

## **G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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### **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 Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project environmental review process.

#### **G.2.1 EIR SCOPING PROCESS**

The scoping process for the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project EIR consisted of five elements:

- (1) Publication of a Notice of Preparation of an EIR (NOP) and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings soliciting comments from affected public agencies, as required by CEQA, as well as from the public
- (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, 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, a telephone hotline, and local EIR Information Repositories.

##### **G.2.1.1 Notice of Preparation**

The CPUC issued the NOP on April 21, 2000 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 180 copies of the NOP mailed out and approximately 250 additional copies distributed at the scoping meetings. A copy of the NOP is available in the Scoping Report, which may be viewed at the EIR Information Repositories and on the Internet, as described in Section G.2.4.

##### **G.2.1.2 Scoping Meetings**

Three public scoping meetings were conducted as part of the EIR scoping process to receive input regarding the scope and content of this EIR, as well as alternatives and mitigation measures which should be considered. The following scoping meetings were held prior to selection of alternatives to be studied and conduct of the analysis documented in this EIR:

## **G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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- May 8, 2000 at 2:30 pm at the Dublin Branch of the Alameda County Public Library, Dublin (20 attendees).
- May 8, 2000 at 7:00 pm at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, Livermore (about 40 attendees).
- May 9, 2000 at 7:00 pm at the Pleasanton Public Library, Pleasanton (about 170 attendees).

### **G.2.1.3 Scoping Report**

In July 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 and on the Internet as listed in Section G.2.4, and mailed to those agencies and individuals who registered at the scoping meetings or requested copies.

## **G.2.2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

### **G.2.2.1 Notification for Scoping Meetings**

About ten days before the scoping meetings, the Notice of Scoping Meeting was mailed to over 1,100 individuals, groups and government agencies identified for the initial EIR mailing list, based on PG&E Co.'s list of property owners located on or near the route of its Proposed Project, as well as groups and individuals with a vital interest in the Proposed Project compiled by the EIR Team.

The dates, times and locations of the three scoping meetings were included in the NOP mailed to affected agencies and other parties interested in the CPUC's General Proceeding for PG&E Co.'s application, about two weeks in advance of the meetings. This information was also posted on the CPUC's project website and on the project hotline.

Several days prior to the scoping meetings, quarter-page ads were published in two newspapers in the project area, as follows:

- The Tri-Valley Herald (May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000)
- Alameda Times-Star (May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000)

### **G.2.2.2 Newsletter**

A newsletter was distributed in early November 2000 to describe the EIR process and the alternatives selected for detailed analysis in the Draft EIR. The mailing list for this newsletter numbered over 11,000, and included postal carrier routes near the Proposed Project and the alternatives selected for study in the EIR, as well as those added to the mailing list since the mailing of the Scoping Meeting Notice (including those registering at the Scoping Meetings, written commentors during scoping, and requests received via e-mail, telephone/facsimile or postal mail.

### **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 on or adjacent to PG&E Co.'s Proposed and the alternative routes in December 2000, including information on how to access the Draft EIR, the Environmentally Superior Alternative(s) and dates, times and locations for informational meetings on the Draft EIR as well as the CPUC's Public Participation Hearings on PG&E Co.'s application and the Draft EIR.

**G.2.3 INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Following the release of the Draft EIR, three informational meetings will be held in similar locations to the Scoping Meetings. The purpose of these meeting is to help affected communities understand the Proposed Project, the Draft EIR, and how to participate in the CPUC-s decision making processes, including commenting on the Draft EIR. At these informational meetings, the EIR Team and CPUC staff will be available to respond to questions and provide clarification regarding the impact analysis and conclusions presented in the Draft EIR.

There will be a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on February 19, 2000. Before the end of this comment period, three Public Participation Hearings will be conducted by the CPUC’s assigned Administrative Law Judge to receive oral and written testimony on PG&E Co.’s application for a CPCN as well as the Draft EIR. Following are the locations and dates for informational meetings and hearings:

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING
January 23, 2001 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vintage Hills School: Multi-Purpose Room 1125 Concord Street, Pleasanton	February 8, 2001 7:00 p.m. City of Livermore: Council Chambers 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore
January 24, 2001 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dublin Elementary School: Multi-Purpose Room 7051 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin	February 13, 2001 6:30 p.m. Vintage Hills School: Multi-Purpose Room 1125 Concord Street, Pleasanton
January 25, 2001 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. City of Livermore: Council Chambers 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore	February 15, 2001 7:00 p.m. Dublin Elementry School: Multi Purpose Room 7051 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin

**G.2.4 EIR INFORMATION AND REPOSITORY SITES**

Placing documents in Arepository@ 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 in San Francisco. EIR-related documents, including the Scoping Report and the Draft EIR have been made available upon their release to the public at the locations listed below.

Pleasanton Public Library  
400 Old Bernal Avenue  
Pleasanton, CA  
(925) 931-3400

San Ramon Library  
100 Montgomery Street  
San Ramon, CA  
(925) 973-2850

Livermore Public Library  
1000 South Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, CA  
(925) 373-5500

Dublin Brach Library (Civic Center)  
7606 Amador Valley Blvd.  
Dublin, CA  
(925) 828-1315

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

A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (925) 397-3041. This number receives voice messages and faxes.

EIR information is also available on the Internet, including Proposed Project information, the Scoping Report, the November 2000 newsletter and the Draft EIR. The address below links to the CPUC's CEQA project list page, then click on the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project (A.99-11-025): <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/projects.htm>

### **G.3 PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC provides 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 December 27, 2000, and goes through February 19, 2001. Written comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted at the informational meetings and Public Participation Hearings, and via facsimile transmission on the EIR Hotline (925/397-3041), e-mail at the EIR e-mail address ([Tri-valley@aspeneg.com](mailto:Tri-valley@aspeneg.com)), or postal mail at:

Beth Shipley  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Written comments must be received or postmarked by February 19, 2001. Please remember to include your name and return address in whatever form you make your written comments. Oral comments will only be received at the CPUC's Public Participation Hearings, in order to ensure an accurate record is made by a court reporter.