



505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

Notice of Preparation
Scoping Notice
for a Joint
**Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement**
for the
North-South Project
**Proposed by Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas and
Electric**
CPUC Application No. 13-12-013
Forest Service Application No. FCD102314

To: All Interested Parties

Si usted necesita una copia de este documento en español o si necesita información acerca del proyecto por favor llame a (855) 520-6799.

A. Introduction

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) have filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for authority to recover revenue requirements in customer rates, and for approval of related cost allocation and rate design proposals, for the proposed North-South Project (Proposed Project). SoCalGas has also filed an application for a right-of-way (ROW) with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) to site project infrastructure within the San Bernardino National Forest. The CPUC as the lead agency under California law, and the Forest Service as the lead federal agency, will direct the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), referred to as an EIR/EIS, for the Proposed Project to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As required by CEQA, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to interested agencies and members of the public. The purpose of the NOP, which also serves as the Forest Service Scoping Notice, is to inform recipients that the CPUC and Forest Service are beginning joint preparation of an EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. This notice includes a description of the project that SoCalGas and SDG&E propose to construct, a summary of potential project impacts, the times and locations of

public scoping meetings, and information on how to provide comments. The Forest Service and the CPUC are jointly conducting the three public meetings that will be held during the EIR/EIS scoping period (see detail in Section E). **The scoping period will end on November 23, 2015.**

As required by NEPA, the Forest Service published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare a joint EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project. The NOI provides information about the Proposed Project, describes the Forest Service review process, solicits information that will be helpful in the environmental review process, and also serves as an invitation to federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments to join as cooperating agencies. A copy of the NOI is attached. Please refer to the NOI for more detailed information about the Forest Service permit review process.

A Scoping Summary Report will be prepared to summarize comments submitted to the CPUC and the Forest Service. This joint NOP/Scoping Notice, the Forest Service NOI, and the Scoping Summary Report (after it has been finalized) can be viewed on the project web site at the following link:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/n-s/northsouth.html>

The Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) includes an additional pipeline segment, the Moreno to Whitewater segment, which is no longer included in the Proposed Project. The EIR/EIS will analyze the project components listed in Section B and alternatives to SoCalGas's and SDG&E's proposal.

B. Project Description

The Proposed Project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 36-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline; the rebuilding of the Adelanto Compressor Station by adding 30,000 horsepower of compression to the system; installation of additional pressure limiting and communications equipment at the Moreno Pressure Limiting Station, Whitewater Pressure Limiting Station, and Desert Center Compressor Station; and installation of pressure limiting and communications equipment at the proposed Shaver Summit Pressure Limiting Station. The pipeline would be approximately 65 miles long, beginning at the Adelanto Compressor Station in the city of Adelanto, proceeding south through the Cajon Pass and the San Bernardino National Forest, and ending at the Moreno Pressure Limiting Station in the city of Moreno Valley. The proposed pipeline alignment would be located primarily within existing public and private ROW.

As shown in **Figure 1**, the Proposed Project would be located in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties; the cities of Adelanto, Victorville, Highland, San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, and Moreno Valley; and the San Bernardino National Forest.

The Proposed Project includes the following major components:

- Replacement of existing infrastructure and installation of new infrastructure at the Adelanto Compressor Station, including the natural gas turbines and compressors, exhaust emission treatment equipment, gas and oil cooling equipment, filter separator, auxiliary buildings, blowdown stack, lubrication oil tanks (for unused and used oil), cathodic protection system, and generators.

- Installation of approximately 30,000 horsepower of natural gas compression, new emission control equipment, and in-line inspection tool launcher at the Adelanto Compressor Station.
- Construction of the Adelanto to Moreno pipeline, segmented as follows:
 - Segment 1 - Adelanto Compressor Station to the San Bernardino National Forest Boundary
 - Segment 2 – San Bernardino National Forest
 - Segment 3 – Swarthout Canyon Road along U.S. Route 66 to Reche Canyon Road
 - Segment 4 – Reche Canyon Road to Moreno Pressure Limiting Station
- Station piping modifications and installation of additional pressure limiting and communications equipment at the Moreno Pressure Limiting Station.
- Station piping modifications and installation of additional pressure limiting and communications equipment at the Whitewater Pressure Limiting Station.
- Installation of pressure limiting and communications equipment at the proposed Shaver Summit Pressure Limiting Station.
- Modification of existing station piping and installation of pressure limiting and communications equipment at the Desert Center Compressor Station.
- Installation of 16 main line block valves.
- Modifications to existing roads, including those currently used by SoCalGas and other utilities within the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as city- and county-maintained roads.
- The establishment of temporary staging areas adjacent to the Proposed Project alignment.

