

Notice of Preparation

Environmental Impact Report

Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500 kV Interconnect Project

Application A.10-07-001

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). It provides background on the subject proceeding, a description of the Proposed Project, and a summary of potential project impacts known at this time. The locations, dates, and times of public Scoping Meetings are provided, as is information on how to find and access project-related materials and how to provide comments on the Proposed Project. The 45-day period for providing scoping comments ends on April 29, 2011

A. Introduction

The Nevada Hydro Company (TNHC) has filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) an Application (A.10-07-001) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for TNHC's proposed Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500 kV Interconnect Project (TE/VS Project). As part of its application, TNHC has submitted a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA).

The proposed TE/VS Project is primarily a transmission project, but is connected with a related project, the proposed Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project. The proposed TE/VS Project would have independent utility as a transmission project, without regard to power generation. However, the CPUC's decisions regarding the proposed TE/VS Project must be made in light of the impacts of both projects, because the proposed TE/VS Project would facilitate development of the proposed LEAPS Project. Therefore, both projects together are considered as the Proposed Project for purposes of CPUC's discretionary decisions on the TE/VS application and for evaluating environmental impacts. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for which this notice is given will be prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CPUC requirements. It will evaluate the whole of the action — both the proposed TE/VS and LEAPS Projects.

The locations of the proposed TE/VS Project facilities and the proposed LEAPS projects facilities are illustrated in Figures 1A through 1C (Proposed Project), found at the end of this NOP. The primary components of the proposed TE/VS Project include the following:

Project Component	Description
32-mile 500 kV Transmission Line	<p>A single 500 kV circuit would be installed on 138 steel lattice towers; 1.7 miles of the line would be underground. A 500 kV line to interconnect the TE/VS transmission line with the proposed Santa Rosa Substation would "T" from this underground segment and extend underground to the proposed substation 1 mile away. Much of the proposed 500 kV transmission line would be on Cleveland National Forest (CNF). The transmission line has two purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) To connect Southern California Edison's (SCE's) existing 500 kV Valley-Serrano transmission line in Riverside County to San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E's) existing Talega-Escondido 230 kV transmission line and a proposed second 230 circuit in San Diego County(2) To connect the proposed LEAPS Project to the regional power grid.

Project Component	Description
One Switchyard and Two Substations	<p>Three facilities would physically interconnect the TE/VS 500 kV transmission line and the LEAPS Project with the SCE and SDG&E systems. These are:</p> <p>Lake Switchyard adjacent to the north side of Interstate 15 near Lee (Corona) Lake, to connect the TE/VS 500 kV line to the SCE 500 kV Valley-Serrano transmission line.</p> <p>Santa Rosa Substation on CNF west of Lake Elsinore, near the midpoint of the TE/VS 500 kV transmission line, to connect the TE/VS line to LEAPS and to connect to the proposed local 115 kV transmission lines in the City of Lake Elsinore.</p> <p>Case Springs Substation on Fallbrook Land Conservancy property adjacent to the SDG&E right of way, to connect the TE/VS 500 kV line to SDG&E’s existing Talega-Escondido 230 kV transmission line and a proposed second 230 kV circuit.</p>
52 mile 230 kV transmission line	<p>A new 230 kV circuit would be mounted on 213 existing SDG&E double-circuit towers/poles that currently support a single 230 kV Talega-Escondido circuit between Talega and Escondido Substations. The existing circuit would be upgraded (reconducted) to increase its capacity. The existing and new 230 kV circuits would connect with the TE/VS 500 kV line through the proposed Case Springs Substation.</p>
Relocation of 8 miles of 69 kV transmission line	<p>An existing 69 kV circuit connecting SDG&E’s Pala and Lilac Substations occupies the vacant circuit position on 32 of the Talega-Escondido 230 kV line towers. To accommodate the proposed new 230 kV circuit, this 69 kV line would be relocated to new steel poles installed in the existing right of way or, depending on design factors, it could be repositioned on the existing towers.</p>
Two 115 kV circuits on new poles	<p>5.9 miles of double circuit and 4.6 miles of single circuit 115 kV transmission line primarily along public roads would be installed on approximately 92 poles. The line would deliver power from the proposed Santa Rosa Substation to SCE’s existing Skylark and Elsinore Substations in the City of Lake Elsinore.</p>
Various upgrades to SCE and SDG&E substations	<p>To accommodate the Proposed Project’s transmission and generation components, certain upgrades would be required at existing facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SDG&E’s existing Talega-Escondido 230 kV circuit would need to be reconducted with higher capacity lines. In addition, upgrades and improvements would be needed at SDG&E’s Talega and Escondido Substations, to support the reconducted 230 kV circuit and the new 230 kV circuit ■ SCE’s system would require upgrades and changes at Etiwanda Generating Station and Valley, Serrano, San Bernardino, Vista, and Loma Mira Substations to accommodate the TE/VS 500 kV circuit, and at Skylark and Elsinore Substations to accommodate the proposed 115 kV circuits in the City of Lake Elsinore.

Project Purpose

According to TNHC, the proposed TE/VS Project is designed to address transmission grid-related issues, including:

1. Helping to solve the reliability needs of San Diego in a cost-effective manner.
2. Improving access to and transmission of electric power generated from renewable resources.
3. Helping to effectively manage intermittent energy production from renewable resources.
4. Helping to improve grid efficiency.
5. Effectuating distribution-level improvements in southern Riverside County.

Project Objectives

The objectives presented by TNHC will guide the development of alternatives to the TE/VS Project. However, CEQA does not require that alternatives to a project meet *all* project objectives; therefore, these objectives do not unreasonably constrain the alternatives development process that will occur during preparation of the EIR.

