

**Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area
Reinforcement Project Proposed by
Pacific Gas & Electric / NextEra Energy
Transmission West, LLC
Scoping Summary Report**

Prepared for:

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Prepared by:

Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405
Oakland, CA 94612
Contact: Tom Engels
(916) 790-8548

November 2018

Contents

Scoping Summary 1

 Background and Purpose 1

 Proposed Project Scoping Process..... 1

 Comments Received 2

 Comment Summary by Topic 3

 General Comment 4

 CEQA Process..... 5

 Project Description..... 5

 Environmental Impacts 6

 Alternatives 11

 Electromagnetic Field 12

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A Agency Comment Letters Received
- Attachment B Notice of Preparation, Revised Notice of Preparation, and Newspaper Ad
- Attachment C Meeting Materials

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	area of potential effects
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHRIS	California Historical Research Information System
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CDOC	California Department of Conservation
EIR	environmental impact report
EMF	electromagnetic field
HOA	Home Owner's Association
kV	kilovolt
MMRP	Mitigation, Monitoring and Report Program
NOP	notice of preparation
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
Proposed Project	Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Proposed by Pacific Gas & Electric / NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC

Scoping Summary

Background and Purpose

“Scoping” refers to the public outreach process used under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine the coverage and content of an environmental impact report (EIR). The scoping comment period offers an important opportunity for the public and agencies to review and comment during the early phases of the environmental compliance process. Scoping contributes to the selection of a range of alternatives to be considered in the EIR, and can also help to establish methods of analysis, identify the environmental effects that will be considered in detail, and develop mitigation measures to avoid or compensate for adverse effects. In some cases, scoping may also identify issues that do not warrant analysis.

This report describes the scoping process undertaken by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Proposed by Pacific Gas & Electric / NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC (Proposed Project). It also summarizes agency and public comments received and identifies key issues for EIR analysis. Comment letters received from public agencies during the scoping period are reproduced in their entirety in **Attachment A** to this report. Comment letters received from members of the public are not reproduced in this report out of respect for privacy.

Proposed Project Scoping Process

The scoping process is initiated when the lead agency issues a notice of preparation (NOP) announcing the beginning of the EIR process. The NOP for the Proposed Project was submitted to the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and circulated to agencies and interested members of the public on July 30, 2018. A revised NOP was filed on August 1, 2018; the only change in the revised NOP was to revise Figure 2, which showed the Proposed Project and potential project alternatives. This figure was revised to show several additional potential project alternatives that were omitted from the version of Figure 2 included in the original NOP.

The public review period lasted until August 31, 2018, although several comment letters were accepted beyond this date. As required by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the NOP provided information on the background, goals, and objectives of the Proposed Project; announced preparation of, and requested public and agency comment on, the EIR; and provided information on the public scoping meeting to be held in support of the EIR. Copies of the original and revised NOPs are included in **Attachment B** to this report.

The CPUC conducted a public scoping meeting for the Proposed Project on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Winifred Pifer Elementary School located at 1350 Creston

Road in Paso Robles, California. The meeting was publicized in a local area newspaper and copies of the NOP were sent via direct mailings to numerous households, offices, and agencies. Attachment B contains a copy of the newspaper ad.

The meeting format consisted of a presentation by CPUC and consultant staff followed by opportunities for attendees to ask questions and submit comments. Posters with basic information on the Proposed Project were on display, and CPUC and consultant staff were available before and after the meeting to answer questions and take comments. Written comment cards were provided to all meeting attendees, as well as information on how to access project documents and participate in the public review process going forward. A total of 50 individuals signed in to the meeting in Paso Robles. The presentation from the meeting and the written comment form that was distributed to attendees are included in **Attachment C**.

Comments Received

CPUC received numerous comment letters during the scoping period. As noted above, copies of public agency comment letters are included in Attachment A. Copies of comment letters received from members of the public are not reproduced in this report out of respect for privacy. Rather, comments from members of the public are summarized in bullet point form in the following sections of this report. The total numbers of all types of commenters are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Comment Letters Received by Commenter Type

Commenter Type	No. of Comment Letters
Public Agencies	5
General Public	37
Community Organization / Group (e.g., neighborhood HOA)	2
Parties to the CPUC Formal Proceeding	1
Tribes	1

The following public agencies submitted comments on the Proposed Project:

- City of El Paso de Robles
- County of San Luis Obispo
- California Department of Conservation (CDOC)
- California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

- California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)

Comment Summary by Topic

To inform the environmental analysis and assist in the preparation of the EIR, the individual comments and concerns received during the scoping period were categorized as follows:

- **General Comment:** Comments related to general opinions on the Proposed Project or other comments unrelated to any of the categories listed below.
- **CEQA Process:** Comments related to the formal environmental review process as outlined by CEQA and CEQA Guidelines, such as the length of the public review period.
- **Project Description:** Comments related to specific aspects of the Proposed Project, such as Project design, schedule, or cost.
- **Environmental Impacts:** Comments related to possible impacts on the physical environment from the Proposed Project, such as noise impacts during Project construction or operation, or possible effects on biological resources from Project components.
- **Alternatives:** Comments related to potential alternatives to the Proposed Project, such as siting the facility at a different location or using alternative technologies or methods.
- **Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs):** Comments related to potential impacts on human health and other environmental resources specific to EMFs resulting from Project components.

A summary of the most common generalized comments received is provided in Table 2. Key concepts and phrases in comments within the table are shown in **bold**.

Table 2. Most Common Generalized Comments by Number of Commenters

Comment	No. of Commenters
The proposed overhead power lines would have aesthetic impacts and be out of scale with the community.	23
Overhead power lines should be placed underground to reduce aesthetic impacts and/or minimize fire risk.	16
Overhead power lines could present hazards associated with EMFs .	15
The addition of overhead power lines could decrease property values for nearby properties.	11

Comment	No. of Commenters
The overhead power lines could present a fire hazard risk (e.g., if they were downed in an earthquake or in high winds).	9
General opposition to the Proposed Project power line route.	8
The overhead power lines would have noise impacts from the “buzzing” during operation.	7
Why is the project needed? The rationale for the Proposed Project is not well-founded.	6
The overhead power lines could adversely affect the flight path for CAL FIRE helicopters accessing the pond by the Circle B properties.	6
The Project 70-kV route alignments could necessitate removal of oak trees .	5
The Proposed Project and alternatives could impact bald and golden eagles in the area.	5
Project construction ground-disturbing activities could impact cultural resources .	4
Project construction activities could result in noise impacts .	4
There would be traffic impacts during Project construction.	4
Support for the Proposed Project power line route.	4

General Comment

- Opposition to the Proposed Project, in particular the overhead 70-kV power line alignment.
- Support for the Proposed Project / proposed 70-kV power line alignment.
- Opposition to the Estrella Route Alternative.
- Support for the Estrella Route Alternative.
- Opposition to the Templeton-Paso Existing 70-kV Route Alternative.
- Support for the Templeton-Paso Existing 70-kV Route Alternative.
- Opposition to the Templeton-Paso South River Road Route Alternative.
- Opposition to the Templeton-Paso Creston Road Route Alternative.
- Support for the Templeton-Paso Creston Road Route Alternative.
- Who will pay for the project? Will the costs be passed on to ratepayers such that electricity bills will go up?

- Why aren't the new RV resorts and other new commercial businesses helping to fund undergrounding the utilities?
- From an economic point of view, the proposed power line route along Union Road provides the greatest opportunity for industrial uses within the City of Paso Robles as well as outside the City limits.
- How will the proposed power line affect the local tourism economy?
- The overhead power line will decrease property values for properties near the alignment.

CEQA Process

- The Proposed Project was not adequately noticed. I did not receive a notification of the scoping meeting.
- When will a final decision be made on the Proposed Project and alternatives?

Project Description

- Why is the project needed? The rationale for the need for the Proposed Project is not well-founded.
- Could more residential and commercial use of photo-voltaic solar panels mitigate some or all of the need for the project?
- We have not experienced many lengthy power outages in the Paso Robles Area, which raises questions about the need for the project. If an outage were to occur, people know how to manage.
- What color will the poles be for the overhead power line?
- Why is this project moving forward when a similar project in the Edna Valley area (Midway-Andrew Transmission Project) has been delayed/put on hold?
- What is the cost of the Proposed Project?
- The scoping meeting presenter was incorrect in implying that the Paso Robles-San Miguel 70-kV could melt due to overload in the event of a sustained outage on the Templeton-Paso Robles 70-kV line. PG&E's line protection scheme would prevent this from happening.
- The project figure shown in the scoping used the wrong colors; PG&E convention is magenta for 500-kV and blue for 230-kV.

Environmental Impacts

Aesthetics

- The overhead power lines would result in aesthetic impacts. In particular, the height of the proposed poles is out of character with the community.
- The proposed power line crossing over Highway 46 will have adverse aesthetic effects on the gateway to the City of Paso Robles.
- Overhead power lines should be aesthetically agreeable with the surrounding landscape.
- Increases in the height of poles for the reconductoring segment could adversely affect local residents' views and the visual quality of the area.
- The substation facility could have adverse aesthetic impacts.
- The EIR should evaluate potential aesthetics impacts associated with the substation and power line towers.

Agriculture

- The Proposed Project would permanently convert Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland to non-agricultural uses, which is a significant impact. The Project also may conflict with an existing Williamson Act contract.
- Agricultural conservation easements are an available mitigation tool for impacts to agricultural lands. Other feasible mitigation measures should also be considered.
- The EIR should include relevant information in the Agricultural Resources section, including the type, amount, and location of farmland conversion resulting from the Proposed Project; impacts on any current and future agricultural operations in the Project vicinity; cumulative impacts on agricultural land; proposed mitigation measures for impacted agricultural lands; and acquisition and/or cancellation proceedings for any Proposed Project site parcel(s) under Williamson Act contract.
- The proposed power line route, as compared to the other possible alignments, creates the least disturbance to prime agricultural land and is the most direct and efficient route.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases

- Project construction activities, including operation of heavy equipment and helicopters, will generate air pollutants and dust that can negatively affect human health (e.g., by spreading “Valley Fever”).

Biological Resources

- Project construction noise could impact native species.
- The Proposed Project power line alignment will traverse and could impact sensitive habitats, such as vernal pools, rivers, and wetlands. The EIR must consider the long-term effects on these ecosystems in addition to the short-term effects.
- The oak grove at the north end of Golden Hill Road provides owl habitat and golden eagles are common during parts of the year. The proposed power line could adversely affect these birds.
- The Proposed Project could disturb mitigation for vernal pools, kit fox, and eagles, among others, implemented for the Cava Robles RV Resort project.
- The substation should include adequate fencing so that wildlife cannot enter the substation and possibly be harmed.

Cultural Resources

- Project ground-disturbing activities could impact cultural resources in the area.

Geology, Soils and Seismicity

- Proposed Project construction activities could result in soil runoff.

Hazards and Human Health

- Overhead power lines could increase fire risk (e.g., if lines were downed in an earthquake or in high winds).
- What protections would there be for residents from downed power lines? Any new or expanded power lines should include measures for mitigating fire hazard for homes that may be located nearby.
- Any soil containing hydrocarbons should be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.
- Any oil and gas wells identified within the Project work area should be tested for liquid and gas leakage prior to initiation of construction activities. If necessary,

leaking oil and gas wells should be plugged, abandoned, or re-abandoned in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- The proposed power line runs through commercial and residential areas with shopping and hotels, as well as by Cuesta College, which has a childcare program. These sensitive receptors could be adversely impacted.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Project construction activities during the rainy season could result in water quality impacts to critical watershed areas and runoff. Such construction activities could result in runoff affecting water quality in the Circle B HOA lake.

Land Use

- Land use was not included in the NOP on the list of topics to be considered in the EIR. Land use should be evaluated in the EIR.
- The Proposed Project could restrict potential housing development opportunities of the residential land located on or near the Project site.
- Will the Proposed Project restrict future development of the Paso Robles School District?
- Would the proposed power line limit or encumber future roadways as identified in the General Plan?
- Compliance of the Proposed Project with Federal Aviation Authority and other Federal land use elements should be explored.
- Adverse land use impacts could occur to the surrounding multi-family residential and commercial uses as a result of the Proposed Project.