Project Purpose. According to SoCalGas and SDG&E, the Proposed Project is needed to establish a physical connection between their Northern and Southern gas transmission systems. One portion of SoCalGas's and SDG&E's interconnected transmission system, SoCalGas' Southern Transmission System (Southern System), requires daily minimum flowing supplies of natural gas from receipt points in the Southern System. Without these minimum supplies, there is not enough natural gas supply in the Southern System to provide all customers with their daily load requirements. If load demand on the Southern System increases, and/or available supplies at the receipt points decrease, customers on the Southern System may face supply-based curtailments without the Proposed Project.

Most of the Southern System flowing supplies (natural gas) originate from one pipeline: El Paso Natural Gas Company's El Paso South Mainline. Southern System customers have faced reliability problems in the past because of the lack of natural gas supply options, including a Southern System curtailment in February of 2011, several recent supply-related near misses, and operational issues that have created reliability concerns. Reliability concerns have been heightened by increased regional demand of natural gas for the generation of electricity following the closure of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Additionally, available supplies from the El Paso South Mainline may become more scarce and expensive if exports from the United States to Mexico increase.

A physical link does not currently exist between SoCalGas's Southern System and Northern Transmission System. The Proposed Project would create this link and resolve supply-related risks to the Southern System by providing Southern System customers access to Northern System storage facilities and receipt points.

In addition, SoCalGas and SDG&E have presented the following six objectives in their PEA:

1. Provide safe and reliable gas service in a timely and cost effective manner to Southern System customers.
2. Maintain the Southern System's reliability and alleviate the potential for curtailments of customers on the Southern System due to the discrepancy between customer demand and the volume of flowing supplies delivered to the Southern System to meet that demand.
3. Resolve supply-related risks to the Southern System by providing Southern System customers with access to storage supplies and more receipt points located outside of the Southern System (Topock, Needles, Wheeler Ridge, Kern River Station, and Kramer Station).
4. Provide an interconnection allowing the Applicant to efficiently transport 800 million cubic feet per day of natural gas supplies into the Southern System from interstate and intrastate receipt points located outside of the Southern System.
5. Provide Southern System natural gas customers (including electric generators) located on the Southern System with the same level of reliability that customers receive elsewhere on SoCalGas's and SDG&E's integrated transmission system.
6. Complete the Proposed Project as soon as possible to mitigate the risk of curtailments caused by (i) increased demand in the Southern System caused by the decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and (ii) future projects that are expected to decrease available supplies at the Southern System receipt point.

During the environmental review process, the CPUC may refine the project objectives to allow a wider range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

C. Project Alternatives

The EIR/EIS will evaluate alternatives to the Proposed Project that could potentially reduce, eliminate, or avoid impacts of the Proposed Project. Alternatives may include minor route variations, alignment alternatives, and non-physical alternatives. In compliance with CEQA and NEPA, an EIR/EIS must describe a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project or project location that could meet the project's purpose and need, feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives, and avoid or lessen any of the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the No Project/No Action Alternative must also be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. The No Project/No Action Alternative will describe the situation that would likely occur in the absence of Proposed Project implementation. The EIR/EIS will also evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.

SoCalGas and SDG&E evaluated a variety of project alternatives that may be able to obtain the same objectives as the Proposed Project, including non-physical alternatives, infrastructure alternatives, and alignment alternatives. As part of the environmental review process for the Proposed Project, the CPUC and USFS will evaluate the feasibility of alternatives presented by SoCalGas and SDG&E and consider whether they meet CEQA and NEPA requirements. The CPUC and USFS will likely develop other alternatives for evaluation in the EIR/EIS. New alternatives developed during the environmental review process for the Proposed Project will be based on input received during the public scoping process and the potential environmental impacts identified during the analysis of the Proposed Project.