TE/VS Project Objectives

With regard to the TE/VS Project, TNHC has presented the following seven project objectives in its PEA:

1. Reduce congestion. Provide additional high-voltage transmission capacity to reduce congestion on the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid and thus reduce energy costs for CAISO consumers.
2. Provide 1,100 MW of incremental transmission import capability to San Diego. Provide at least 1,100 MW of additional import capacity to SDG&E system at all times to enhance San Diego load area's access to renewable resources available through the WECC/CAISO transmission grid.
3. Provide 1,100 MW of incremental transmission import capability to San Diego. Provide at least 1,100 MW incremental transmission import capability for SDG&E under G-1/N-1 conditions¹ to satisfy reliability criteria and to reduce the cost to SDG&E ratepayers of CPUC Resource Adequacy capacity.
4. Provide an interconnection between SDG&E and SCE transmission systems. Provide SDG&E with the first 500 kV interconnection with SCE and thus to the CAISO 500 kV network, thereby enhancing the integration and operational reliability of the CAISO transmission grid.
5. Further long-term infrastructure planning efforts. Provide a potential future option for further expansion of the CAISO grid by contributing to the creation of a 500 kV link from Arizona-Imperial Valley-San Diego 500 kV facilities to the 500 kV network in the Los Angeles basin.
6. Fortify and/or enhance localized electrical facilities and systems in order to better serve electrical demands and enhance local reliability within the Lake Elsinore area.
7. Provide access to the planned pumped storage facility. Provide the CAISO grid with access to the planned LEAPS pumped storage hydropower generation plant, a location-constrained facility.

LEAPS Project Objectives

With regard to the LEAPS project, TNHC has presented the following five objectives in its PEA:

1. Store off-peak power. Store excess off-peak energy production in the CAISO region, including off peak production by wind generation facilities, geothermal generation, and other existing baseload generation. Release stored energy through operation of the LEAPS hydropower generators as needed during peak-demand hours.
2. Integrate intermittent renewable resources. Provide 500 MW of voltage regulation,² spinning reserve,³ and load-following capability⁴ to integrate intermittent renewable resources procured by southern California Load Serving Entities (LSEs).

¹ G1/N1 reliability is concerned with the concurrent outage the single largest generator (G1) and the single largest transmission line (N1) serving an area.

² Regulating or holding voltage or current at a constant predetermined value.

³ Providing reserve power to the electric power grid quickly.

⁴ Automatic changes in generation to follow changes in load, so as to maintain a continuous balance between loads and generation.

3. Facilitate the development of workable competitive wholesale markets. Provide 500 MW of voltage regulation, spinning reserve, and load following capability to facilitate the development of workable competitive wholesale markets.
4. Provide black-start capability. Provide 500 MW of black-start capability, allowing for the restoration of network interconnections, to the CAISO southern California transmission system.
5. Provide voltage support. Provide voltage support for wind energy integration in the southern California electrical region.

CPUC's Role under CEQA and other State Laws

The CPUC is the California State agency with responsibility and authority for approving electric transmission facilities. Consequently, the CPUC is the lead agency for undertaking the environmental review of the Proposed Project under CEQA and will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with CEQA. The Draft EIR will be circulated for public and agency comments. Following public review of the Draft EIR, responses will be prepared to comments received regarding the Draft EIR and a Final EIR will be issued.

As required by CEQA, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to State, Federal, and local agencies and jurisdictions and to organizations and members of the public requesting notice. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of the TE/VS 500 kV Interconnect Project EIR and to solicit information that will be helpful in CPUC's environmental review process. Publication of the NOP initiates a 30-day period during which the scope of the EIR is determined based on comments received. During the scoping process CPUC is seeking (1) the identification of issues and concerns with regard to the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and (2) suggestions for potential alternatives to the Proposed Project that may merit consideration in the environmental analysis.

In making its determination as to whether to issue a CPCN for the project or an alternative to the project or to deny the project, the CPUC will consider other factors in addition to environmental impacts. After evaluating the conclusions of the EIR and other factors that the CPUC weights when considering an application, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will prepare a draft proposed decision. The draft proposed decision will be subject to thirty days of public comment. The ALJ then will prepare a final proposed decision to submit to the Commission. The Commission may adopt, amend, or reject the recommendation of the ALJ. Also, any Commission member may present for consideration by the full Commission an alternative decision to the one recommended by the ALJ.

This NOP and the Applicant's PEA can be viewed on the CPUC-maintained project website. Other project documents will be posted to the website as they become available. The website link is:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/asp/nevadahydro/talega_escondido_valley_serrano.htm

Agencies Having Authority over the Proposed Project

Various agencies have authority over different parts of the two projects.

- **CPUC** has the authority to approve, conditionally approve, or reject the proposed TE/VS Project;
- **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** has the authority to approve, conditionally approve, or reject the proposed LEAPS Project;
- **United States Forest Service (USFS)** has the authority to approve, conditionally approve, or reject those parts of the proposed TE/VS and LEAPS Projects located on USFS lands.

- **U.S. Department of the Navy** has the authority to approve, conditionally approve, or reject any part of the TE/VS Project located on former Camp Pendleton property now owned by Fallbrook Land Conservancy (FLC) that might adversely affect Camp Pendleton operations.
- **California State Water Resources Control Board** has the authority to grant or deny a certification that the LEAPS Project's use of Lake Elsinore complies with the water quality requirements of Sect. 401 of the Clean Water Act.