Mineral Resources

- The Proposed Project should not build over, or in any way impede access to oil, gas, or geothermal wells. Data presented on a map shows that there are several oil and gas dry holes, and geothermal wells in proximity to the Proposed Project features and potential alternative alignments.

Noise

- The overhead power lines would result in noise impacts from the “buzzing” of electricity flow on the lines during operation.
- The Proposed Project would result in construction noise impacts.

Population and Housing

- The Proposed Project could restrict potential housing development opportunities on or near the Project site.

Public Services

- The Project could restrict access to the pond within the Circle B area that is used by CAL FIRE helicopters for firefighting.

Recreation

- The EIR should consider potential recreation impacts caused by the installation of Project-related infrastructure. The proposed power line runs adjacent to Barney Schwartz Park on Union Road and could impact the park.
- Recreation will be impacted by the installation of the power line by limiting the planned usage within EMF zones.
- Noise from the power line's operation could disturb nearby users of the Cava Robles RV Resort.
- Aesthetics impacts from the power line could discourage users of nearby recreational facilities and land uses.

Transportation and Traffic

- Project construction and operation (e.g., maintenance activities) could cause traffic and access impacts. Would the project increase commercial vehicle and employee traffic?
- Use of heavy construction vehicles and haul trucks on private roads could damage these roads.
- Construction impacts from installing the power line along Golden Hill Road could particularly impact large RV units accessing the Casa Robles RV Park.
- For any transmission line route that crosses Highway 46 East at Union Road, future plans to add an overpass at that location should be considered.

Tribal Cultural Resources

- The Proposed Project must follow Assembly Bill 52 tribal consultation requirements.
- The appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) center should be contacted for an archaeological records search that will

determine appropriate information for the cultural and tribal cultural resources impacts analysis.

- If needed, an archaeological inventory survey should be conducted and a professional report documenting the findings of the survey should be prepared. The final report should be submitted immediately to the planning department, and to the appropriate regional CHRIS center within 3 months after work has been completed. Confidential information should be submitted in a separate confidential addendum and not be available for public disclosure.
- The NAHC should be contacted for conducting a Sacred Lands File search. The NAHC also should be contacted for a Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and impact analysis.
- Appropriate measures for identifying and properly addressing discovered archaeological resources and/or Native American human remains should be included in the Project MMRP.
- The Proposed Project power line alignment could result in impacts to Salinan Tribal grounds and any artifacts associated with it.

Utilities and Service Systems

- The EIR should address anticipated impacts associated with Project encroachment into the County-maintained road right-of-way, traffic and circulation, drainage, stormwater, and flood management system.
- The overhead power line could potentially interfere with roof-top solar systems at adjacent properties.
- The proposed power line installation would result in the destruction of walkways, fencing, and landscaping that were installed as part of adjacent development projects.

Mandatory Findings & Cumulative Impacts Analysis

- Would the Proposed Project encourage future growth within the community?
- San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works does not have any reasonably foreseeable projects, programs, or plans in the area of the Project's proposed development, aside from regularly scheduled infrastructure maintenance.
- The EIR should include a 312-acre development that is currently in process as part of the baseline.

Alternatives

- The EIR should include full descriptions of each proposed alternative, including project start and end dates, project duration, type of access required, proposed changes to existing lines, addition or removal of existing lines, and the potential environmental impacts and health risks associated with each alternative.
- The Templeton-Paso South River Road Route Alternative could have visual impacts, as well as traffic, noise and possible cultural resources impacts during construction. The alignment also could be subject to seismicity impacts, as there are fault lines in this area.
- With respect to the Templeton-Paso South River Road Route Alternative, all utility lines must be undergrounded within the Santa Ysabel Ranch. The Santa Ysabel Ranch also has significant visual and oak tree mitigation requirements.
- The Estrella Route Alternative and the Templeton-Paso South River Road Route Alternative could necessitate the removal of oak trees and potentially impact bald and golden eagles.
- The Estrella Route Alternative would adversely affect residents' scenic views.
- The Estrella Route Alternative also could adversely affect horse farms that exist along this alignment.
- Consider routing the power lines down Main Street in Paso Robles.
- Consider utilizing existing roads, such as Highway 46, as a transmission line route.
- Under the Templeton-Paso Existing 70-kV Route Alternative, would there be another 70-kV line in addition to the current 70-kV line? If so, this could increase EMFs and decrease property values along the alignment.
- The Templeton-Paso Existing 70-kV Route Alternative is the best solution and would be the least invasive.
- Putting a second circuit on the existing Templeton-Paso Robles 70-kV line on taller steel poles makes sense. The original intent (year 2000 timeframe) was to install a double-circuit line instead of a single-circuit line. Double-circuit towers were not installed, however, because of cost and budgeting issues. Hence, only a single-circuit 70-kV line was installed between Templeton and Paso Robles substations. The double-circuit line still makes sense today. Adding transformer capacity at Templeton Substation and installing this second circuit would accomplish the objectives of the project. This arrangement would not substantially increase the N-1 exposure (i.e., two circuits on one pole being taken

down due to vehicle impact, other manmade causes, or natural causes) compared to the Proposed Project, and use of steel poles would minimize this risk.

- The Proposed Project facilities represent an antiquated and conventional approach that will exacerbate climate change. Newer technologies and approaches should be considered.
- The EIR should consider new ways to store energy, such as battery storage and fuel cells.
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of building a battery storage facility underground?
- For the example battery system shown in the scoping meeting, how would the direct current electricity be converted to alternating current? The EIR should provide more description regarding the ancillary equipment needed for the battery.
- Expansion of the Paso Robles Substation could have significant detrimental effects (e.g., traffic, aesthetics, land use, etc.) due to the facility being surrounded on all sides by multi-family residential and commercial uses. Additionally, Niblick Road, which is immediately south of the substation, may need to be expanded in the future, which could further constrain any potential expansion of the facility.
- Addition of large new battery arrays/facilities in the area of the Paso Robles Substation also could have significant aesthetic and safety impacts, which should be evaluated in the EIR.
- The power lines should be placed underground where possible to avoid aesthetic impacts and/or reduce fire risk.
- Where undergrounding power lines is not possible, shorter poles should be considered.
- What are the projected costs for the alternatives under consideration?

Electromagnetic Field

- The overhead power lines could result in hazards to human health from EMFs.
- EMF radiation from the overhead power lines could impact flora and fauna in the area, as well as adversely affect livestock and agricultural operations.
- What are the current EMF levels emitted from transmission lines within the Paso Robles area and by how much might these levels increase with future growth of the city?

- How would EMF levels differ with an underground battery storage facility?
- “Low cost” mitigation steps are not sufficient to protect people from potential EMF impacts and more substantial measures should be implemented.

Attachment A

Agency Comment Letters Received



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

“The Pass of the Oaks”

August 31, 2018

Robert Peterson
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
estrellaproject@horizonh20.com

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project proposed by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The City of El Paso de Robles (City) has received the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) 8/1/18 Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project proposed by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Project). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Project.

The City believes that early and frequent coordination between the CPUC and the City regarding the proposed Project is necessary to best serve the City and its more-than 30,000 residents. The City is surrounded by scenic rolling hills and California’s premier wine regions, thus, the City has both a robust tourism economy and a wide array of local industries. Preserving and highlighting the region’s beauty and history are essential. The City routinely acts as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for projects in the City, so the City is acutely aware of the natural resources that can be affected by projects in the area. The City hopes to work closely with the CPUC to ensure that the proposed Project has no potentially significant or adverse environmental impacts.

Having reviewed the NOP, the City urges the CPUC to consider the following comments and to diligently analyze all of the proposed Project’s potential environmental impacts.

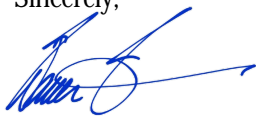
1. The NOP fails to mention Land Use as one of the potential topics to be analyzed. It is important that this topic not be left out. Large projects, such as freeways, railroads, and power lines can have dividing effects on communities, particularly when no mitigation is proposed. Such projects can also affect natural habitats and conflict with local planning measures. Regardless of whether such a project may be exempt from local land use controls, the topic should be fully analyzed in the EIR so that the public and decision makers can fully understand the Project’s true effects.
2. Similarly, the Project’s potential effects on recreation and housing should also be considered in the EIR. Recreation is hugely important to the City’s residents and the tourism industry, and housing is particularly at the forefront of discussions in California. The proposed project power line runs adjacent to Barney Schwartz Park on Union Rd. and has the potential impact the park. Thus, these topics need to be addressed in the EIR

3. Any discussion in the EIR regarding the Paso Robles substation (Niblick Rd. and South River Rd.) needs to consider the significant detrimental effects (i.e., traffic, aesthetics, land use, etc.) that would result from expansion of that facility due to the facility being surrounded on all sides by multi-family residential and commercial uses. The aesthetic and safety impacts of acres of new batteries arrays in this area needs to be thoroughly analyzed and could result in significant impacts. Further, Niblick Road, immediately south of the facility, may need to be expanded in the future, further constraining any potential expansion of this substation.
4. Because of the natural beauty in and around the City, and the City's strong tourism industry, aesthetic impacts are of great concern to the City. The proposed scale of the poles (90 to 113 feet in height) would significantly taller than the existing 70kv lines in town and out of scale with the community. Thus, to avoid the significant aesthetic and community dividing effects of the Project, transmission lines should be placed underground to the full extent possible. Where undergrounding is not feasible, shorter poles should be considered.
5. Although the Project and its alternative routes are yet to be fully formed, to minimize impacts to residents, the City encourages the CPUC to thoroughly consider utilizing existing roads, such as Highway 46, as a transmission line route.
6. Any transmission line route that crosses Highway 46 Ease at Union Road needs to consider future plans to add an overpass at that location. The City and Caltrans are currently working on a PAED for this interchange project (see attachment 1).

To ensure smooth coordination, the City requests that it be added to the CPUC's mailing list for the Project and that the City be sent copies of all public meeting/hearing notices and other documents under CEQA and the Ralph M. Brown Act, as required by Public Resources Code section 21092 and Government Code section 54954.1. Please provide the City with physical copies of any such notices or other documents at 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Please also provide the City with electronic copies at dmckinley@prcity.com.

The City appreciates your thoughtful consideration of the above comments and concerns and looks forward to working with you. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me at (805) 237-3861 or dmckinley@prcity.com.

