

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners  
& Interested Parties

**From:** Eric Chiang, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject:** NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND  
SCOPING MEETING:  
Southern California Edison's Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project  
(A.08-01-029)

**Date:** April 15, 2008

**Description of Proposed Project.** Southern California Edison (SCE), in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.08-01-029), filed on January 31, 2008, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project (Proposed Project), which includes the following major elements:

- replacement of approximately 5.3 miles of existing 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit subtransmission lines with new higher capacity double-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and replacement of support structures within existing SCE right-of-ways (ROWs) and franchise locations (public ROWs) between Farrell and Garnet Substations in the City of Palm Springs;
- construction of a new 115 kV subtransmission line from Mirage Substation south to Interstate 10, adjacent to the east side of Tri-Palm Estates and within SCE's existing ROWs or franchise locations;
- looping the existing Devers-Coachella 220 kV transmission line from an existing ROW to the south for approximately 0.8 of a mile on double-circuit lattice steel towers to Mirage Substation, located near the community of Thousand Palms;
- installation of a new 280 megavolt amperes (MVA) 200/115 kV transformer, two new 220 kV circuit breakers, and five new 115 kV circuit breakers at SCE's existing Mirage Substation; and
- replacement of four poles at the intersection of Bob Hope Drive and Dinah Shore Drive.

The Proposed Project would also include additional equipment and relay installations at Mirage, Concho, Indian Wells, Santa Rosa, Eisenhower, Farrell, Garnet, Thornhill, and Tamarisk Substations located in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community. SCE also proposes to transfer existing fiber optic cable to the new support structures and install new fiber optic and digital telecommunications equipment as part of the Proposed Project.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to maintain electric system reliability, enhance operational flexibility, and serve projected electrical demand in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2009 and be operational by mid-2010.

**Location of the Proposed Project.**

The Proposed Project is located within eastern Riverside County, including portions of the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, and Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community. See the map that follows this notice for an illustration of the project area.

**Issues To Be Addressed In The EIR.**

The EIR will address impacts of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project. The EIR

will also discuss and analyze alternatives to the Proposed Project. Alternatives to the Proposed Project that will be considered may include, but not be limited to, a No Project alternative as well as several alignment variations. Other alternatives may be added based on input received during this Notice of Preparation (NOP) scoping period or by the EIR team in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

Specific areas of analysis the EIR will address include aesthetics, agriculture resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. Additionally, potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Project, when considered in context with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area, will be addressed in the EIR.

Information to be included in the EIR will also be based on input and comments received during the NOP review period. Decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, property owners, and interested persons and parties will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR after it is published and circulated for public review. For additional information about the CEQA review of the Proposed Project, go to: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/devers-mirage/devers.html>.

**Public Scoping Period for this Notice of Preparation.**

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 30 days after the date of this notice. The public scoping period will close at 5:00 p.m. on **May 15, 2008**. Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject.

Please send your comments to:

**Mr. Eric Chiang**  
**Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project**  
**c/o Environmental Science Associates**  
**1425 N. McDowell Boulevard, Suite 105**  
**Petaluma, CA 94954**  
**Fax: (707) 795-0902**  
**Voicemail: (707) 795-0940**  
**E-mail: [devers-mirage@esassoc.com](mailto:devers-mirage@esassoc.com)**

**Scoping Meeting.**

In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope of the EIR, a meeting will be held during the NOP scoping period. The scoping meeting will start with a brief presentation providing an overview of the Proposed Project and alternatives identified to date. Subsequent to the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the project. Written comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit written comments at the scoping meeting; written comments may also be submitted anytime during the NOP scoping period to the address, fax, or e-mail listed above. The scoping meeting will be held:

**Tuesday April 29, 2008**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, Mary Stuart Rogers Gateway Building (Classroom RG-205)**  
**37-500 Cook Street (b/w Gerald Ford Dr. and Frank Sinatra Dr.)**  
**Palm Desert, CA 92211**  
**(see map on following page)**

REMINDER: Scoping comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through May 15, 2008. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.





