

2.0 Summary of Public Review Process

This chapter summarizes the public and agency outreach that occurred for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Recirculated Draft EIR for the South Orange County Reliability Enhancement Project (proposed project). Further discussion of the public review process and copies of public participation documents are provided in Appendix A, “Scoping Summary Report” and Appendix P, “Public Participation Summary Report” of Exhibit 1.

2.1 Public Scoping for Draft EIR

On January 9, 2013, the CPUC published and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the State Clearinghouse (No. 2013011011), responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties to notify them that an EIR would be prepared for the proposed project.¹ The NOP was distributed to more than 800 individuals, including property owners within 300 feet of proposed project components.

Additionally, the CPUC placed notices in the following newspapers: the *Orange County Register* (English), the *North County Times* (English), and *La Opinión* (Spanish). On February 8, 2013, the CPUC extended the scoping period by 14 days, allowing the public and agencies an opportunity to provide comments through February 22, 2013. The CPUC mailed a Notice of Extension to the NOP distribution list, and on February 21, 2013, the CPUC placed a notice announcing the extension of the public scoping period in the *Capistrano Dispatch* and *San Clemente Times* (English).

The CPUC conducted public scoping meetings on January 23, 2013, at the San Juan Capistrano Community Hall in San Juan Capistrano, California and January 24, 2013, at Bella Collina Towne and Golf Club in San Clemente, California.

2.2 Public Outreach on the Draft EIR

2.2.1 Notification

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) published a Notice of Availability (NOA) on February 19, 2015, announcing that the Draft EIR for the proposed project was available for public review and comment. The NOA detailed how the public and other interested parties could comment on the Draft EIR during the 45-day comment period from February 23, 2015, through April 10, 2015, and provided the date and locations for two public meetings. The NOA contained a project description; information on significant adverse environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project; and directions in English and Spanish for how to get more information on the proposed project. The NOA encouraged the public to submit written comments by mail, facsimile, or email to the CPUC regarding any concerns about the proposed project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR.

¹ Projects or actions undertaken by the lead agency, in this case the CPUC, may require subsequent oversight, approvals, or permits from other public agencies. Other such agencies are referred to as *responsible agencies* and *trustee agencies*. Pursuant to Sections 15381 and 15386 of the State CEQA Guidelines, as amended, a responsible agency is a public agency that proposes to carry out or approve a project for which a lead agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR. For the purpose of CEQA, the term *responsible agency* refers to all public agencies other than the lead agency that have discretionary approval power over the project. A *trustee agency* is a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California.

In addition, the CPUC published the NOA in multiple newspapers and posted a copy of it on the CPUC's hosted project website. The NOA appeared in the legal notices of *The Orange County Register* and *The San Diego Union-Tribune* on February 23, 2015. A Spanish translated NOA for the Draft EIR was published in *La Opinión* on February 23, 2015. The *Orange County Register* is a daily newspaper in Orange County, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* is a daily newspaper in San Diego County, and *La Opinión* is a Spanish-language daily newspaper distributed throughout six counties in Southern California. Additionally, an electronic copy of the NOA was posted on the CPUC's hosted project website.

The CPUC sent a Notice of Completion for the Draft EIR and 15 printed copies of the executive summary to the State Clearinghouse. The State Clearinghouse received these documents on February 19, 2015.

2.2.2 Distribution of Draft EIR

Paper copies of the Draft EIR were provided to the San Juan Capistrano Library at 31495 El Camino Real in San Juan Capistrano; San Clemente Library at 242 Avenida Del Mar in San Clemente. A paper copy of the Draft EIR was also provided to the San Clemente Mobile Hub Library, which was temporarily located at 987 Avenida Hermosa in San Clemente, as the San Clemente Library was closed for renovation during the public review period.

The Draft EIR was made available electronically on the CPUC's hosted project website. Additionally, the CPUC distributed electronic copies (CDs) of the Draft EIR to agencies and individuals by request.

2.2.3 Public Meetings

The CPUC held two public meetings on March 25, 2015, to describe the proposed project; discuss the anticipated impacts from the proposed project, as well as mitigation measures to address such impacts; and receive comments on the Draft EIR. The meetings were held at: 1) the San Clemente Community Center, located at 100 N. Calle Seville, San Clemente, California, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, and 2) the San Juan Capistrano Community Hall, located at 25925 Camino Del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, California, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

The meetings included a presentation with instructions on how to comment on the Draft EIR; an explanation of the CEQA and CPUC review processes; and a description of the proposed project, objectives of the proposed project, environmental impacts, and alternatives to the proposed project (a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is provided in Appendix P of Exhibit 1). Following the presentation, public verbal comments were recorded by a court reporter.

2.3 Public Outreach on the Recirculated Draft EIR

2.3.1 Notification

The CPUC published an NOA for the Recirculated Draft EIR on August 10, 2015, announcing that the Recirculated Draft EIR for the proposed project was available for public review and comment. The NOA detailed how the public and other interested parties could comment on the revised portions of the Recirculated Draft EIR during the 45-day comment period from August 10, 2015, through September 24, 2015. The NOA for the Recirculated Draft EIR contained a project description and information on significant adverse environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project; description of why the

CPUC recirculated the Draft EIR; starting and ending dates for the review period; locations of paper and electronic copies of the Recirculated Draft EIR; and directions in English and Spanish on how to get more information on the proposed project. The NOA encouraged the public to submit written comments by mail, facsimile, or email to the CPUC regarding any concerns about the revised portions of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

The CPUC published the NOA for the Recirculated Draft EIR in the *Orange County Register* and *The San Diego Union-Tribune* on August 10, 2015. A Spanish translated NOA for the Recirculated Draft EIR was published in *La Opinión* on August 10, 2015. Additionally, an electronic copy of the NOA was posted on the CPUC's hosted project website.

The CPUC sent a Notice of Completion for the Recirculated Draft EIR and 15 printed copies of the executive summary to the State Clearinghouse. The State Clearinghouse received these documents on August 10, 2015.

2.3.2 Distribution of Recirculated Draft EIR

Paper copies of the Recirculated Draft EIR were provided to the San Juan Capistrano Library at 31495 El Camino Real in San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente Library at 242 Avenida Del Mar in San Clemente.

The Recirculated Draft EIR was made available electronically on the CPUC's hosted project website. Additionally, the CPUC distributed electronic copies (CDs) of the Recirculated Draft EIR to agencies and individuals by request.

2.3.3 Public Comment Meeting

The CPUC did not hold any public meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR.

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