Sincerely,



Warren Frace
Community Development Director
City of El Paso De Robles

cc: Iris Yang
Kimberley Hood
Dick McKinley
Warren Frace
Julie Dahlen

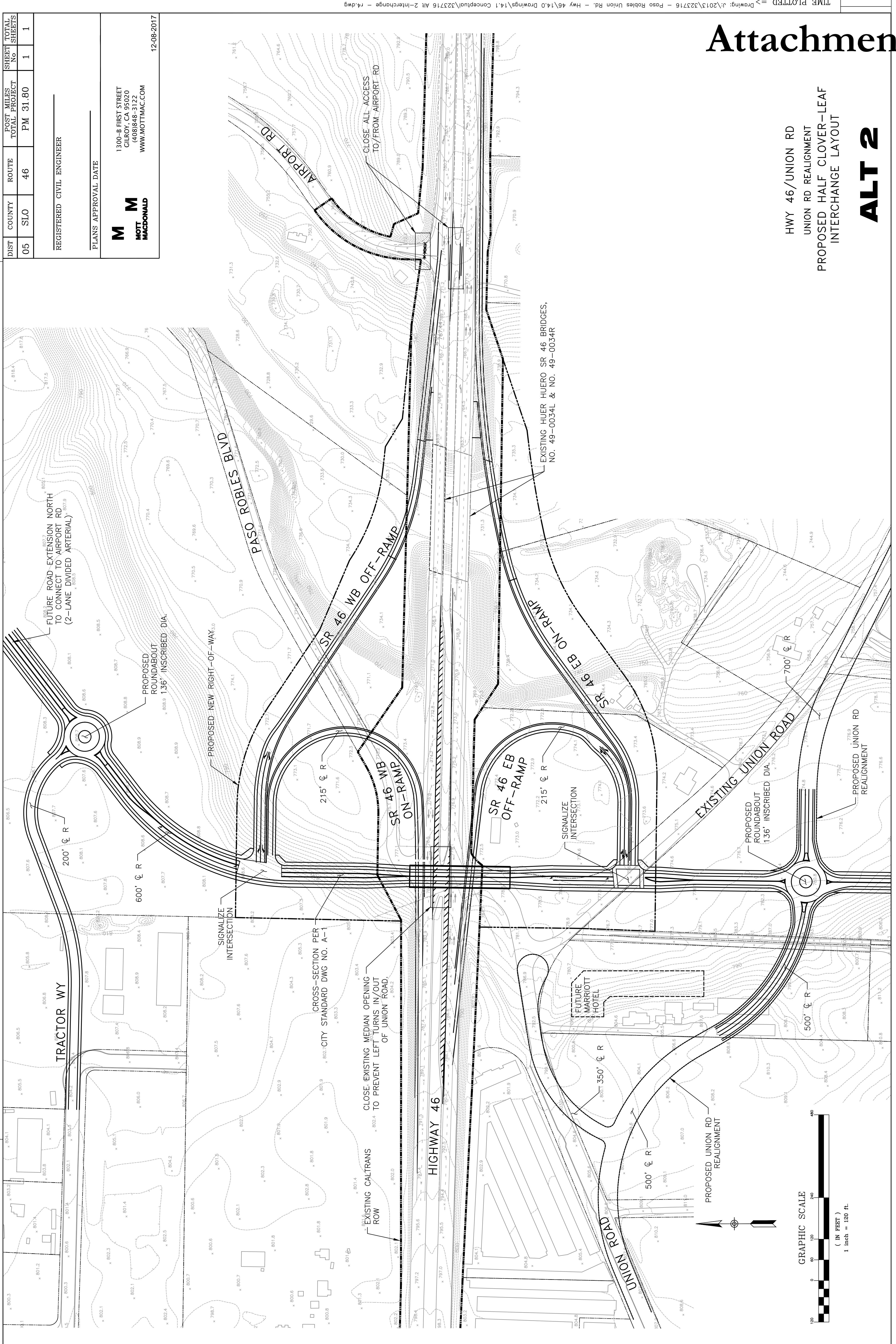
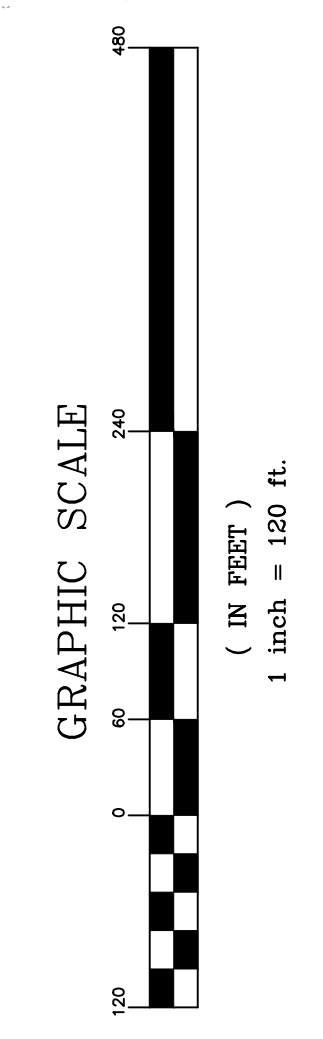
Attachments:

1. 46 East / Union Interchange PAED Alternative 2

Attachment 1

HWY 46/UNION RD
UNION RD REALIGNMENT
PROPOSED HALF CLOVER-LEAF
INTERCHANGE LAYOUT

ALT 2



STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		PROJECT ENGINEER		CALCULATED/DESIGNED BY		CHECKED BY		DATE		DATE REVISD	

DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES	TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET	TOTAL SHEETS
05	SLO	46	PM 31.80		1	1
REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER						
PLANS APPROVAL DATE						
M M MOIT MACDONALD 1300-R FIRST STREET GILROY, CA 95020 (408)846-3122 WWW.MOITMAC.COM						
12-08-2017						



Date: August 7, 2018

To: Robert Peterson, CPUC
c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environmental

From: Glenn Marshall P.E., Development Services Manager

Subject: Public Works Comments on the Notice of Preparation for the Estrella Substation & Paso Robles Reinforcement Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR), NextEra Energy Transmission West LLC & PG&E

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the subject project. It has been reviewed by several divisions of Public Works, and this represents our consolidated response.

1. Contact person: Development Services Manager, County Government Center Room 207, San Luis Obispo CA 93408. (805) 781-1596.
2. County Public Works is responsible for reviewing public improvements including streets and utilities, as well as drainage and flood hazard, under the provisions of the Real Property Division Ordinance and the Land Use Ordinance, and Encroachment within the public right-of-way under County Municipal Codes (Title 13) and the Streets and Highway Code.
3. For our use, the report must address project anticipated impacts to project encroachment into the County maintained road right-of-way, traffic & circulation, drainage, stormwater, and flood hazard.
4. A list of "Standard Conditions" is available from our office and available upon request.
5. We do not have any alternative projects to suggest for evaluation.
6. Aside from regularly scheduled infrastructure maintenance the Department does not have any reasonably foreseeable projects, programs or plans in the area of this proposed development.

Please provide us notification that the Draft EIR is available for review via the web and the related web address where the document may be viewed.

G:\Development\DEVSERV Referrals\Agency-Other\PUC\Estrella Substation Paso Robles\NOP Estrella Substation.docx

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone (916) 373-3710



August 8, 2018

Robert Peterson
California Public Utilities Commission
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 418
Sacramento, CA 95814

Also sent via e-mail: estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com

RE: SCH# 2018072071, Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project, City of Paso Robles;
San Luis Obispo County, California

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Native American Heritage Commission has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd. (a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a **separate category of cultural resources**, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Please reference California Natural Resources Agency (2016) "Final Text for tribal cultural resources update to Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form," <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf>. Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends **lead agencies consult with all California Native American tribes** that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. **Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.**

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a **lead agency** shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
 - a. A brief description of the project.
 - b. The lead agency contact information.
 - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
 - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A **lead agency** shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
 - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
 - a. Alternatives to the project.
 - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
 - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
 - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
 - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
 - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
 - d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
 - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
 - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).

7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
 - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
 - b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).

8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).

9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).

10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:
 - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
 - ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
 - b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
 - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
 - c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
 - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
 - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
 - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).

11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
 - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
 - b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
 - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)).

This process should be documented in the Cultural Resources section of your environmental document.

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires **local governments** to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation**: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation**. There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. **Confidentiality**: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation**: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
 - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
 - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: <http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/>

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

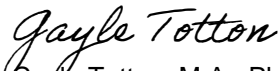
To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
 - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.

- b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
3. Contact the NAHC for:
- a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
 - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.
4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
- a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Please contact me if you need any additional information at gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gayle Totton, M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
(916) 373-3714

cc: State Clearinghouse



State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street • MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-0850 • FAX (916) 327-3430

Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*
Clayton Haas, *Acting Director*

August 9, 2018

VIA EMAIL: ESTRELLAPROJECT@HORIZONH2O.COM

Mr. Robert Peterson
CPUC, c/o Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Mayes:

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
ESTRELLA SUBSTATION AND PASO ROBLES AREA REINFORCEMENT PROJECT,
SCH# 2018072071**

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation submitted by the California Public Utilities Commission for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Project). The Division monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural land conservation programs. We offer the following comments and recommendations with respect to the proposed project's potential impacts on agricultural land and resources.

Project Description

The proposed project would involve construction of an electric substation, a new 7-mile-long transmission line, and replacement of approximately 3 miles of an existing transmission line. These new and replaced facilities would be located in San Luis Obispo County, including portions within the City of Paso Robles, in Central California.

Department Comments

According to the maps provided in the Notice of Preparation it appears that the project site may be located on Farmland of Statewide Importance as well as Unique Farmland as identified by the Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.¹ It also appears that the proposed project site may be enrolled in the Williamson Act program.

The conversion of agricultural land represents a permanent reduction and significant impact to California's agricultural land resources. Under CEQA, a lead agency should not approve a project if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would lessen the significant effects of the project.² All mitigation measures that are potentially feasible should be

¹ <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>

² Public Resources Code section 21002.

included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). A measure brought to the attention of the lead agency should not be left out unless it is infeasible based on its elements. Agricultural conservation easements on land of at least equal quality and size can mitigate the project impacts in accordance with CEQA Guideline § 15370. The Department highlights agricultural conservation easements because of their acceptance and use by lead agencies as an appropriate mitigation measure under CEQA. Agricultural conservation easements are an available mitigation tool and should always be considered; however, any other feasible mitigation measures should also be considered.

Conclusion

The Department recommends the following discussion under the Agricultural Resources section of the DEIR:

- Type, amount, and location of farmland conversion resulting directly and indirectly from implementation of the proposed project.
- Impacts on any current and future agricultural operations in the vicinity; e.g., land-use conflicts, increases in land values and taxes, loss of agricultural support infrastructure such as processing facilities, etc.
- Incremental impacts leading to cumulative impacts on agricultural land. This would include impacts from the proposed project, as well as impacts from past, current, and likely future projects.
- Proposed mitigation measures for all impacted agricultural lands within the proposed project area.
- Public acquisition and/or cancellation proceedings for any proposed project site parcel/s under Williamson Act contract.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project. Please provide this Department with notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Farl Grundy, Environmental Planner at (916) 324-7347 or via email at Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Monique Wilber
Conservation Program Support Supervisor



Estrella Project <estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com>

Estrella Substation comment

Grundy, Farl@DOC <Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov>
To: "estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com" <estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com>

Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 9:39 AM

Mr. Peterson,

Attached are the Department of Conservation's comments regarding the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

(SCH# 2018072071). Please let me know if you have any problems viewing the attached document.

Sincerely,

Farl Grundy

Associate Environmental Planner

Department of Conservation

Division of Land Resource Protection

801 K Street, MS 14-15

Sacramento, Ca 95814

(916) 324-7347

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication and any files transmitted with it are intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This message contains information, which may be privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information may be prohibited. Repeated e-mail transmissions cannot be guaranteed to be secured or error-free, as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of repeated e-mail transmissions. *California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection 801 K Street MS 14-15, Sacramento, CA 95814*

 **Estrella Substation Final.pdf**
106K



State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street • MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-0850 • FAX (916) 327-3430

Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*
Clayton Haas, *Acting Director*

August 9, 2018

VIA EMAIL: ESTRELLAPROJECT@HORIZONH2O.COM

Mr. Robert Peterson
CPUC, c/o Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Mayes:

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
ESTRELLA SUBSTATION AND PASO ROBLES AREA REINFORCEMENT PROJECT,
SCH# 2018072071**

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation submitted by the California Public Utilities Commission for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Project). The Division monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural land conservation programs. We offer the following comments and recommendations with respect to the proposed project's potential impacts on agricultural land and resources.

Project Description

The proposed project would involve construction of an electric substation, a new 7-mile-long transmission line, and replacement of approximately 3 miles of an existing transmission line. These new and replaced facilities would be located in San Luis Obispo County, including portions within the City of Paso Robles, in Central California.

Department Comments

According to the maps provided in the Notice of Preparation it appears that the project site may be located on Farmland of Statewide Importance as well as Unique Farmland as identified by the Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.¹ It also appears that the proposed project site may be enrolled in the Williamson Act program.

The conversion of agricultural land represents a permanent reduction and significant impact to California's agricultural land resources. Under CEQA, a lead agency should not approve a project if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would lessen the significant effects of the project.² All mitigation measures that are potentially feasible should be

¹ <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>

² Public Resources Code section 21002.

included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). A measure brought to the attention of the lead agency should not be left out unless it is infeasible based on its elements. Agricultural conservation easements on land of at least equal quality and size can mitigate the project impacts in accordance with CEQA Guideline § 15370. The Department highlights agricultural conservation easements because of their acceptance and use by lead agencies as an appropriate mitigation measure under CEQA. Agricultural conservation easements are an available mitigation tool and should always be considered; however, any other feasible mitigation measures should also be considered.