D. Analysis of Potential Environmental Impacts

In accordance with CEQA guidelines and NEPA implementing regulations, the CPUC and Forest Service intend to prepare a joint EIR/EIS to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any significant impacts identified. The EIR/EIS will also analyze potential environmental impacts of the alternatives to the Proposed Project and propose mitigation to reduce those impacts.

Based on preliminary analysis of the Proposed Project and review of documents submitted by SoCalGas and SDG&E, including the PEA and technical reports submitted to the CPUC and Forest Service after the PEA was filed, implementation of the Proposed Project may have a number of potentially significant environmental impacts. Potential impacts on the existing environment are summarized by resource area below. No determinations have yet been made as to the significance of these potential impacts; such determinations will be made in the environmental analysis conducted in the EIR/EIS after the issues are thoroughly considered and the public has had an opportunity to comment. In addition, the EIR/EIS will address issues raised during the public scoping process and will include an evaluation of the cumulative impacts that may occur as the result of implementing the Proposed Project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects in the area.

Aesthetic Resources

- Potential impacts on nighttime views as a result of nighttime construction lighting and operational nighttime lighting at the Adelanto Compressor Station and Moreno Pressure Limiting Station.
- Temporary impacts along state scenic highways from construction of the Proposed Project.
- Potential temporary impacts on scenic vistas during construction.
- Potential impacts on visual resources within the San Bernardino National Forest during construction and for a period of several years following construction until revegetation and restoration activities are completed.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources

- Potential temporary impacts on Prime Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance.
- Potential conflicts with existing land use zones as established in the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan.
- Potential permanent loss of forest due to the placement of project infrastructure.

Air Quality

- Potential impacts caused by various activities during construction of the Proposed Project that may generate emissions of criteria pollutants, greenhouse gases, and toxic air contaminants, including diesel particulate matter. These emissions may exceed federal and state thresholds.
- Construction activities could potentially cause new violations of ambient air quality standards or contribute substantially to existing violations of those standards.

- Construction activities could potentially conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.
- Construction activities may contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants in a non-attainment area.
- Potential impacts associated with vehicle travel that may generate fugitive dust emissions.
- Potential impacts associated with the operation of the upgraded Adelanto Compressor Station could result in emissions of criteria pollutants, greenhouse gases, and toxic air contaminants.

Biological Resources

- Potential impacts on state or federally listed species, including indirect impacts on Santa Ana sucker, arroyo toad, Swainson's hawk, and least Bell's vireo; direct impacts on desert tortoise and San Bernardino kangaroo rat; and direct or indirect impacts on southwestern willow flycatcher and coastal California gnatcatcher.
- Potential impacts on state or federally listed species and their habitats.
- Potential impacts on non-listed, special status plant and wildlife species potentially present in the Study Area.
- Potential impacts on vegetation, including grassland, riparian, chaparral, coastal scrub, desert scrub, herbaceous, and woodland communities, including impacts on special status vegetation communities.
- Potential impacts from an increase in non-native weed establishment and recruitment during construction and operations.
- Potential impacts on jurisdictional waters regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Potential impacts on tree resources, including, but not limited to, conflicts with policies adopted by San Bernardino County, the City of Adelanto, and/or the City of Highland. Impacts on riparian areas could conflict with the Forest Service Riparian Conservation Area standards.
- Potential conflicts with the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), Coachella Valley MSHCP, Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan, and/or the County of Riverside Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan.
- Potential direct and indirect impacts on nesting birds during construction and/or operations and maintenance activities.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- Potential impacts on historic resources determined eligible or recommended as eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources and National Register of Historic Places.
- Potential impacts on known and unknown archaeological sites during construction.
- Potential impacts on paleontological resources during construction.
- Potential for construction activities to disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Geology, Soils, and Minerals

