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# **San Diego Gas & Electric Company Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects**



**California Public Utilities Commission  
United States Forest Service  
EIR/EIS  
Supplemental Scoping Meeting  
February 19, 2014**



# Background

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- **Forest Service conducted scoping for a Master Special Use Permit in June 2004**
- **An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in March 2009 and circulated for comments**
  - Risk of fire ignition was one of the primary issues addressed by the EA
  - The EA evaluated several ways to increase fire prevention, including physical and operational measures, and increased inspection and maintenance.
- **Fire-hardening required new facilities that triggered need for Permit to Construct from the CPUC**
- **Forest Service determines an EIS will be prepared under NEPA**
- **Memorandum of Understanding - January 2012**
- **SDG&E application (A.12-10-009) filed with the CPUC in October 2012**
  - Triggered CEQA review and need for EIR

# Purpose of Meeting

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- To inform the public of initial scoping issues/concerns
- To answer questions on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR/EIS
- To discuss the alternative screening process

# **Initial Scoping Process**

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- **Notice of Preparation / Notice of Intent - September 23, 2013**
  - Public notice mailed to agencies and stakeholder
  - Legal notice published in 4 local newspapers
  - NOI published in Federal Register
- **45-day public review period - ended November 7, 2013**
- **2 public scoping meetings – October 22, 2013 (Julian) and October 23, 2013 (Alpine)**

# Scoping Report / Issues

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## ■ Scoping report

- Available on project website and project repositories
  - January 16, 2014
  - Summarizes CEQA/NEPA Scoping Process
  - Provides a summary of comments received and issues raised

## ■ Scoping issues and concerns

- Used to Determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIR/EIS
- Initial issues were identified in the Notice of Preparation
- Additional issues identified from comments include:
  - Conductor size/capacity and growth inducing effects
  - Pole height
  - Ancillary facilities i.e. cameras
  - Water use

# Scoping Report / Issues

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- Land use ( compatibility with LMP and community plan goals)
- Heritage issues
- Noise (Helicopter use)
- Scenic integrity / visual Impacts
- Health and safety ( fire risk, extreme weather)
- Water use
- Air quality / climate change
- Biology ( eagles, avian safety, invasive species, riparian areas)
- Hydrology (erosion control)
- EIR/EIS administrative and permitting issues

# Alternatives To Be Considered

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## ■ Required analysis

- **NEPA “No Action” Alternative** – no MSUP, permits terminate according to their terms, improvements (power lines) are removed from National Forest System land.
- **CEQA “No Project” Alternative** – no project, conditions remain the same.
- **SDG&E Proposed Project** – fire harden facilities as described in the NOP.
- **Forest Service Proposed Action** – similar to SDG&E proposed project but with reroutes of TL 626 and C157.

# Alternatives To be Considered

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- **Additional alternatives proposed during scoping**
  - **Other alternatives proposed for TL626 (5)**
    - Includes removal, alternative routing locations, undergrounding, and system alternatives
  - **Alternatives for C157 (3)**
    - Two route alternatives and one underground
  - **Undergrounding (3)**
    - Underground all tie-lines and circuits, Underground tie-lines and circuits in existing roadways, underground near popular trails and campgrounds
  - **Transmission design (4)**
    - Pole type, size, consolidation/removal, and re-routing
  - **System alternative**
    - Fire harden with similar materials, and increased vegetation maintenance



# Alternative Screening

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- **Other alternatives are first evaluated through a “screening” process**
  - Identify reasonable (NEPA) or feasible (CEQA) alternatives
  - Explain why an alternative was not evaluated in detail
- **Reasonable or feasible alternatives are fully analyzed in the EIR/EIS:**
  - Meet project objectives (CEQA) and purpose and need (NEPA)
  - Respond to an issue
  - Reduce impacts
  - Are feasible from a technical and economic standpoint and using common sense

# **Supplemental Scoping Process**

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- **Provides another opportunity for the public to comment on project issues/concerns**
- **Additional 45-day scoping period**
  - **January 21 - March 7, 2014**
- **Public notice mailed to agencies and stakeholders**
- **Legal notice published in 4 local newspapers**
- **Public scoping meeting - February 19, 2014**

# Supplemental Input for EIR/EIS Scope

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- **Review scoping report**
  - **Report identifies issues and alternatives that will be addressed**
    - See table 2 for summary of initial scoping comments
    - See table 3 for list of topics/issues that will be addressed
- **Identify new issues and/or alternatives not captured**
- **Provide comments on additional issues or alternatives**

# Written Comments

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Please send comments to:

**California Public Utilities Commission/U.S. Forest Service**

**Attn: Lisa Orsaba, CPUC Project Manager**

**Will Metz, Forest Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest**

**c/o Dudek**

**605 Third Street**

**Encinitas, California 92024**

**Email: [cnfmsup@dudek.com](mailto:cnfmsup@dudek.com)**

**Supplemental Scoping Ends:  
March 7, 2014**

Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on all comments.

All comments submitted will be part of the public record.

Anonymous comments will be considered, but cannot be used to establish standing to participate in any Forest Service review process.

# For More Information

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- **Check CPUC internet websites:**

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>

Release of DEIR/EIS anticipated July 2014

- **Information Repositories: 7 area libraries have project information**

Alpine Branch Library  
2130 Arnold Way  
Alpine, California 91901

Campo-Morena Village  
Branch Library  
31356 Highway 94  
Campo, California 91906

Descanso Branch Library  
9545 River Drive  
Descanso, California 91916

Pine Valley Branch Library  
28804 Old Highway 80  
Pine Valley, California 91962

Julian Branch Library  
1850 Highway 78  
Julian, California 92036

Ramona Branch Library  
1275 Main Street  
Ramona, California 92065

San Diego Public Library  
330 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, California 92101