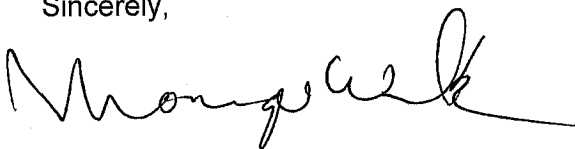
Conclusion

The Department recommends the following discussion under the Agricultural Resources section of the DEIR:

- Type, amount, and location of farmland conversion resulting directly and indirectly from implementation of the proposed project.
- Impacts on any current and future agricultural operations in the vicinity; e.g., land-use conflicts, increases in land values and taxes, loss of agricultural support infrastructure such as processing facilities, etc.
- Incremental impacts leading to cumulative impacts on agricultural land. This would include impacts from the proposed project, as well as impacts from past, current, and likely future projects.
- Proposed mitigation measures for all impacted agricultural lands within the proposed project area.
- Public acquisition and/or cancellation proceedings for any proposed project site parcel/s under Williamson Act contract.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project. Please provide this Department with notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Farl Grundy, Environmental Planner at (916) 324-7347 or via email at Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Monique Wilber
Conservation Program Support Supervisor



Department of Conservation
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
Coastal District • Ventura
1000 South Hill Road • Suite 116
Ventura, CA 93003-4458
(805) 937-7246 • FAX (805) 654-4765

September 6, 2018

Mr. Robert Peterson
California Public Utilities Commission
300 Capitol Mall Suite 418
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Peterson:

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: **2018072071**
PROJECT: ESTRELLA SUBSTATION AND PASO ROBLES AREA REINFORCEMENT

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) authority is set forth in Division 3 of the Public Resources Code (PRC), and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). PRC § 3208.1 establishes well reabandonment responsibility when a previously plugged and abandoned well may be impacted by planned property development or construction activities. Local permitting agencies, property owners, and/or developers should be aware of, and fully understand, that significant and potentially dangerous issues may be associated with development near oil, gas, or geothermal wells.

The Division has received and reviewed the above referenced project dated July 30, 2018. To assist local permitting agencies, property owners, and developers in making wise land use decisions regarding potential development near oil, gas, or geothermal wells, the Division provides the following well evaluation.

The project is located in San Luis Obispo County, outside of oil field boundaries. Our records indicate there are no known oil, gas, or geothermal wells located within the planned construction areas as identified in the application. However, there are two active geothermal wells in the River Oaks Golf Course in the City of Paso Robles that are within 1000 ft. of the proposed Estrella 70 kV power line segment (Figure 1). If this project is expected to have construction near or above these wells, please submit a detailed project map to this office for review.

The Division categorically advises against building over, or in any way impeding access to, oil, gas, or geothermal wells. Access is considered the ability for a well servicing unit and associated necessary equipment to reach a well from a public street or access way, solely over the parcel on which the well is located. A well servicing unit, and any necessary equipment, should be able to pass unimpeded along and over the route, and should be able to access the well without disturbing the integrity of surrounding infrastructure. Items that can affect well access include, but are not limited to, buildings, housing, fencing, hardscape, landscape, trees, pools, patios, sidewalks, roadways, parking lots, waterways or channels, and decking. Impeding access to a well could result in the need to remove any structure or obstacle that prevents or impedes access.

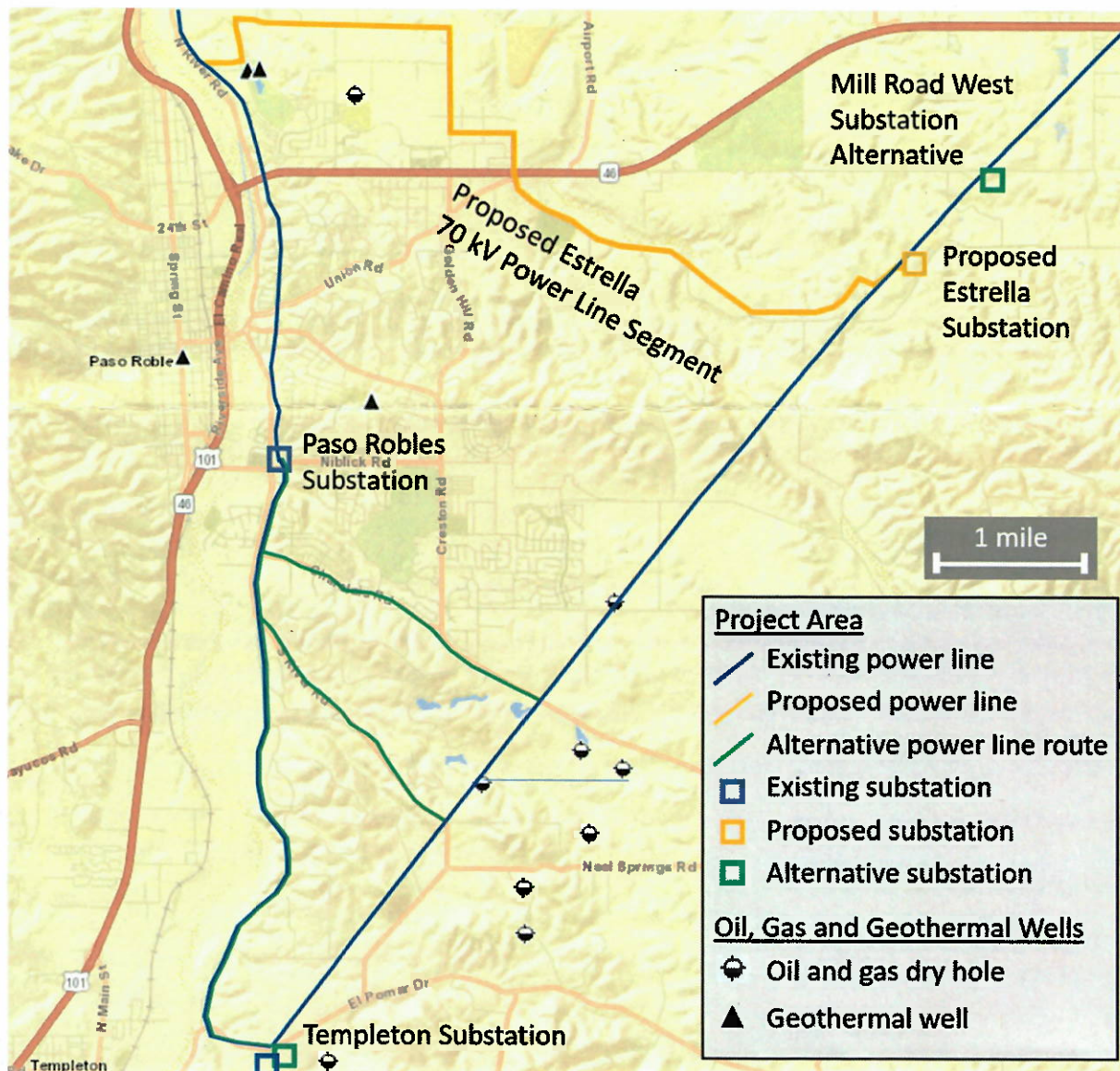


Figure 1. Map of known oil, gas and geothermal wells in the vicinity of the proposed project. A map view of DOGGR wells is available at <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder>.

There are no guarantees a well abandoned in compliance with current Division requirements will not start leaking in the future. It always remains a possibility that any well may start to leak oil, gas, and/or water after abandonment, no matter how thoroughly the well was plugged and abandoned. The Division acknowledges wells plugged and abandoned to the most current standards have a lower probability of leaking in the future, however there is no guarantee that such abandonments will not leak.

The Division advises that all wells identified on the development parcel prior to, or during, development activities be tested for liquid and gas leakage. Surveyed locations

should be provided to the Division in Latitude and Longitude, NAD 83 decimal format. The Division expects any wells found leaking to be reported to the Division District office immediately. The Division District office may be reached at 805-937-7246.

Failure to plug and reabandon a well may result in enforcement action, including an order to perform reabandonment well work, pursuant to PRC § 3208.1, and 3224.

PRC § 3208.1 gives the Division the authority to order or permit the re-abandonment of any well where it has reason to question the integrity of the previous abandonment, or if the well is not accessible or visible. Responsibility for re-abandonment costs may be affected by the choices made by the local permitting agency, property owner, and/or developer in considering the general advice set forth in this letter. The PRC continues to define the person or entity responsible for reabandonment as:

1. **The property owner** - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of plugging and abandonment, and in its current condition does not pose an immediate danger to life, health, and property, but requires additional work solely because the owner of the property on which the well is located proposes construction on the property that would prevent or impede access to the well for purposes of remedying a currently perceived future problem, then the owner of the property on which the well is located shall obtain all rights necessary to reabandon the well and be responsible for the reabandonment.
2. **The person or entity causing construction over or near the well** - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of plugging and abandonment, and the property owner, developer, or local agency permitting the construction failed either to obtain an opinion from the supervisor or district deputy as to whether the previously abandoned well is required to be reabandoned, or to follow the advice of the supervisor or district deputy not to undertake the construction, then the person or entity causing the construction over or near the well shall obtain all rights necessary to reabandon the well and be responsible for the reabandonment.
3. **The party or parties responsible for disturbing the integrity of the abandonment** - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of plugging and abandonment, and after that time someone other than the operator or an affiliate of the operator disturbed the integrity of the abandonment in the course of developing the property, then the party or parties responsible for disturbing the integrity of the abandonment shall be responsible for the reabandonment.

To view PRC 3208.1 in its entirety, please visit <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/oil/laws/PRC10.pdf>

No well work may be performed on any oil, gas, or geothermal well without written approval from the Division. Well work requiring written approval includes, but is not limited to, mitigating leaking gas or other fluids from abandoned wells, modifications to well casings, and/or any other abandonment or re-abandonment work. The Division also regulates the top of a plugged and abandoned well's minimum and maximum depth below final grade. CCR §1723.5 states well casings shall be cut off at least 5 feet but no more than 10 feet below grade. If any well needs to

Mr. Robert Peterson
September 6, 2018
Page 4

be lowered or raised (i.e. casing cut down or casing riser added) to meet this regulation, a permit from the Division is required before work can start.

The Division makes the following additional recommendations to the local permitting agency, property owner, and developer:

1. To ensure that present and future property owners are aware of (a) the existence of all wells located on the property, and (b) potentially significant issues associated with any improvements near oil or gas wells, the Division recommends that information regarding the above identified well(s), and any other pertinent information obtained after the issuance of this letter, be communicated to the appropriate county recorder for inclusion in the title information of the subject real property.
2. The Division recommends that any soil containing hydrocarbons be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. Please notify the appropriate authorities if soil containing significant amounts of hydrocarbons is discovered during development.

As indicated in PRC § 3106, the Division has jurisdictional authority over the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal wells, and attendant facilities, to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property, and natural resources, damage to underground oil, gas, and geothermal deposits, and damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes. In addition to the Division's authority to order work on wells pursuant to PRC §§ 3208.1 and 3224, it has authority to issue civil and criminal penalties under PRC §§ 3236, 3236.5, and 3359 for violations within the Division's jurisdictional authority. The Division does not regulate grading, excavations, or other land use issues.

If during development activities, any wells are encountered that were not part of this review, the Division's construction site well review engineer in the Coastal District, Orcutt office is to be notified immediately, and an amended site plan with well casing diagrams for Division review shall be filed. After appropriate review, the District office will send a follow-up well evaluation letter to the property owner, applicant, and local permitting agency.