B. Background

Distinction between the Proposed TE/VS and Proposed LEAPS Projects

The proposed TE/VS Project is presented by TNHC as a transmission project that has independent utility, regardless of whether the proposed LEAPS Project is developed. In contrast, the proposed LEAPS Project requires development of the proposed TE/VS Project or a similar transmission line to deliver power generated by the hydroelectric facility. The TE/VS 500 kV transmission line and associated substations and switchyard are common to both projects. The line would be needed to meet TNHC's objectives of providing a new transmission path and to exporting power from the LEAPS project to the statewide grid.

TE/VS

The proposed TE/VS 500 kV Interconnect Project would provide the transmission access needed to connect the LEAPS Project with the regional power grid, in addition to achieving the Proposed Project's other independent project objectives. While essential to the LEAPS project, the transmission line could function independently as part of the regional grid. The TE/VS Project also would supply power into the Lake Elsinore area by way of new 115 kV circuits from the proposed Santa Rosa Substation near Lake Elsinore to SCE's Skylark and Elsinore Substations. In addition, the project would add a new 230 kV circuit between SDG&E's Talega and Escondido Substations, within an existing SCE right of way.

LEAPS

Pumped storage is a strategy used to shift electric generating capacity to periods of peak demand. Power that is generated intermittently and during off-peak times can be used to pump water to a higher-elevation storage facility, where it is held. Later, the stored water can be released to generate hydropower. The amount of electricity required to pump the water uphill is greater than the amount of electricity generated by release of the water. Although a net user of electric power, pumped storage allows power generation to be shifted from periods of low demand to periods of high demand.

The LEAPS Project would pump water from a lower reservoir (Lake Elsinore) through an intake structure and underground conduit to an upper reservoir proposed to be constructed in Decker Canyon on Cleveland National Forest. When released from the upper reservoir, the stored water would flow through the conduit and penstock, generating hydropower in the process, before entering the lake through an outlet structure. For the LEAPS Project to have access to the electrical power needed to pump water to the upper reservoir and for the hydropower generated by LEAPS to be exported, the project requires an interconnection to the regional power grid. In addition to the upper and lower reservoirs, LEAPS would require an underground powerhouse and pumping station near Lake Elsinore, an underground water conduit connecting the reservoirs, and the 500 kV transmission line and substation/switchyard components of the proposed TE/VS Project.

Under a FERC license and because of its water needs, the LEAPS Project would be required to provide recreation facilities and ensure that adequate water is available to maintain an agreed upon water level in Lake Elsinore. The latter requirement is expected to be addressed by the use of reclaimed water from the region that would pass through a purposely built water treatment facility before being introduced into the lake.

Whole of the Action

CPUC is the lead agency for the Proposed Project. Under CEQA, the lead agency must evaluate the impacts of an entire project, even if the agency does not have authority over all aspects of the project. The LEAPS project is dependent on the TE/VS Project; therefore, the LEAPS project is a connected action that must be considered. Per Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC will analyze both the TE/VS and LEAPS Projects in this EIR as the “whole of the action,” even though CPUC’s authority extends only to the approval or denial of the CPCN application for the TE/VS Project elements.

This broad level of review is necessary in order for the CPUC to understand and consider the full range of environmental consequences that would result if the transmission facilities and upgrades are approved by the CPUC. When appropriate and for clarity, the EIR will distinguish between the proposed TE/VS and LEAPS Projects.

Actions to Date

TNHC filed applications for Special Use Permits with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Cleveland National Forest (CNF), for the TE/VS and LEAPS Projects on July 3, 2003 and an application for a Hydropower License with FERC for the LEAPS Project (FERC No. 11858) on February 2, 2004. The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) is listed as co-applicant on the applications. The relationship between TNHC and EVMWD is discussed below. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FERC, with USFS as a cooperating agency, prepared Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). These were published on February 17, 2006 and January 30, 2007, respectively.

FERC has the authority to approve or reject the LEAPS Project, and USFS has the authority to approve or reject those portions of the LEAPS Project located on CNF lands. However, at the time of publication of this NOP, FERC and USFS have not made final decisions on the Hydropower License and Special Use Permits, respectively.

TNHC and EVMWD have submitted applications to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for a Water Quality Certification under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The applications are for both the proposed TE/VS Project and the proposed LEAPS Project. SWRCB certification is necessary before FERC approval can be granted for the LEAPS project. The EIR being prepared by the CPUC is intended to provide sufficient information and analysis of the Proposed Project for the SWRCB to be able to use the EIR in its certification issuance process.

CPUC Filings

TNHC originally filed an application (A.07-10-005) with the CPUC for a CPCN to construct the TE/VS Project on October 9, 2007. The CPUC sent a comment letter on the PEA on November 16, 2007. The applicant revised the PEA and filed a revised PEA with the CPUC on February 8, 2008. The CPUC formally reviewed the PEA for completeness, and sent a letter on March 6, 2008 identifying areas of incompleteness in the PEA and requesting a re-submittal. After a subsequent meeting with the Applicant, the CPUC sent a letter regarding needed biological surveys on March 25, 2008.

A second revised PEA was submitted on July 22, 2008. The PEA was formally reviewed for completeness, and the CPUC sent a letter on August 18, 2008 identifying remaining areas of incompleteness in the PEA, requesting that additional information be provided as addenda to the July 22 submittal. The Applicant submitted a PEA supplement on November 13, 2008. The application was again deemed incomplete on December 5, 2008 citing: (1) a lack of confirmation by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) on the siting of the project’s proposed substation on USMC property; (2) a lack of confirmation by the USFS on the location of transmission facilities and access roads on CNF land; and (3) a lack of description of certain elements of the Proposed Project; among other minor deficiencies. The application was dismissed without prejudice by Administrative Law Judge Kolakowski on February 20, 2009, with a request that the application be resubmitted only when all of the requisite information could be provided in its entirety.

