

Public Meeting Mitigation Negative Declaration on the Central Valley Gas Storage Project



California Public Utilities Commission – May 5, 2010

Introduction and Welcome

- **Meeting Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Overview of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Process and Schedule**
- **Environmental Review Process**
- **Description of Proposed Project**
- **Environmental Issues**
- **Public Comments on Environmental Document**
- **Closing Comments**



Purpose of Meeting

- **Provide information about the CPUC's Permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review process**
- **Provide information about the environmental impacts of the proposed project**
- **Seek public comments regarding the environmental document**



CPUC's role

- **Central Valley Gas Storage submitted an application to the CPUC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)**
- **The CPCN is a permit that allows the applicant to begin construction on the proposed project**



CPUC Review Process

- **The CPUC has two parallel review processes for CVGS' Application for a CPCN:**
 - **General Proceeding (Application No. A09-08-008)**
 - **Environmental Review (the CEQA process).**



Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

- **Scope (defined by the California Public Utilities Code, Section 1002)**
 - **Determine need for the project (whether facilities are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of the public).**
 - **Consider community values, recreational and park area, and historic and aesthetic values.**
 - **Determine significant environmental impacts and evaluate ways to minimize these impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).**



Key Players and Their Roles in the CEQA Process

- **CPUC: Lead Agency under CEQA**
- **Central Valley Gas Storage, LLC (CVGS): Applicant**
- **Dudek: Environmental Contractor for CPUC**
- **Responsible Agencies**



Environmental Review Process

- **As lead agency for the proposed project, CPUC is mandated to fulfill the following requirements under CEQA guidelines:**
 - **Disclose significant environmental effects and means to reduce, avoid, and minimize those impacts**
 - **Provide a public forum to discuss project planning and decision-making process**
 - **Ensure that decision makers have a solid basis for making a sound decision.**