Should you have any questions, please contact Justin LaForge at (805) 465-9626 or via email at justin.laforge@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Abel
Coastal District Deputy

cc: Well Files

Attachment B

Notice of Preparation, Revised Notice of Preparation,
and Newspaper Ad

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies*(Agency)*From: California Public Utilities Commission*(Agency)*505 Van Ness Avenue*(Address)**(Address)*San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Proposed Jointly by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project identified below. We are requesting the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR and/or subsequent related environmental documents prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Because of the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

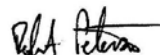
Please send your response to estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com or Robert Peterson, CPUC, c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name or the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

Project Applicant, if any: NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Date: July 30, 2018

Signature:



Title:

Project Manager, Energy Division,
Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA

Telephone:

(844) 211-7510

Email:

estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the NOP

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the lead agency for preparation and review of an environmental impact report (EIR) for NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC's (NEET West) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) (collectively referred to as "co-Applicants") proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would involve construction of an electric substation, a new 7-mile-long transmission line, and replacement of approximately 3 miles of an existing transmission line. These new and replaced facilities would be located in San Luis Obispo County, including portions within the City of Paso Robles, in Central California.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) presents general background information on the scoping process, the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and the anticipated uses of the EIR. It also briefly describes the Proposed Project as currently envisioned. The project description is subject to refinement during the process of preparing the EIR, depending on, among other things, input received in comments responding to this NOP and revisions to the Proposed Project. The CPUC has prepared this NOP pursuant to Section 15082 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Scope of the EIR

This EIR will evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. As the lead agency under CEQA, CPUC has determined that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment and has decided to prepare an EIR. Consistent with the basic purposes of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15002[a]), the purposes of the EIR will be to:

1. Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of the proposed activities;
2. Identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced;
3. Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through the use of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures.

Based on the co-Applicants' Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Proposed Project, and a preliminary environmental review of the Proposed Project by CPUC's consultant, the following resource topics may have potentially significant impacts and will be evaluated in the EIR: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological

resources, cultural resources, geology, soils, and seismicity, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation and traffic, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

No significance determinations have been made regarding any possible impacts of the Proposed Project. The analysis in the EIR ultimately will determine whether such impacts could occur and their level of significance. The EIR also will propose feasible mitigation measures to reduce any identified significant impacts. Thresholds for determining significant impacts will be based on applicable sections of the State CEQA Guidelines, regulatory agency standards, and the judgment of the CEQA lead agency, CPUC.

Public Involvement

The CPUC is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies on the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the Proposed Project. A scoping meeting for the Proposed Project will be held as follows:

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Winifred Pifer Elementary School
Multi-Purpose Room
1350 Creston Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446

The scoping meeting will feature a presentation on the Proposed Project and environmental review process and an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit oral or written comments.

Written comments may be submitted at any time during the scoping period. All available documents pertaining to the Proposed Project can be located at the following website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>. Because of the time limits mandated by state law, your written comments on the scope and content of the EIR must be **received no later than August 31, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** Please send written comments to the CPUC, to the attention of Rob Peterson, CPUC, c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include the name and phone number of the contact person for your agency, if applicable. CPUC will consider and incorporate scoping comments on the Proposed Project in preparation of the EIR as appropriate.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background and Need

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) approved the development of the new 230/70 kV power line to interconnect to the substation to improve reliability in San Luis Obispo County in its *2013-2014 Transmission Plan, Estrella Substation Project Description and Functional Specifications for Competitive Solicitation* (CAISO 2014). Following its selection by CAISO in March 2015 as the approved project sponsors, the co-Applicants submitted to CPUC a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) in January 2017, as part of its application (A.17-01-023) for Permits to Construct (PTCs), as specified in CPUC General Order (G.O.) 131-D. The PEA and related project documents are available at: website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Proposed Project, as stated by the co-Applicants in their PEA, are as follows:

- Increase reliability and mitigate thermal overloads and voltage concerns in the area by having an additional 230 kV source of power that will increase service reliability in northern San Luis Obispo County, and maintain compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards; and
- Provide a location for future 21 kV distribution facilities with a 230/70 kV source near the anticipated growth areas in northern Paso Robles to efficiently add distribution capacity and improve service reliability when required in the Paso Robles Distribution Planning Area.
- Balance Safety, Cost, and Environmental Impacts

Project Location

The Proposed Project would be located within the northern portion of San Luis Obispo County, California, including portions of the City of Paso Robles (see Figure 1). The nearest other communities are San Miguel, which is approximately nine miles to the northwest, and Templeton, which is about 8.5 miles to the southwest.

Land uses in the Proposed Project area are a mixture of intensive agriculture and urban and rural residential development. North of State Route 46 and within the city limits, land uses

consist of light industrial development, rural residential development, and wineries/vineyards. Topography in the vicinity of the project is generally rolling hills, with existing elevations ranging from approximately 920 feet to 960 feet above mean sea level.

The proposed Estrella Substation site is located on an approximately 15-acre portion of a 98.6-acre parcel of land and would be comprised of NEET West's 230 kV substation and PG&E's 70 kV substation. The entire approximately 15-acre Estrella Substation site is currently planted with grape vines with 10-foot-wide span lengths.

The proposed power line would consist of a new, approximately 7-mile long 70 kV power line between Estrella Substation and the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line and the reconductoring / replacement of approximately 3 miles of the existing line to where it connects to Paso Robles Substation.

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project is comprised of two components: Estrella Substation and the 70 kV Power Line. Each of these main components has several subcomponents, which are described below:

1. Estrella Substation Components

- a. Constructing a new 230 kV substation to be owned and operated by NEET West;
- b. Constructing a new 70 kV substation to be owned and operated by PG&E, with a location for future 70/21 kV distribution facilities; and
- c. Constructing a 230 kV transmission line interconnection to be owned and operated by PG&E.

2. Power Line Components

- a. Constructing a new approximately 7-mile-long 70 kV double-circuit power line between the new 70 kV substation and the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line (new 70 kV power line segment), to be owned and operated by PG&E.
- b. Reconductoring (and pole replacement) of approximately 3 miles of the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line from the interconnection with the new 70 kV double-circuit power line (described under "a" above) to the Paso Robles Substation.

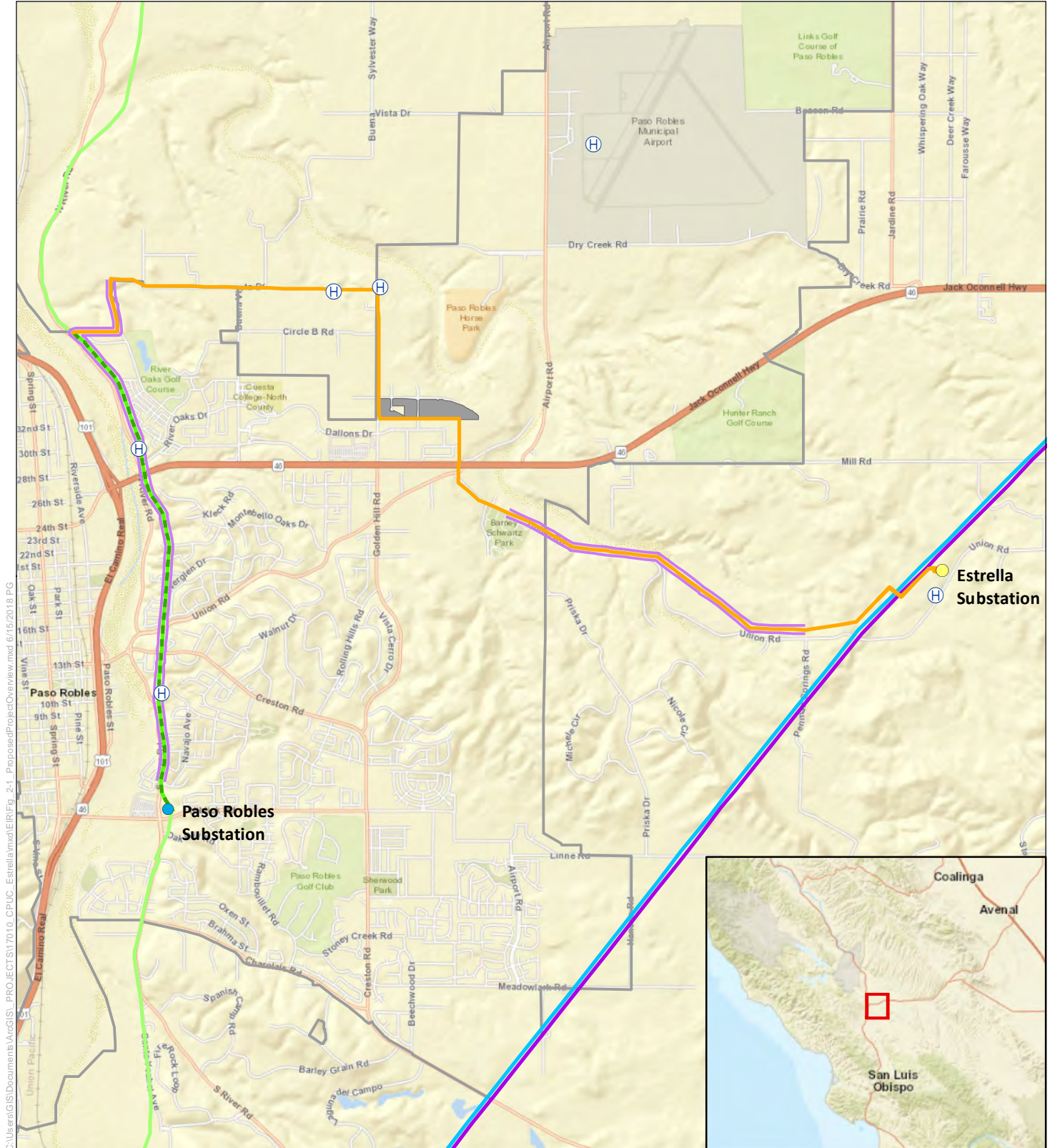
A common neutral would be collocated along the entire length from Estrella Substation to Paso Robles Substation. A fiber optic line for communication services would be installed on

the 70 kV power line to provide a fiber optic link between the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Substation.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project will be evaluated in the Draft EIR. These alternatives are anticipated to include alternative sites for the proposed substation, battery storage, and alternative alignments for the power line (see Figure 2 for examples). One of the primary purposes of the scoping period is to gather information about potential project alternatives.

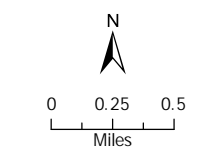
Project Construction Schedule

The co-Applicants estimate that construction of all project components would take about seven months to complete. Construction would typically occur six days per week (Monday through Saturday) throughout the duration of construction. Daily work hours would generally be 10 hours per day with construction typically occurring between 7:00 am and 5:30 pm. Occasionally, work may occur during the evening hours for activities such as monitoring the substation foundation curing process, and testing and commissioning the new substation components. Nighttime work may also be required when electrical clearances are available for safe completion of a construction procedure.



C:\Users\GIS\Documents\ArcGIS\PROJECT\S17010_CPUC_Estrella\mxd\ER\Fig_2-1_ProposedProjectOverview.mxd 6/15/2018 PG