TNHC filed its CPCN application and PEA on July 6, 2010, and it was docketed (calendared) on July 7, 2010, and assigned application number A.10.07.001. The application was deemed complete on August 5, 2010.

Previous Environmental Reviews

On February 17, 2006, FERC and the USFS issued a Draft EIS for the LEAPS Project. The document was based on the requirements of NEPA and considered the LEAPS project as then defined. In January 2007, the agencies issued their Final EIS. The EIS described the LEAPS Project as the storage and generation facilities and associated infrastructure east of Lake Elsinore and in Cleveland National Forest, a 500 kV line connecting to the SCE and SDG&E systems, and the substations and switchyard needed to make the interconnections. The transmission line alignment was identified in the EIS as falling within a 500-foot-wide corridor. Specific tower locations were not considered; it was assumed that towers could be located within the corridor to avoid effects on environmental resources. The EIS did not address upgrades to the two investor-owned utilities systems that would be needed to accommodate the interconnection and delivered power. The EIS also did not consider the installation of a second 230 kV line within the SDG&E right of way, the moving of an existing 69 kV line onto new poles, and the installation of two 115 kV circuits around Lake Elsinore. The originally Proposed Project was modified in some aspects and in some locations during its evaluation under the NEPA process. As stated in the EIS, biological surveys of these areas were not undertaken at the time. Likewise, surveys were not conducted along access roads, as these had not been identified when the EIS was published. The northern and southern interconnect facilities were addressed only nominally.

In January 2008, the CPUC and BLM issued a Draft EIR/EIS for SDG&E's Sunrise 500 kV Transmission project in Imperial and San Diego Counties. The Final EIR/EIS was published in October 2008. In the Sunrise EIR/EIS, the CPUC considered 2 LEAPS alternatives out of the 27 alternatives analyzed. One alternative was transmission-only, the other was transmission plus generation. The Final EIS was used as a basis for the alternatives evaluation, in addition to an early draft of the Applicant's PEA and limited fieldwork.

The CPUC has determined that, while potentially informative as background or reference documents, the FERC/USFS LEAPS EIS and the CPUC/BLM Sunrise EIR/EIS are insufficient and inadequate for the purposes of CEQA review of the proposed TE/VS and LEAPS Projects being considered. Significant elements in the proposed TE/VS Project were not included in the FERC/USFS EIS analysis, which also was used in the Sunrise EIR/EIS consideration of the project as a Sunrise alternative. Consequently, a stand-alone EIR that is specific to the project as now proposed is required to adequately assess the Proposed Project's environmental impacts.

Development Agreement with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

EVMWD is listed as co-applicant on the two USFS Special Use Permit applications and the FERC hydropower license application; however, it is not listed as co-applicant on the CPCN application before the CPUC. In its PEA, TNHC states that on May 15, 1997, the EVMWD and TNHC entered into a Development Agreement whereby the EVMWD has conveyed to TNHC the "exclusive right to develop, build, and operate the project." The Development Agreement by and between the EVMWD and TNHC defines the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of both parties with respect to the LEAPS Project. As stipulated in the Development Agreement, TNHC "will pay the District for performance of water management services, which performance shall include, without limitation, maintaining the water level sufficient for operation of the project, at Lake Elsinore from revenues resulting from power generation operations of the project."

C. Affected Jurisdictions

The proposed TE/VS Project primarily would be located in unincorporated Riverside and San Diego Counties and Cleveland National Forest. While on Cleveland National Forest, it would pass through a corner of Orange County. The route passes through the following jurisdictions:

- US Forest Service (Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District)
- Unincorporated Riverside County
- Unincorporated San Diego County
- Unincorporated Orange County
- City of Lake Elsinore
- City of San Marcos
- City of Escondido

D. Potential Environmental Effects

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC will prepare an EIR that will describe existing conditions and evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from implementing the Proposed Project. The EIR will identify feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project, compare the environmental impacts of the alternatives to the Proposed Project, and propose mitigation to reduce any significant adverse environmental effects that would arise from project implementation.

Based on preliminary analysis of the Proposed Project, review of documents submitted to date by TNHC and other parties to the CPUC's CPCN proceeding, and review of FERC's Final EIS for the LEAPS project, it has been determined that implementation of the Proposed Project may have a number of environmental effects. Potential issues and impacts to the existing environment include, but are not limited to, those listed in Attachment 1. Scoping will identify other potential issues and impacts. No determinations have been made yet as to the significance of potential impacts identified; such determinations will be made in the environmental analysis to be conducted and documented in the EIR. In addition to analysis of the issues listed in Attachment 1 and other issues raised in the scoping process, the EIR will evaluate the contribution of the Proposed Project to cumulative impacts of the project in combination with other past, present, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area.

Applicant Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures

TNHC has proposed measures (called Applicant Proposed Measures or APMs) that could reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the Proposed Project. The effectiveness of these APMs will be evaluated in the EIR and, if needed, additional measures (identified as Mitigation Measures) may be developed by CPUC to further reduce impacts. When the CPUC makes its final decision on the proposed TE/VS Project and if the proposed project or an alternative is approved, the CPUC will define the mitigation measures to be adopted and will require implementation of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) to ensure compliance.