- Potential geologic and soil hazards associated with fault rupture, strong seismic ground shaking, landslides, and liquefaction.
- Potential impacts associated with subsidence, soil erosion, and expansive soils.
- Potential impacts related to the loss of availability of mineral resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Possible impacts during construction and operation related to the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials, including but not limited to previously contaminated soils, petroleum products (diesel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, transmission oil, lubricating oil and grease, waste oil, mineral oil), welding gases, paint, solvents, methanol, antifreeze, water-soluble chemicals, corrosion inhibitors, scale inhibitors, drag-reducing agents, and biocides.
- Possible impacts related to pipeline failure during operations, which is defined as an accidental release, rupture, and/or ignition of natural gas from a pipeline. In the event of pipeline failure, there would be increased risk of fire, explosion, and potential to generate a migrating gas vapor cloud. Typical causes of pipeline failure include third-party digging activities in the vicinity of the pipeline; ground movement associated with fault rupture; liquefaction and/or landslides; undetected pipeline corrosion; and material or welding defects. Pipeline failure also can be caused by intentional vandalism or destruction.
- Potential impacts related to interference of construction activities with emergency evacuation routes in the area.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Potential impacts on water quality during construction activities, including increased sediment loads to receiving waterbodies, the spread of contaminated water, and discharge of hydrostatic testing waters.
- Potential impacts on water quality during construction related to the possible accidental release of drilling fluid used during directional drilling activities.
- Potential impacts on water quality during operations as a result of increased impervious surface area (e.g., pavement).
- Temporary impacts on existing drainage patterns associated with open cuts of water body crossings, creation of new access roads, and expansion of existing access roads during construction.

Land Use and Planning

- Potential temporary community disruption due to construction activities.
- Potential for construction activities to temporarily physically divide an established community by impacting commuter traffic on Reche Canyon Road.
- Construction of the Proposed Project could potentially conflict with requirements of the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan, possibly requiring a project-specific Land Management Plan amendment.
- Construction of the Proposed Project could potentially impact the roadless area characteristics associated with the Cajon Roadless Area.

Noise

- Noise would occur as a result of construction of the pipeline and block valves, construction and upgrades of compressor stations and pressure limiting stations, and construction-related traffic. Construction vibration would be related to laying of the pipeline, and levels of vibration would vary during the construction period.
- Potential short-term noise and vibration from operation and maintenance activities (e.g., noise resulting from infrequent pipeline depressurization at one of the 16 proposed main line block valves during maintenance activities).

Public Health and Safety

- Potential for wildfires due to construction and maintenance activities in areas of high or moderate fire potential.
- Potential disruption of emergency services due to the presence of construction equipment and workspaces.

Public Services and Utilities

- Construction of the Proposed Project may result in the need for emergency medical services related to construction accidents.

Recreation

- Potential impacts on recreation within the San Bernardino National Forest, including use of forest roads and trails and the Pacific Crest Trail during construction.
- Potential for construction activities to result in short-term impacts to recreational users of five parks within the City of San Bernardino (Blast Soccer Complex, Guhin Park, Jack Reilly Park, Lionel E. Hudson Park, and Harper Field), including traffic delays in the vicinity of the parks and indirect impacts associated with noise and air quality.

Transportation and Traffic

- Potential temporary construction-related traffic impacts such as closed streets, lane closures, left-turn intersection prohibitions, reduced capacities for construction zones (spreads), sidewalk closures, crosswalk closures and relocation, transit route and bus stop changes, and bicycle and pedestrian system changes.
- Construction of the Proposed Project may reduce capacity, reduce speed limits, and stop traffic for construction vehicles and equipment on the streets along the proposed pipeline alignment and streets that cross the proposed pipeline alignment. It is expected that all the streets on the proposed pipeline alignment and the streets crossing the proposed pipeline alignment would have temporary construction-related impacts.

Cumulative Impacts

- Potential cumulative impacts resulting from the construction of other projects at the same time or in the same location as the Proposed Project that may compound or increase the impacts identified above. Potential cumulative projects may include but are not limited to utilities, residential, commercial, industrial, and roadway construction and maintenance projects.