BaseMap Sources: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P,



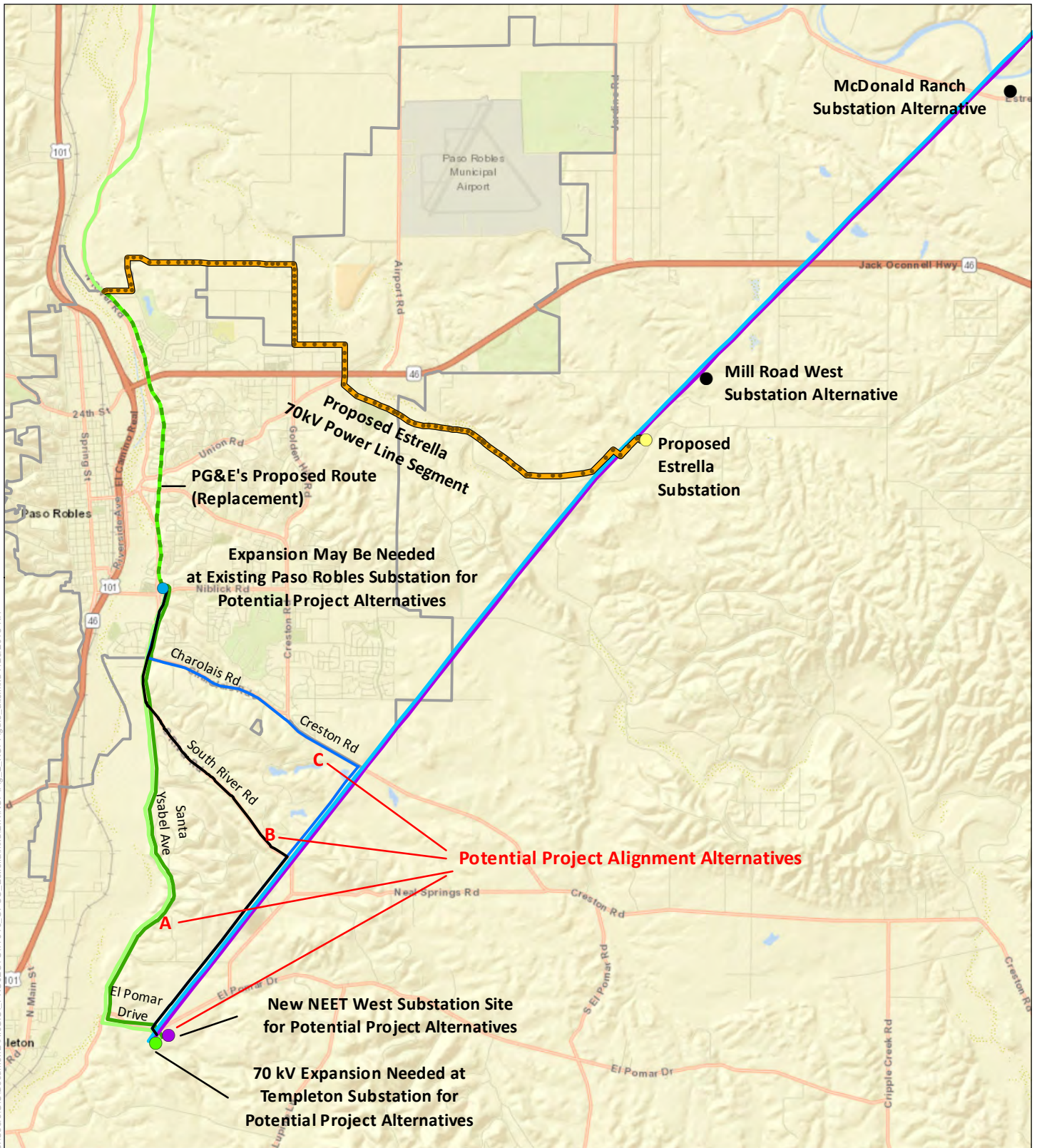
- Paso Robles city limits
- Project Area**
- New 70kV Power Line Segment
- Reconductoring Segment
- Distribution Underbuild
- Power Line Staging Areas

- H Helicopter Landing Zones
- Estrella Substation Location
- Paso Robles Substation location
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Existing 500 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 70 kV Power Line

Source: Source: NEET West and PG&E 2017

Figure 1
Project Overview Map

Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project



C:\Users\GIS\Documents\ArcGIS\PROJECTS\17010_CPUC_Estrella\mxd\EIR\NOP\Fig_2_NOP\Figure_2_atlas.mxd 7/26/2018 RH

BaseMap Sources: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P

- New 70kV Power Line Segment
- New 70kV Power Line Segment Poles
- Reconductoring Segment
- Estrella Substation Location
- Creston Route Alternative
- Existing 70kV Route Alternative
- South River Route Alternative
- Estrella Substation Alternatives

- Paso Robles city limits
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Existing 500 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 70 kV Power Line
- Templeton Substation
- Paso Robles Substation location

Figure 2
Proposed Project and Potential Alternatives

Proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

N

0 0.5 1
Miles

Horizon
WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Source: Source: NEET West and PG&E 2017

References

CAISO. *See* California Independent System Operator.

California Independent System Operator. 2014. 2013-2014 Transmission Plan. Retrieved from: https://www.caiso.com/Documents/Board-Approved2013-2014TransmissionPlan_July162014.pdf. Accessed July 27, 2018.

Revised Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies*(Agency)*From: California Public Utilities Commission*(Agency)*505 Van Ness Avenue*(Address)**(Address)*San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Proposed Jointly by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project identified below. We are requesting the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR and/or subsequent related environmental documents prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Because of the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

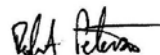
Please send your response to estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com or Robert Peterson, CPUC, c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name or the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

Project Applicant, if any: NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Date: August 1, 2018

Signature:



Title:

Project Manager, Energy Division,
Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA

Telephone:

(844) 211-7510

Email:

estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the NOP

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the lead agency for preparation and review of an environmental impact report (EIR) for NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC's (NEET West) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) (collectively referred to as "co-Applicants") proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would involve construction of an electric substation, a new 7-mile-long transmission line, and replacement of approximately 3 miles of an existing transmission line. These new and replaced facilities would be located in San Luis Obispo County, including portions within the City of Paso Robles, in Central California.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) presents general background information on the scoping process, the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and the anticipated uses of the EIR. It also briefly describes the Proposed Project as currently envisioned. The project description is subject to refinement during the process of preparing the EIR, depending on, among other things, input received in comments responding to this NOP and revisions to the Proposed Project. The CPUC has prepared this NOP pursuant to Section 15082 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Scope of the EIR

This EIR will evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. As the lead agency under CEQA, CPUC has determined that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment and has decided to prepare an EIR. Consistent with the basic purposes of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15002[a]), the purposes of the EIR will be to:

1. Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of the proposed activities;
2. Identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced;
3. Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through the use of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures.

Based on the co-Applicants' Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Proposed Project, and a preliminary environmental review of the Proposed Project by CPUC's consultant, the following resource topics may have potentially significant impacts and will be evaluated in the EIR: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological

resources, cultural resources, geology, soils, and seismicity, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation and traffic, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

No significance determinations have been made regarding any possible impacts of the Proposed Project. The analysis in the EIR ultimately will determine whether such impacts could occur and their level of significance. The EIR also will propose feasible mitigation measures to reduce any identified significant impacts. Thresholds for determining significant impacts will be based on applicable sections of the State CEQA Guidelines, regulatory agency standards, and the judgment of the CEQA lead agency, CPUC.

Public Involvement

The CPUC is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies on the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the Proposed Project. A scoping meeting for the Proposed Project will be held as follows:

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Winifred Pifer Elementary School
Multi-Purpose Room
1350 Creston Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446

The scoping meeting will feature a presentation on the Proposed Project and environmental review process and an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit oral or written comments.

Written comments may be submitted at any time during the scoping period. All available documents pertaining to the Proposed Project can be located at the following website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>. Because of the time limits mandated by state law, your written comments on the scope and content of the EIR must be **received no later than August 31, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** Please send written comments to the CPUC, to the attention of Rob Peterson, CPUC, c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include the name and phone number of the contact person for your agency, if applicable. CPUC will consider and incorporate scoping comments on the Proposed Project in preparation of the EIR as appropriate.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background and Need

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) approved the development of the new 230/70 kV power line to interconnect to the substation to improve reliability in San Luis Obispo County in its *2013-2014 Transmission Plan, Estrella Substation Project Description and Functional Specifications for Competitive Solicitation* (CAISO 2014). Following its selection by CAISO in March 2015 as the approved project sponsors, the co-Applicants submitted to CPUC a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) in January 2017, as part of its application (A.17-01-023) for Permits to Construct (PTCs), as specified in CPUC General Order (G.O.) 131-D. The PEA and related project documents are available at: website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Proposed Project, as stated by the co-Applicants in their PEA, are as follows:

- Increase reliability and mitigate thermal overloads and voltage concerns in the area by having an additional 230 kV source of power that will increase service reliability in northern San Luis Obispo County, and maintain compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards; and
- Provide a location for future 21 kV distribution facilities with a 230/70 kV source near the anticipated growth areas in northern Paso Robles to efficiently add distribution capacity and improve service reliability when required in the Paso Robles Distribution Planning Area.
- Balance Safety, Cost, and Environmental Impacts

Project Location

The Proposed Project would be located within the northern portion of San Luis Obispo County, California, including portions of the City of Paso Robles (see Figure 1). The nearest other communities are San Miguel, which is approximately nine miles to the northwest, and Templeton, which is about 8.5 miles to the southwest.

Land uses in the Proposed Project area are a mixture of intensive agriculture and urban and rural residential development. North of State Route 46 and within the city limits, land uses

consist of light industrial development, rural residential development, and wineries/vineyards. Topography in the vicinity of the project is generally rolling hills, with existing elevations ranging from approximately 920 feet to 960 feet above mean sea level.

The proposed Estrella Substation site is located on an approximately 15-acre portion of a 98.6-acre parcel of land and would be comprised of NEET West's 230 kV substation and PG&E's 70 kV substation. The entire approximately 15-acre Estrella Substation site is currently planted with grape vines with 10-foot-wide span lengths.

The proposed power line would consist of a new, approximately 7-mile long 70 kV power line between Estrella Substation and the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line and the reconductoring / replacement of approximately 3 miles of the existing line to where it connects to Paso Robles Substation.

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project is comprised of two components: Estrella Substation and the 70 kV Power Line. Each of these main components has several subcomponents, which are described below:

1. Estrella Substation Components

- a. Constructing a new 230 kV substation to be owned and operated by NEET West;
- b. Constructing a new 70 kV substation to be owned and operated by PG&E, with a location for future 70/21 kV distribution facilities; and
- c. Constructing a 230 kV transmission line interconnection to be owned and operated by PG&E.

2. Power Line Components

- a. Constructing a new approximately 7-mile-long 70 kV double-circuit power line between the new 70 kV substation and the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line (new 70 kV power line segment), to be owned and operated by PG&E.
- b. Reconductoring (and pole replacement) of approximately 3 miles of the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV Power Line from the interconnection with the new 70 kV double-circuit power line (described under "a" above) to the Paso Robles Substation.

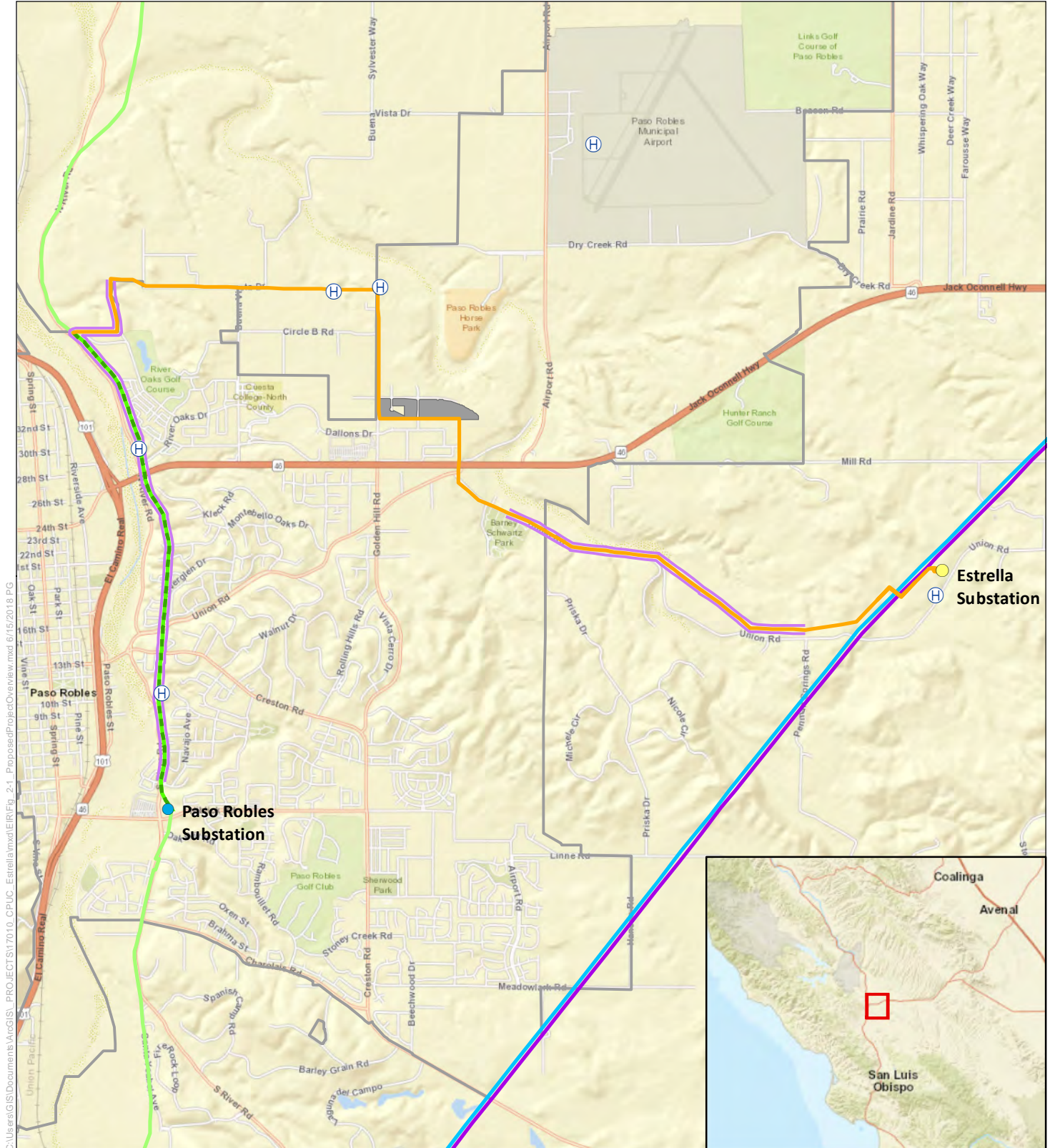
A common neutral would be collocated along the entire length from Estrella Substation to Paso Robles Substation. A fiber optic line for communication services would be installed on

the 70 kV power line to provide a fiber optic link between the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Substation.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project will be evaluated in the Draft EIR. These alternatives are anticipated to include alternative sites for the proposed substation, battery storage, and alternative alignments for the power line (see Figure 2 for examples). One of the primary purposes of the scoping period is to gather information about potential project alternatives.

