

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 Van Ness Avenue
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

February 2002

To: All Interested Parties

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for consideration of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Application (A.01-04-012) for the Proposed Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project. The Final SEIR has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Final SEIR contains an Executive Summary, followed by Section A and Appendices 1 and 2 (Comments and Responses to Comments; copies of complete comment letters; and replacement pages, respectively). The Final SEIR should be incorporated into the Draft SEIR binder (the Draft SEIR was distributed in a 3-ring binder in October 2001), as follows:

1. Remove the cover and the 2.5-inch wide spine label from the plastic sleeves on the outside of the Draft SEIR binder and replace them with the enclosed new cover and spine.
2. Insert the following pages in the Draft SEIR binder (before the Draft SEIR cover page): this cover letter, the Final SEIR cover page and Table of Contents, Executive Summary, Final SEIR Section A, and Appendix 1 (comment letters).
3. Appendix 2 includes replacement pages where Draft SEIR text has been modified in response to comments. Each page in this section should be put in the binder in the Draft SEIR section, and the original page should be removed and discarded. Both the original and the new text are shown on each replacement page (original text that has been removed is shown in ~~strike-out~~; new text is underlined), and new pages are indicated in the page number at the bottom of each page (e.g., "**New** C.3-2"). If all old pages are discarded, the entire Final SEIR will fit into the same binder in which the Draft SEIR was distributed.

There is no comment period following issuance of the Final SEIR. The CPUC will determine the adequacy of this Final SEIR, and, if adequate, will certify the document as compliant with CEQA. At the time the CPUC issues a Decision on the proposed Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project, it will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued, parties can apply for rehearing consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 1731. For further information on the CPUC's decision-making process, call the CPUC Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074.

Copies of the Final SEIR have also been mailed to parties to the General Proceeding, to Federal, State, and local government agencies that commented on the Draft SEIR, to all private parties that commented on the Draft SEIR, and to all other parties that received copies of the Draft SEIR. The document is also available on the CPUC's project website which can be accessed from the page defined in the URL below, and then by clicking on the link to the Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project.

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

Further information about this document is available from Billie Blanchard, CPUC Project Manager, at (415) 703-2068, or by e-mail at bcb@cpuc.ca.gov.

The Final SEIR for the Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project is also available at the repository locations below:

Coalinga District Library

305 North Fourth Street
Coalinga, CA
(559) 935-1676

Huron Public Library

26050 "O" Street
Huron, CA
(559) 945-2284

Hanford Public Library

401 N. Douty Street
Hanford, CA
(559) 582-0261

Los Banos Public Library

1312 Seventh Street
Los Banos, CA
(209) 826-5254

Fresno Free Library

2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA
(559) 488-3195

CPUC Central Files

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA
(415) 703-2045