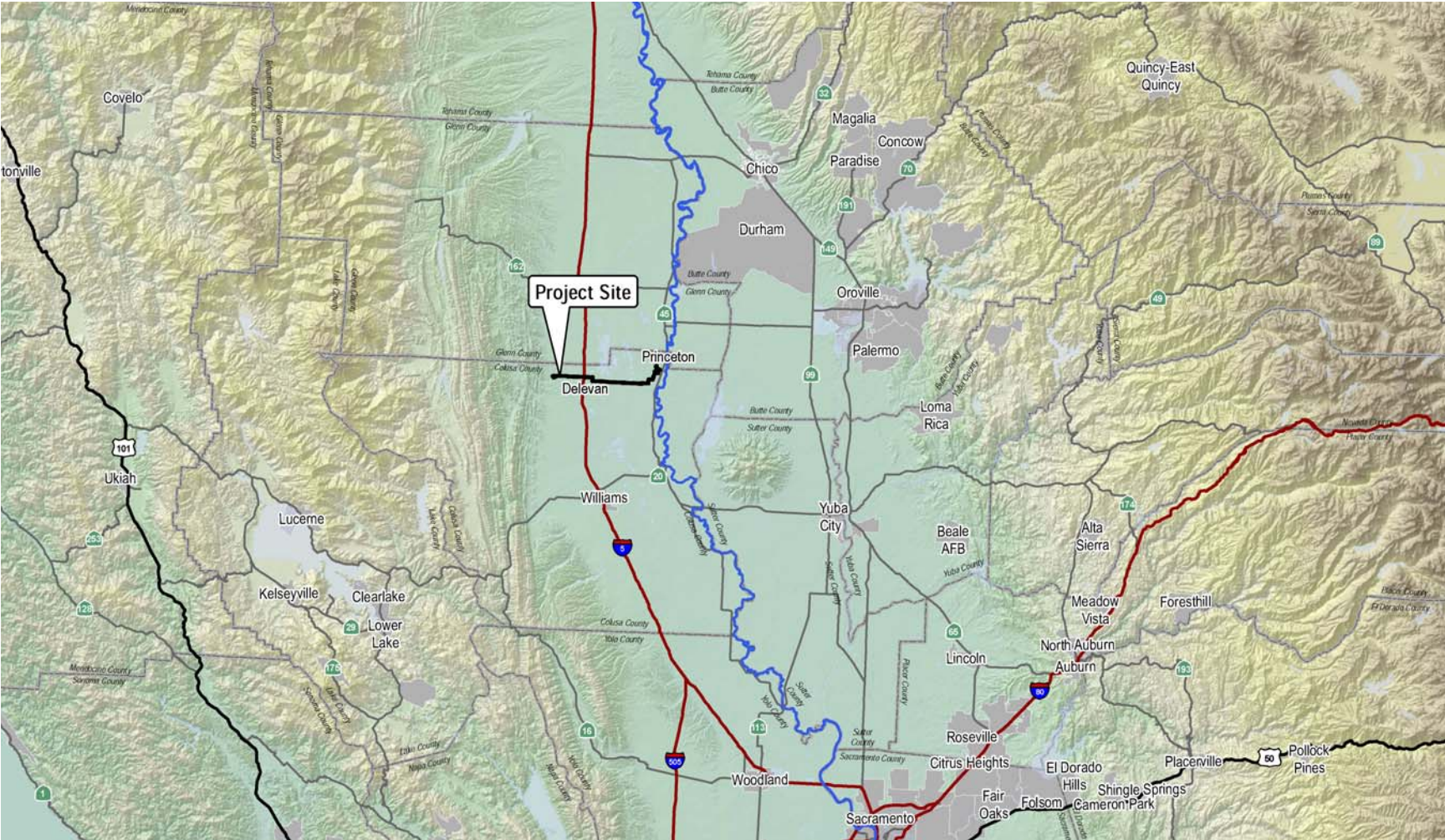


Where Is the Proposed Project?

- The Proposed Project is located in northeastern Colusa County, south/southwest of the town of Princeton.



Regional Map



What Is the Proposed Project?

- **Conversion, construction, and operation of the depleted Princeton Gas Field.**

- **Surface facilities include the following:**
 - **10-acre compressor station**
 - **3.1- acre remote well pad site**
 - **Saltwater disposal well**
 - **Observation wells**
 - **1-acre metering station.**



What Is the Proposed Project?

- **Natural gas connecting pipelines include the following:**
 - **Installation of a 1,950-foot-long, dual 16-inch gathering line system**
 - **A 170-foot-long, 8-inch gas pipeline, and use of a meter skid and rental compressor unit for a temporary connection to PG&E Line 172**
 - **A 14.7-mile-long, 24-inch diameter gas pipeline.**



Vicinity/Proposed Project Overview



Applicant's Project Objectives

- **Increase the total amount of natural gas storage capacity and the reliability of supply in northern California where storage is in high demand.**
- **Mitigate potentially costly conditions related to California's reliance on imported gas by allowing purchasers to buy gas when the supply is adequate and the price is low, inject it into the proposed project for storage, and withdraw and use the stored gas when supply is short and prices are higher.**
- **Develop a storage facility that is in close proximity to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) existing gas transmission facilities (Line 400/401).**



Construction Schedule

- **Construction varies by component:**
 - **Compressor station: 13 months**
 - **Wellhead, injection/withdrawal wells, and observation wells: 3 months**
 - **Pipelines: 7 months.**



Environmental Issues

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality/Climate Change
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems



Environmental Schedule

- **A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was issued, and the document was sent out for public review on April 22, 2010.**
- **The end of the public review is May 22, 2010.**
- **Consideration of public comments will be incorporated in a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration document, scheduled to be released in July 2010.**
- **The tentative timeframe for a CPUC Decision on the CPCN application is October 2010.**



Comments on Draft Environmental Documentation

Please send comments on the environmental document to:

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**Additional information available at:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/cvgs/CVGS_Home.htm**

