective way of providing ongoing information about the project to a large number of people. Therefore, four repository sites (listed on the following page) in the proposed project area were established and documents were also made available at the CPUC. All project documents, including the Draft EIR and Supplemental Draft EIR have been made available upon their release to the public at these five locations. A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (408) 351-8858. This number receives voice messages and faxes.

Fremont Public Library
2400 Stevenson Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 745-1400

Alviso Branch Library
5050 North First Street
Alviso, CA 95002
(408) 263-3626

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
180 West San Carlos Street
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-4815

Milpitas Community Library
40 North Milpitas Boulevard
Milpitas, CA 95035-4495
(408) 262-1172

CPUC Central Files
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-2045

Note that project information is also available on the Internet. Project information and copies of newsletters and reports are available on the CPUC's project website which can be accessed from the page defined below by clicking on the link to the Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project.

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/projects.htm>