E. Alternatives

An EIR must describe a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to a project as proposed. Such alternatives should avoid or lessen any of the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project while attaining all or most of the project's basic project objectives.

The CPUC will consider the feasibility of alternatives identified and rejected in TNHC's PEA and determine whether any should be carried to full analysis. In addition, the CPUC expects to develop other alternatives for evaluation in the EIR. Such alternatives could be based on input received during the scoping process, alternatives addressed in other relevant regional studies, particular impacts of the Proposed Project identified during analysis, or for other reasons. Alternatives may cover a range of approaches, such as different routes or configurations for the transmission line or alternative methods of providing electric power and power storage.

The No Project Alternative must be analyzed in the EIR as well. The No Project Alternative will describe the situation that likely would occur if the Proposed Project were not implemented. The EIR also must evaluate the comparative merits of the various alternatives.

F. Public Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings have been scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is two-fold communication: (1) to present to those in attendance information about the Proposed Project and the CPUC decision-making process, and (2) to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to express any concerns about the project or aspects of the project and its impacts, and to offer suggestions on alternatives to the project or parts of the project as is has been proposed.

Table 1. Public Scoping Meetings		
Location	Day, Date, Time	Directions
City of Lake Elsinore Ortega High School Multipurpose Room 520 Chaney Street Lake Elsinore, CA 92530	Tuesday April 5, 2011 6:00pm to 8:00pm	From Interstate 15: 1. Exit at Hwy 74/Central Avenue 2. West on Central Ave one block to Collier Ave. 3. Left on Collier three blocks to Chaney St 4. Right on Chaney St to High School, which is on the left.
City of Murrieta Community Center 41810 Juniper Street Murrieta, CA 92562	Wednesday April 6, 2011 3:00pm to 5:00pm	From Interstate 15: 1. Exit at California Oaks Rd 2. West on Kalmia St 1/3 mile to Jefferson Avenue 3. Left onto Jefferson Avenue one block to Juniper 4. Right onto Juniper St 1/3 mile. 5. Building is on left side, past the baseball diamond 6. Parking behind building, enter from Plum St or Adams Ave.

Subsequent to the scoping meetings listed in Table 1, alternatives to the Proposed Project or parts of the Proposed Project will be identified during the early phase of EIR preparation.

G. Scoping Comments

The CPUC is soliciting information and recommendations regarding issues, topics, and alternatives that should be included in the EIR. Comments may be submitted to CPUC by (1) U.S. mail, (2) electronic mail, (3) fax, or (4) making a verbal statement or handing in written comments at a Public Scoping Meeting (see Table 1 above for meeting times and locations). **Scoping comments must be provided by April 29, 2011.**

- **By U.S. Mail:** If sending comments through the U. S. Postal Service, please use first-class mail and include your name and a return address. Please send written comments on the scope and content of the EIR to the CPUC Project Manager:

Andrew Barnsdale, CPUC
TE/VS Project
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

- **By Electronic Mail:** E-mail communications are welcome; please remember to include your name and return address in the e-mail message. E-mail messages should be sent to:

interconnect@aspenerg.com

- **By Fax:** You may fax your comment letter to our toll-free telephone line. Please remember to include your name and return address in the fax, to write legibly, and use black or blue ink.

Toll-free (877) 202-2820

At the conclusion of the scoping process, a **Scoping Report** will be prepared summarizing all comments received (including oral comments made at Scoping Meetings). This report will be posted on the project website:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/asp/nevadahydro/talega_escondido_valley_serrano.htm

Copies will be placed in local document repository sites listed in Table 2 below. In addition, a limited number of copies will be available upon request to the CPUC Project Manager.

Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

Following are some suggestions for preparing and providing the most useful information for the EIR scoping process.

1. **Review the project description** (see text of this NOP and the map provided). Additional information is available on the project website, including TNHC's PEA, which may be downloaded and viewed.
2. **Attend scoping meetings** to get more information on the project and the environmental review process (see location, times, and dates in Table 1).
4. **Submit written comments** or attend the scoping meetings and **make oral comments**. Provide your views on important issues that you feel the EIR should cover.
5. **Suggest mitigation measures** that could reduce the potential impacts associated with TNHC's Proposed Project.
6. **Suggest alternatives** to TNHC's Proposed Project that could avoid or reduce the impacts of the Proposed Project.

H. For Additional Project Information

Website. Information about this application and the environmental review process will be posted on the Internet. This site will be used to post documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings. A copy of TNHC's PEA is available at this site, and the Draft EIR will be posted at the site when it is published. As noted, the website address is:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/asp/nevadahydro/talega_escondido_valley_serrano.htm

Project Information Line. You may request project information by leaving a voice message or sending a fax to **(877) 202-2820**. Please, do not leave verbal scoping comments at this number; this phone line is for requesting information or sending a fax only. Mail, e-mail, or fax comments as instructed in Section G, above.