Mitigation Measures

SoCalGas and SDG&E have proposed measures in the PEA that could reduce, avoid, or eliminate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. The effectiveness of these measures (called “Applicant Proposed Measures”) will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS and will be considered part of the Project Description. That is, potential environmental impacts will be evaluated with the consideration that the Applicant Proposed Measures will be implemented. If necessary, additional mitigation measures will be developed and evaluated in the EIR/EIS to further reduce, eliminate, or avoid potential environmental impacts. When the CPUC and Forest Service make their final decision on the Proposed Project, they will define the mitigation measures to be adopted as a condition of project approval, and the CPUC and Forest Service will require implementation of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

E. Public Scoping Meetings

The CPUC and Forest Service will conduct three public scoping meetings in the project area, as shown below. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to present information about the Proposed Project and the CPUC and Forest Service decision-making process and to allow responsible agencies, interested agencies, and the general public the opportunity to comment on the scope, focus, and content of the EIR/EIS.

Location	San Geronio High School	Courtyard Marriott	Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center
Date	Tuesday, October 27, 2015	Wednesday, October 28, 2015	Thursday, October 29, 2015
Time	6 to 8:30 p.m.	6 to 8:30 p.m.	6 to 8:30 p.m.
Address	2299 Pacific Street, San Bernardino, CA	9619 Mariposa Road, Hesperia, CA	14075 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA

F. Scoping Comments

The CPUC and Forest Service are jointly soliciting information from all responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law with respect to the Project, as well as public input regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR/EIS.

Suggestions for submitting scoping comments are presented at the end of this section. The scoping period will end on **November 23, 2015**.

All Scoping Comments: Interested parties may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by U.S. mail, (2) by email, (3) by fax, or (4) by attending a public scoping meeting (see times and locations in Table 1, above) and making a verbal statement or handing in a written comment at the scoping meetings. Commenters should include their names and mailing addresses at the bottom of the comment for mailed, faxed, and emailed comments and note the “North-South Project.”

By mail: Comments may be sent to the following address:

Public Scoping Comments
RE: North-South Project
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111

By email: Comments may be sent to the following address:

north-south@ene.com.

By fax: Comments may be sent to the following number:

(415) 398-5326.

Comments on the NOP/Scoping Notice must be received or postmarked by November 23, 2015, to be accepted. No comments will be accepted after the comment period is closed. Interested parties will have an additional opportunity to comment on the North-South Project during the 45-day public review period to be held for the Draft EIR/EIS.

Comments received during scoping, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed project. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Forest Service with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents and will not provide the respondent standing to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial review of the Forest Service decision. This project will follow the predecisional administrative review process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

Scoping Report: A scoping report will be prepared that summarizes all comments received (including oral comments made at the scoping meetings). This report will be posted on the project website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/n-s/northsouth.html>

This NOP/Scoping Notice has been sent to responsible and trustee agencies, potential cooperating federal agencies, Tribal Governments, and the State Clearinghouse. Agencies should state their views regarding the scope and content of the environmental information, which reflects their statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Once again, responses should identify the issues to be considered in the Draft EIR/EIS, including significant

environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures and whether the responding agency will be a responsible agency or a trustee agency. Due to the time limits mandated by State laws, responses must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 45 days after receipt of this notice (November 23, 2015).

G. Additional Information

Information about the Proposed Project and the CEQA/NEPA compliance process is available at the following website:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/n-s/northsouth.html>

This site will be used to post all public documents related to the EIR/EIS, including notices of public meetings. No public comments will be accepted on this website. However, the website provides information on how interested parties can sign up to be placed on the project mailing list. The PEA is also available on the website.

Requests for additional information or to be added to the mailing list may be made by contacting us via e-mail, fax, or phone, as follows:

Project e-mail: North-South@ene.com
Project fax: (415) 398-5326
Project voicemail: (855) 520-6799 (toll free)

Documents related to the North-South Project and the EIR/EIS will be made available at the sites listed below:

Project Document Repository Sites		
Library Sites	Address	Phone
Victorville City Library	15011 Circle Drive, Victorville, CA 92395	(760)245-4222
Norman F. Feldheim Central Library	555 West 6th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410	(909)381-8201
Moreno Valley Public Library	25480 Alessandro Blvd, Moreno Valley, CA 92553	(951)413-3880
US Forest Service Office		
San Bernardino National Forest Headquarters	602 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408	(909)382-2600

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