

PART G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

G.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the scoping and public participation program completed by the CPUC before issuance of the Draft EIR. In the Final EIR, this section will include copies of comments on the Draft EIR and responses to comments.

G.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.

G.2.1 Scoping Process

The scoping process for the Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project EIR consisted of four elements:

- (1) Issuance of a Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Notice of Public Scoping Meetings soliciting comments from public agencies, as required by CEQA
- (2) Public scoping meetings and meetings with agencies
- (3) Summarization of scoping comments in a scoping report
- (4) Distribution of the scoping report and scoping comments as appropriate to the commenting agencies, 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
- (5) Establishment of an Internet web site, electronic mail address, and a telephone hotline.

G.2.1.1 Notice of Preparation

The CPUC issued the NOP on December 17, 1999 and distributed it to the State Clearinghouse and city, county, state and federal agencies, affected state and federal legislators, and local elected officials. There was a 30-day legally required period for interested parties to submit comments regarding the content of the EIR. 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 is included in Appendix 2 of this EIR.

G.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.

G.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 G.2.4, and was mailed to those agencies and individuals who attended the scoping meetings or requested copies.

G.2.2 Public Notification

G.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 which the public notices appeared:

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

G.2.2.2 Newsletter

A newsletter was prepared and distributed in March 2000 to describe the EIR process and the alternatives selected for detailed analysis in the Draft EIR.

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

A Notice of Release of the Draft EIR will be sent to property owners and occupants within 300 feet of the proposed and alternative routes in June 2000. This document includes notification of the dates and times for the informational meetings and public participation hearings.

G.2.3 Informational Workshop and Public Hearings

Following the release of the Draft EIR, an informational meeting will be held. The purpose of the meeting is intended to help affected communities understand the proposed project, the Draft EIR, and how to participate in the CPUC's decision making processes. At the workshop, EIR preparers and CPUC staff will be 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 will be a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on July 27, 2000. Two public participation hearings will be held to receive oral and written testimony on the Draft EIR from interested parties. Following are the locations and dates for informational meetings and hearings:

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING
July 6, 2000 2:00 p.m. Fremont Public Library Fukaya Room 2400 Stevenson Boulevard, Fremont	July 11, 2000 6:30 p.m. Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center 1751 Grand Avenue, Alviso
July 6, 2000 7:00 p.m. Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center 1751 Grand Avenue, Alviso	July 12, 2000 2:30 p.m. Fremont Public Library Fukaya Room-B 2400 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont

G.2.4 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 in the proposed project area were established, and documents are also available at the CPUC. All project documents, including the Draft EIR have been made available upon their release to the public at the locations listed below. A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (408) 351-8858. This number receives voice messages and faxes.

Note that project information is also available on the Internet. Project information and copies of newsletters and reports are available on the EIR Web Site at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/nesanjo.htm>

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

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

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

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

G.3 PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC provided a public review period of more than 45 days for the Draft EIR. This public review period commences upon release of the Draft EIR, on June 6, 2000 and goes through July 27, 2000.