Document Repositories. Documents prepared by CPUC for the proposed TE/VS Project will be available at the locations listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Repository Sites

Riverside County – Library Sites		
Corona Public Library	650 South Main Street, Corona, CA 92880.....	(951) 736-2381
Lake Elsinore Branch Library	600 West Graham Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530	(951) 674-4517
Temecula Public Library	30600 Pauba Road, Temecula, CA 92592	(951) 693-8900
San Diego County – Library Sites		
Fallbrook Public Library	124 South Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028.....	(760) 731-4650
Escondido Public Library	239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido, CA 92025	(760)-839-4684
Southern California – California Public Utilities Commission Office		
Los Angeles Office	320 W. 4th Street, Ste 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013	(213) 576-7000

I. Issuance of NOP

The California Public Utilities Commission hereby issues this Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

Mary Jo Borak
Program and Project Supervisor
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

March 14, 2011

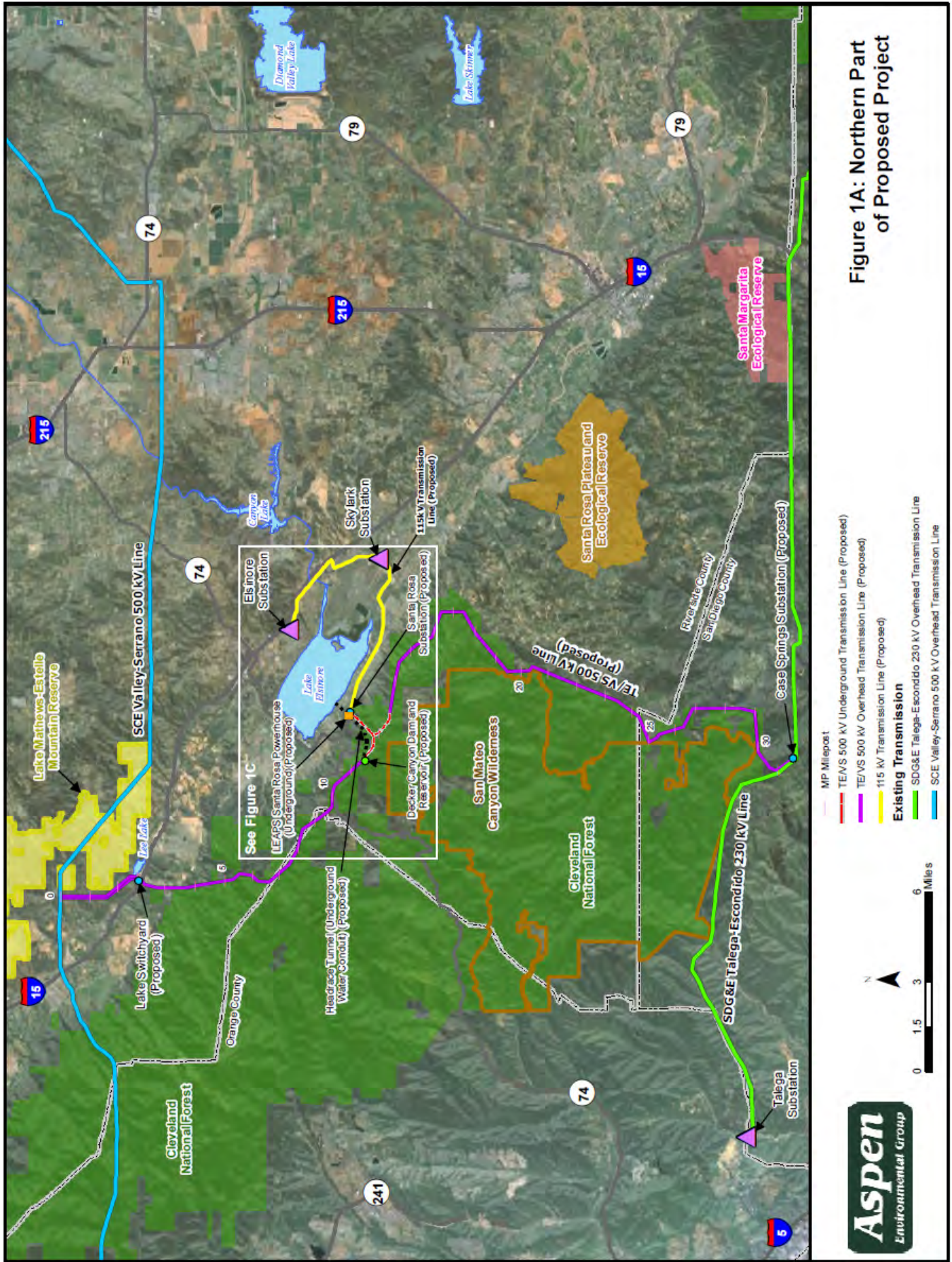


Figure 1A: Northern Part of Proposed Project

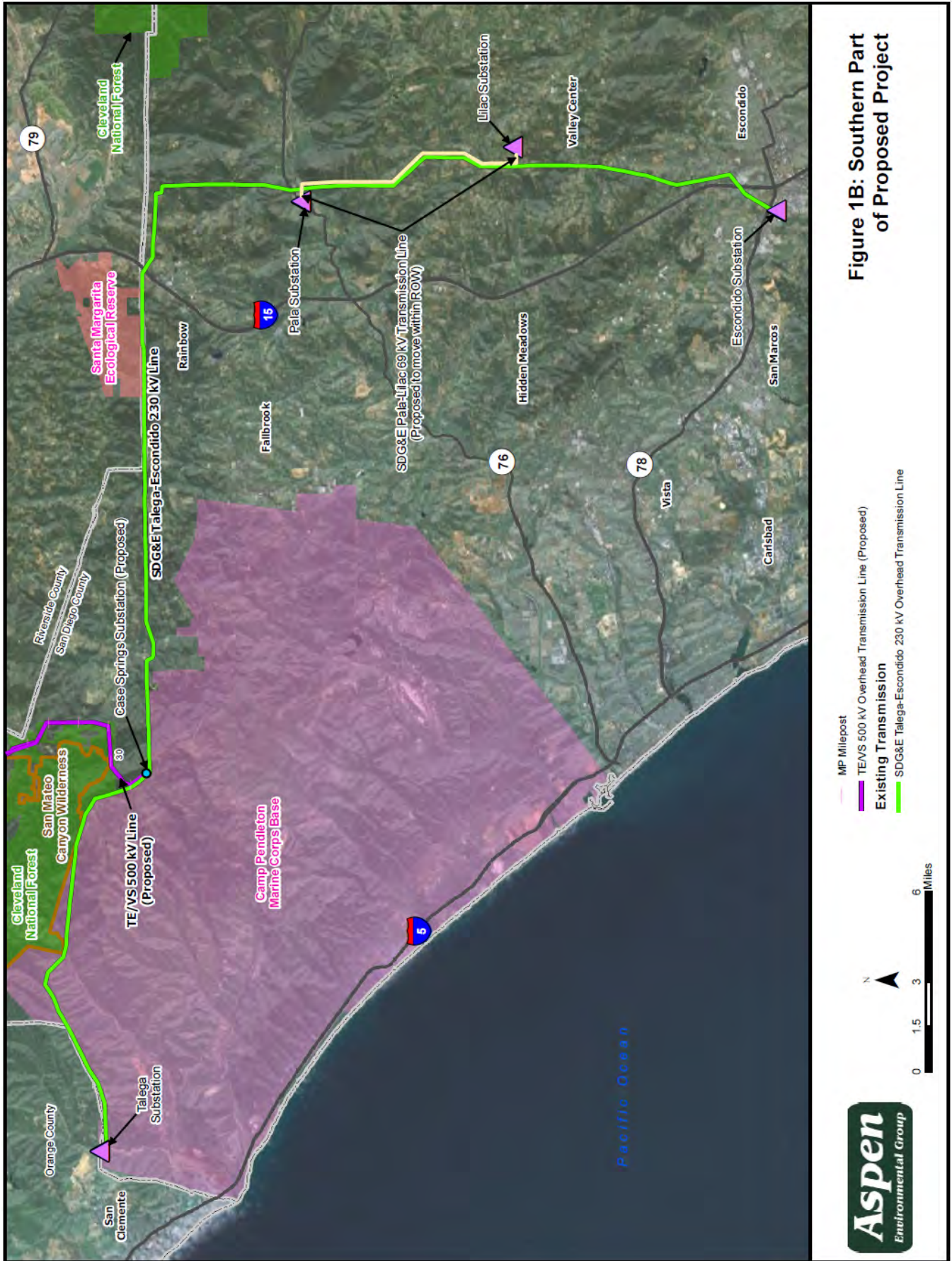
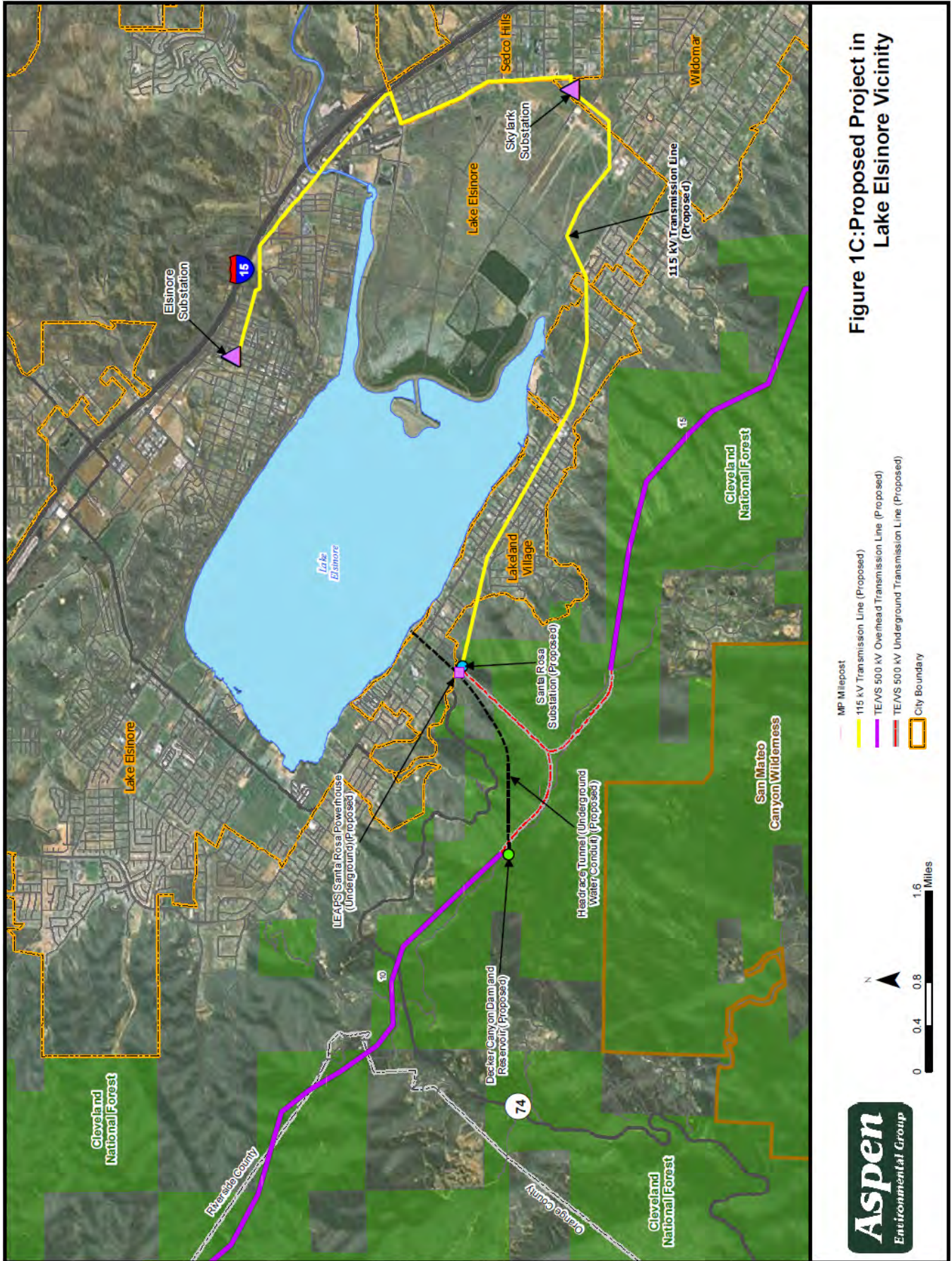