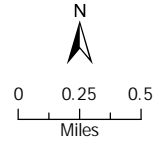
Project Construction Schedule

The co-Applicants estimate that construction of all project components would take about seven months to complete. Construction would typically occur six days per week (Monday through Saturday) throughout the duration of construction. Daily work hours would generally be 10 hours per day with construction typically occurring between 7:00 am and 5:30 pm. Occasionally, work may occur during the evening hours for activities such as monitoring the substation foundation curing process, and testing and commissioning the new substation components. Nighttime work may also be required when electrical clearances are available for safe completion of a construction procedure.



C:\Users\GIS\Documents\ArcGIS\PROJECT\S17010_CPUC_Estrella\mxd\ER\Fig_2-1_ProposedProjectOverview.mxd 6/15/2018 PG

BaseMap Sources: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P,



- Paso Robles city limits
- Project Area**
- New 70kV Power Line Segment
- Reconductoring Segment
- Distribution Underbuild
- Power Line Staging Areas

- H Helicopter Landing Zones
- Estrella Substation Location
- Paso Robles Substation location
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Existing 500 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 70 kV Power Line

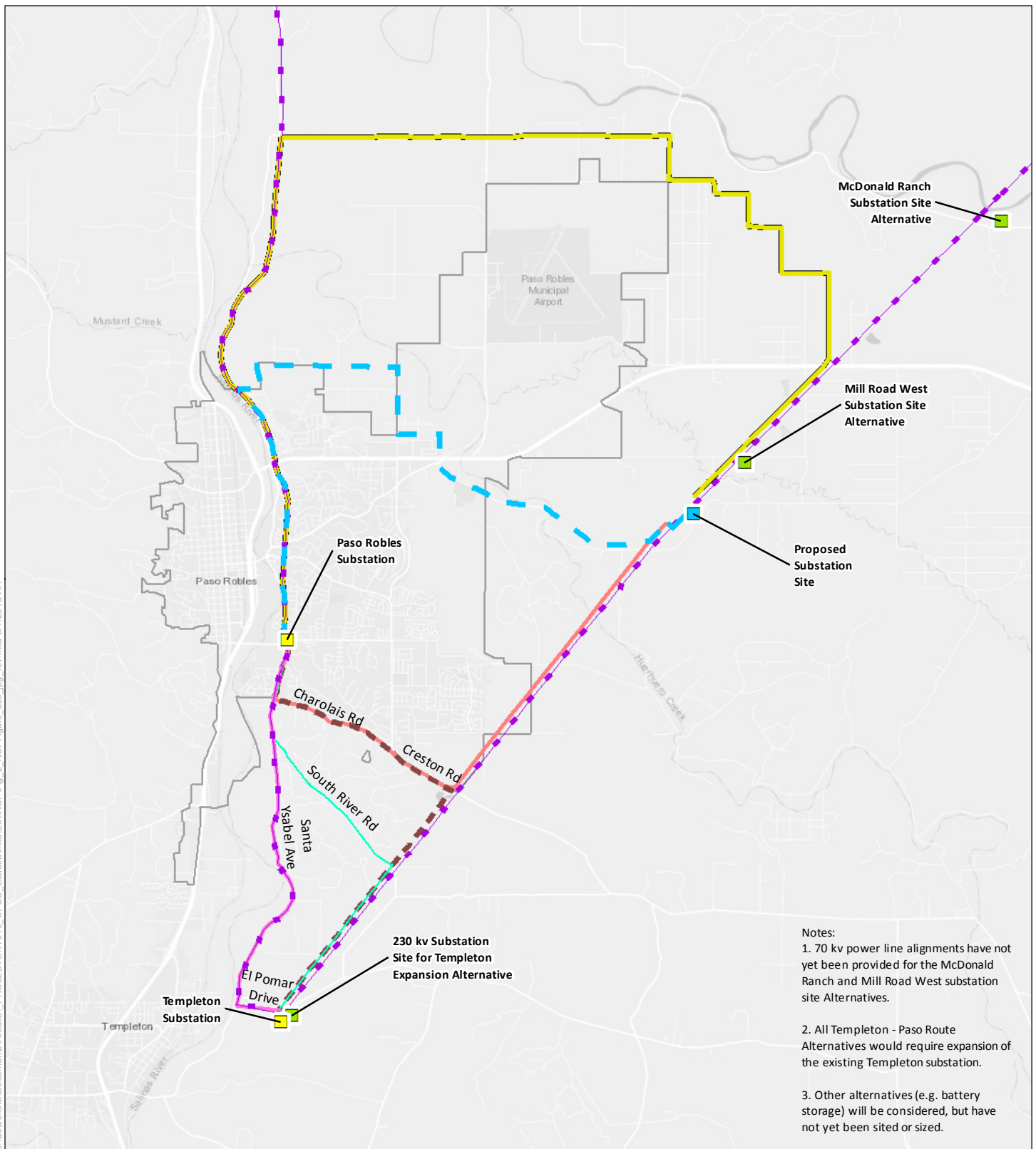


Source: Source: NEET West and PG&E 2017

Figure 1
Proposed Project Overview Map

Proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

C:\Users\GIS\Documents\ArcGIS\PROJECT\S17010_CPUC_Estrella\mxd\EIR\NOP\Fig_2_NOP\Figure_atls_jpg_rev.mxd 8/17/2018 RH



- Notes:
1. 70 kv power line alignments have not yet been provided for the McDonald Ranch and Mill Road West substation site Alternatives.
 2. All Templeton - Paso Route Alternatives would require expansion of the existing Templeton substation.
 3. Other alternatives (e.g. battery storage) will be considered, but have not yet been sited or sized.

Basebap Sources: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, Source: NEET West and PG&E 2017

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Existing Substation | Alternatives |
| — Existing Infrastructure | — Estrella Route Alternative |
| — Proposed Project | — Creston Route Alternative |
| | — Templeton-Paso Creston Route Alternative |
| | — Templeton-Paso South River Route Alternative |
| | — Templeton-Paso Existing 70 kV Route Alternative |
| | ■ Substation Site Alternatives |

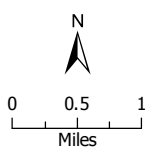


Figure 2
Proposed Project and Potential Alternatives

Proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

References

CAISO. *See* California Independent System Operator.

California Independent System Operator. 2014. 2013-2014 Transmission Plan. Retrieved from: https://www.caiso.com/Documents/Board-Approved2013-2014TransmissionPlan_July162014.pdf. Accessed July 27, 2018.

Newspaper Ad

THE *Newspaper of the Central Coast*
TRIBUNE

3825 South Higuera • Post Office Box 112 • San Luis Obispo, California 93406-0112 • (805) 781-7800

In The Superior Court of The State of California
In and for the County of San Luis Obispo

AD #3788478
HORIZON WATER AND ENVIRONMENT, LLC

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ss.

County of San Luis Obispo

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen and not interested in the above entitled matter; I am now, and at all times embraced in the publication herein mentioned was, the principal clerk of the printers and publishers of THE TRIBUNE, a newspaper of general Circulation, printed and published daily at the City of San Luis Obispo in the above named county and state; that notice at which the annexed clippings is a true copy, was published in the above-named newspaper and not in any supplement thereof – on the following dates to wit; AUGUST 2, 5, 2018 that said newspaper was duly and regularly ascertained and established a newspaper of general circulation by Decree entered in the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, State of California, on June 9, 1952, Case #19139 under the Government Code of the State of California.

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



(Signature of Principal Clerk)

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2018

AD COST: \$457.38

Join us for a
Public Scoping Meeting
for the
**Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area
Reinforcement Project**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies on the scope and content of an environmental impact report (EIR) being prepared for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Proposed Project) proposed jointly by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC (NEET West) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E).

Project Background: The Proposed Project would involve (1) construction of a 230 kilovolt (kV) / 70 kV substation on an approximately 15-acre site in San Luis Obispo County; (2) construction of a new approximately 7-mile 70 kV power line from the new substation to an interconnection with the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line; and (3) reconductoring / replacement of approximately 3 miles of the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line from the interconnection with the new line from Estrella Substation to the existing Paso Robles Substation. Portions of the new and reconductored power lines would pass through areas within the City of Paso Robles.

Scoping Meeting: The CPUC is now beginning the environmental review process for the Proposed Project, and a scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Tuesday, August 7th, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Winifred Pifer Elementary School
Multi-Purpose Room
1350 Creston Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446

The scoping meeting will include a presentation by CPUC staff and consultants, and an opportunity for interested persons to provide comments about the scope of the analysis to be prepared including alternatives to the Proposed Project (e.g., battery storage and alternate alignments and sites). Written comments may be submitted at any time during the scoping period, which will last until August 31, 2018 at 5 p.m. Comments may be submitted via email to estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com or via US Mail to Rob Peterson, CPUC, c/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Information Available: Additional information regarding the Proposed Project and environmental review / public involvement process is available at the following website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>

August 2, 5, 2018

3788478

Attachment C

Meeting Materials

PowerPoint Presentation



SCOPING MEETING FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project

Proposed Jointly by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific
Gas & Electric Company

Application No. 17-01-023

August 7th, 2018



**California Public
Utilities Commission**



Purpose of Scoping Meeting

- Provide an overview of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) **application review** processes
- Describe the proposed NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC (NEET West) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Estrella Project
 - **A new substation and 70-kV power line ...**
- Allow the public and agencies to provide input on the scope and content of the Proposed Project's **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**, including potential alternatives



Roles



California Public Utilities
Commission (CPUC)
Lead Agency under CEQA



Horizon Water and Environment
Environmental Contractor
for CPUC



NextEra Energy Transmission
West, LLC (NEET West)
Project Co-Applicant



*Pacific Gas and
Electric Company*™

Pacific Gas & Electric
Company (PG&E)
Project Co-Applicant



CPUC Process

- Investor-owned utilities must submit a permit application to CPUC for construction of certain infrastructure listed under Public Utilities Code Section 1001 and pursuant to General Order 131-D
- NEET West and PG&E filed an application for the Estrella Project consisting of:
 1. Application A.17-01-023 for a Permit to Construct
 2. Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- CPUC has authority to approve or deny the application
- CPUC permit application review involves:
 - Environmental review (CEQA)
 - CPUC Formal Proceeding



