

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

October 5, 2001

**Subject: Notice of Availability,** Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E Co.) application to build and operate the Los Banos-Gates 500 kV Transmission Project. This Proposed Project would increase transmission capacity between PG&E's Los Banos and Gates Substations, allowing more efficient transfer of power between northern and southern California. The Draft SEIR updates information presented in the 1986 Draft EIS/EIR and 1988 Final EIS/EIR for the Los Banos-Gates Project. The Draft SEIR evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of PG&E's Proposed Project, identifies those impacts that could be significant and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft SEIR also updates the original EIS/EIR's evaluation of alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA.

The Draft SEIR was released for public review on October 5, 2001. The 600+ page Draft SEIR will be available for review at several area libraries and on the project website, as listed on page two of this notice. A separately bound Executive Summary may be requested by fax at (559) 272-2107 or by email at [Path15@aspeneg.com](mailto:Path15@aspeneg.com).

***Written comments on the Draft SEIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than November 19, 2001; please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.*** Written comments on the Draft SEIR should be sent to:

**Billie Blanchard, CPUC**  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Fax: (559) 272-2107  
E-mail: [Path15@aspeneg.com](mailto:Path15@aspeneg.com)

## Sources of Project Information

For additional information or to read the Draft EIR online, check out the CPUC's "Current Projects" webpage, then click on the Los Banos-Gates Project (A.01-04-012) link:

**[www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/projects.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/projects.htm)**

You may also contact the EIR team by phone, fax, email or U.S. Mail:

Phone (voice or fax): (559) 272-2107

Email: [Path15@aspeneq.com](mailto:Path15@aspeneq.com)

Write to:

**Billie Blanchard, CPUC**

c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104

**\*Draft SEIR comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail or postmark at the foregoing listings through November 19, 2001.**

**Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.**

## Project Information Repositories

### 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