Figure 1B: Southern Part of Proposed Project



Attachment 1. Summary of Potential Impacts: TE/VS Interconnect Project⁵

Environmental Issue Area	Potential Issues or Impacts
Aesthetics / Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visual contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining resulting from the placement of structures ■ New 500 kV transmission line through Cleveland National Forest ■ New 500 kV transmission line in Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties, and new 230 kV and 115 kV transmission lines in Riverside and San Diego Counties
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Impacts during construction would occur when heavy equipment, support vehicles, and other internal combustion engines create fugitive dust and/or generates exhaust containing: carbon monoxide (CO), reactive organic compounds (ROC), nitrogen oxide (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5). ■ Impacts would result from fugitive dust generated from ground clearing, grading, vehicle traffic on the access roads, and vehicle traffic at the construction sites. ■ Potential ongoing impacts from emissions and fugitive dust produced during operation and maintenance of proposed transmission line. ■ Potential air quality impacts from power plants providing imported power to operate pumps. ■ Potential impacts resulting from violation of the Federal Air Quality Conformity Rule in nonattainment areas for one or more air pollutants. ■ Potential temporary and long-term impacts from toxic air contaminants including diesel particulate matter that have localized effects.
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction activities and project facilities would result in temporary and permanent loss of native wildlife and habitat. ■ Loss of habitat for sensitive species designated by State and federal resource agencies. ■ Effect of water on fisheries and shoreline species from pumping/releasing water between Lake Elsinore and Decker Canyon Reservoir. ■ Construction and operation of the proposed project could disturb wildlife and cause changes in wildlife behavior. ■ Construction activities may conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.
Cultural & Paleontological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction of new towers and access roads could damage or destroy historic and archaeological sites or traditional cultural properties. ■ Temporary use of staging areas and conductor pull sites could damage or destroy historic and archaeological sites or traditional cultural properties. ■ Construction could damage paleontological resources of unknown significance.
Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Highly corrosive soils could damage uncoated steel. ■ Soil erosion on filled slopes and steeply graded areas could result in sedimentation of water bodies. ■ Seismic activity could damage project facilities. ■ Ground surface rupture could occur where the proposed transmission line would cross active fault zones. ■ Landslides, mudslides, or other ground failures resulting from seismic activity, could occur and damage facilities.
Greenhouse Gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Generation and release of greenhouse gases during construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

⁵ A thorough and detailed analysis of impacts will be completed for the EIR. This overview is presented to assist the public and agencies in presenting scoping comments.

Attachment 1. Summary of Potential Impacts: TE/VS Interconnect Project⁵

Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wildfires could be caused by the transmission lines or could damage Proposed Project facilities. ■ Improper storage or handling of hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes during project construction, operations, or maintenance could present hazards to construction workers or the public. ■ Leaking or spilling of petroleum or hydraulic fluids from construction equipment or other vehicles during project construction, operation, or maintenance could contaminate soils, surface waters, or groundwater. ■ The inadvertent uncovering of hazardous materials during excavation activities could cause toxic releases to the environment. ■ Risk of downstream flooding due to a failure of Decker Canyon Dam.
Hydrology and Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased surface water runoff, erosion, siltation, and sedimentation could diminish water quality ■ Water quality of streams or washes could be diminished from violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. ■ Risk of mudslides and slope failures. ■ Effect of tunneling on groundwater. ■ Effect on lake water quality due to cycling of water between Lake Elsinore and Decker Canyon Reservoir.
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possible conflicts with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations. ■ Construction would temporarily disturb the land uses it traverses or adjacent land uses. ■ Operation would result in permanent preclusion of certain uses of the land it traverses or occupies, or to which it is adjacent.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ During construction, noise generated by construction equipment could create nuisance to nearby residents, National Forest users, or other sensitive receptors. ■ Corona noise generated during the operation of the proposed transmission line would increase ambient noise levels surrounding the corridor. ■ Construction or corona noise in residential areas along the proposed transmission corridor could violate local noise ordinances (for volume and hours of operation).
Public Services and Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction activities and workforce could cause increased usage of public resources, services, and utilities. ■ Construction activities and workforce could result in increased generation of waste and disposal needs.
Recreational Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction or operation could cause conflicts with established or pending resource management or conservation plans. ■ Recreational land users could be disturbed by construction and operation where the proposed transmission line crosses designated recreation or use areas or trails. ■ Road closures and increased traffic during construction activities may impede access to recreational areas.
Transportation and Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction could result in a temporary disruption of traffic flow and disruption of transit services. ■ Construction could lower the Level of Service on the limited local road network
Other Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cumulative impacts could occur (considering other projects that are proposed or under construction in the project area) ■ Growth-inducing effects could occur