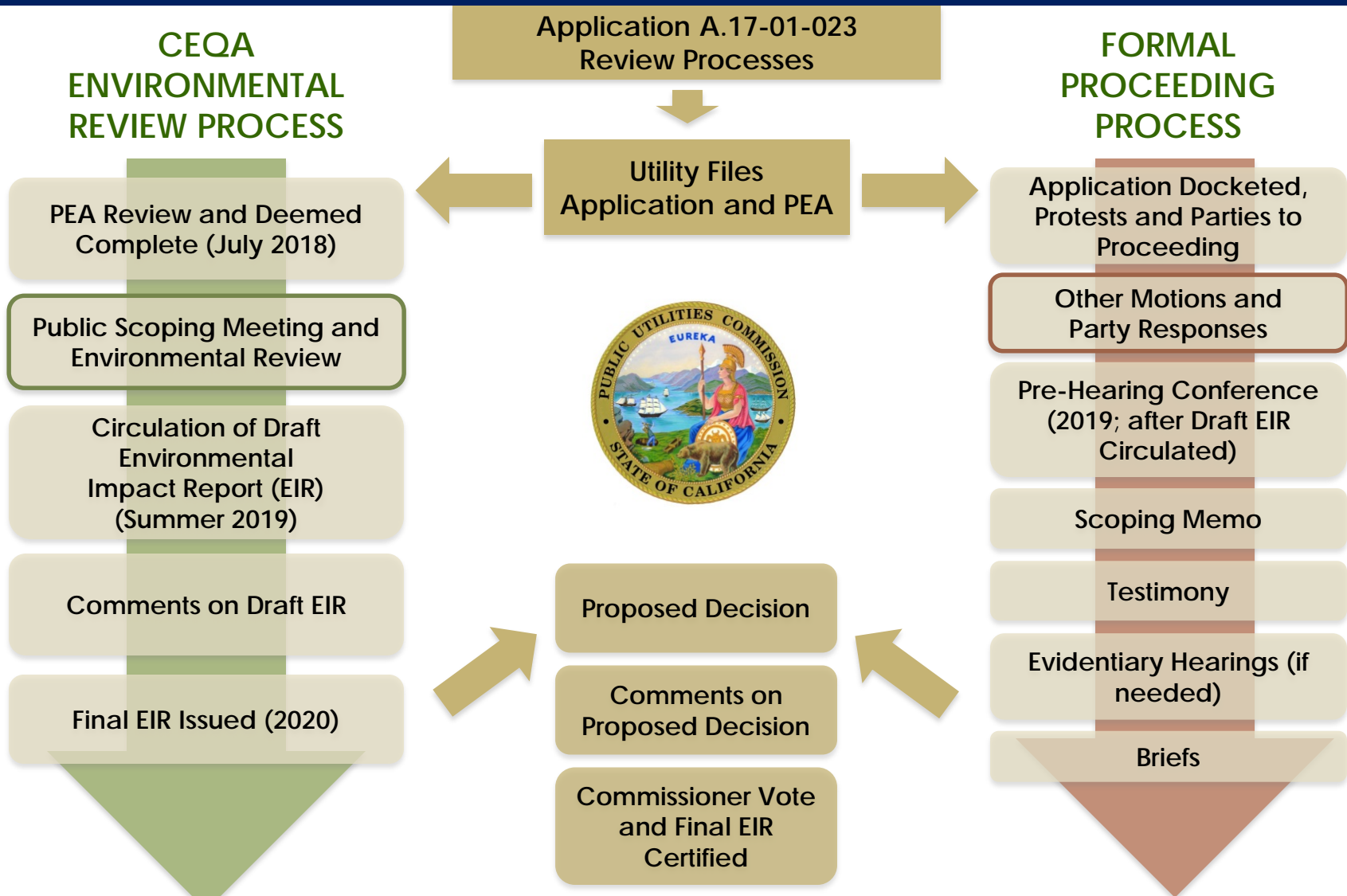
CEQA Overview

Basic purposes of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15002):

- Inform governmental decision makers and public about potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities
- Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced
- Prevent significant, avoidable damage to environment by requiring changes in projects through use of alternatives or mitigation measures when governmental agency finds project changes to be feasible
- Disclose to public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved



CPUC Processes



Summary of Applicants' Project Objectives

- Increase reliability and mitigate thermal overloads and voltage concerns in the area by having an additional 230 kV source of power that will increase service reliability in northern San Luis Obispo County;
- Provide a location for future 21 kV distribution facilities with a 230/70 kV source near the anticipated growth areas in northern Paso Robles; and
- Balance safety, cost, and environmental impacts

*Note: CPUC will develop CEQA project objectives separately during the EIR process that may differ to some extent from the applicants' stated objectives.



Proposed Project Components

Estrella Substation Components

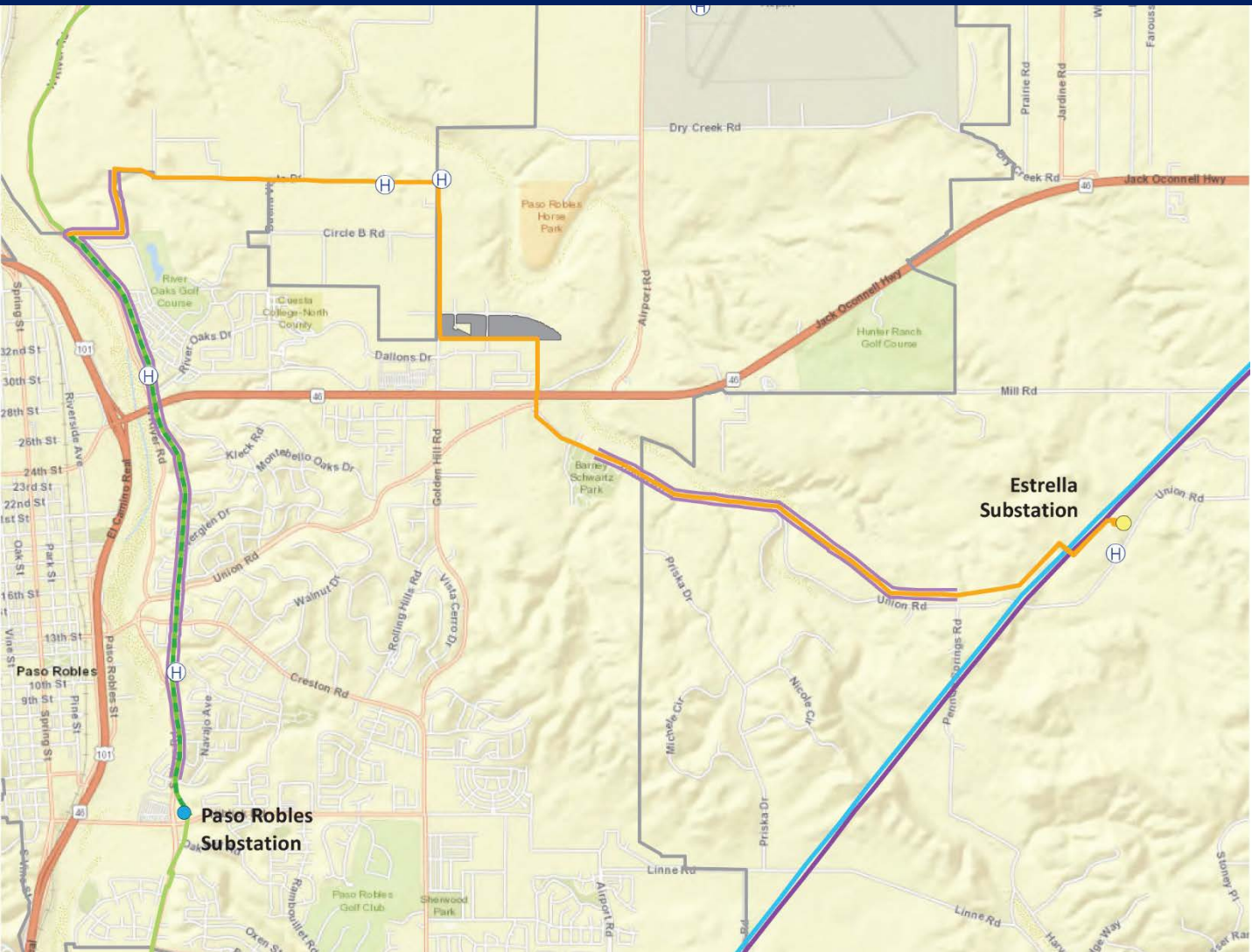
- Constructing a new 230 kV / 70 kV substation on approx. 15-acre site
- Constructing a new 230 kV transmission line interconnection to existing 230 kV transmission facilities

Power Line Components

- Constructing a new approx. 7-mile-long 70 kV double circuit power line between new Estrella Substation and existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line
- Reconductoring / replacing approx. 3 miles of existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line from interconnection with new line from Estrella Substation to existing Paso Robles Substation



Where is the Proposed Project?



- Paso Robles city limits
- Project Area**
- New 70kV Power Line Segment
- Reconductoring Segment
- Distribution Underbuild
- Power Line Staging Areas
- Helicopter Landing Zones
- Estrella Substation Location
- Paso Robles Substation location
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Existing 500 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 70 kV Power Line



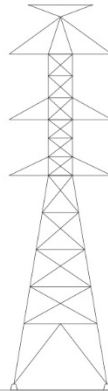
Simulation of the Proposed Estrella Substation



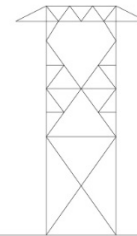
Estrella Draft EIR Scoping Meeting

Typical Transmission Structure Diagrams (Interconnection)

Note: Not to scale. LSTs measure approximately 25 by 25 feet at base.



230KV G94-DE W/ FIBER
(LST)

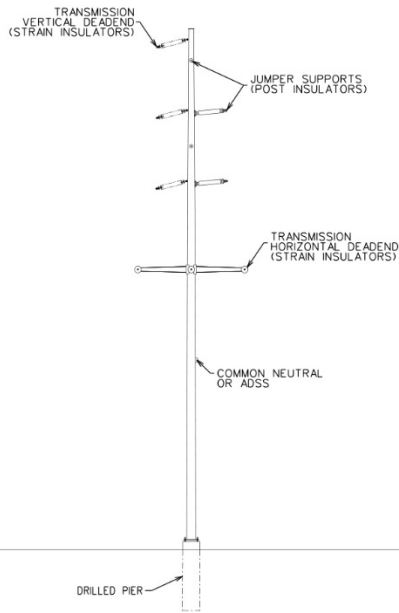


230KV SCH-DE
OR 90° DE
(LST)



Typical Transmission Structure Diagrams (New Power Line)

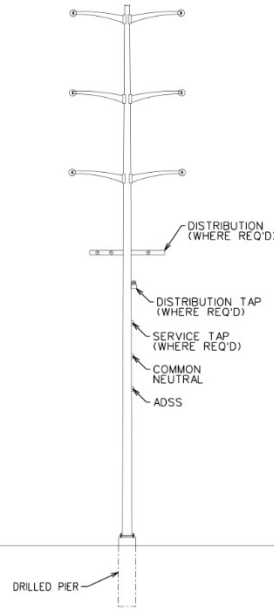
Note: Not to scale. LDSPs have a 3-foot diameter at base and a 1-foot diameter at tip. TSPs have a 4-foot diameter at base and a 1.5-foot diameter at tip.



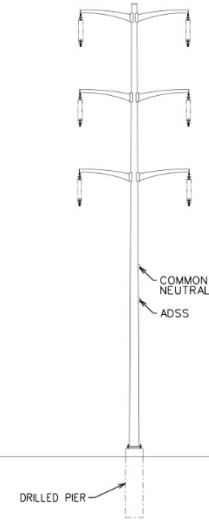
70kV/115kV CROSSING STRUCTURE (TSP)



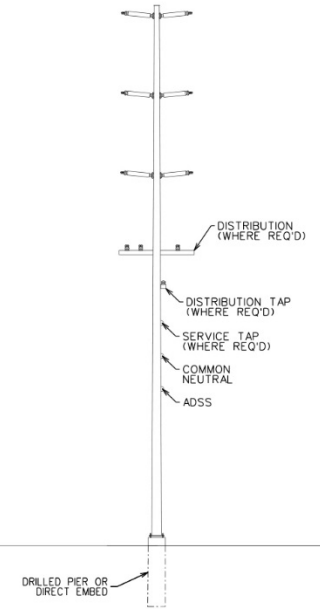
70kV/115kV DVD-3 (TSP)



70kV/115kV V2D-G (TSP)



70kV/115kV V2S-G (TSP)

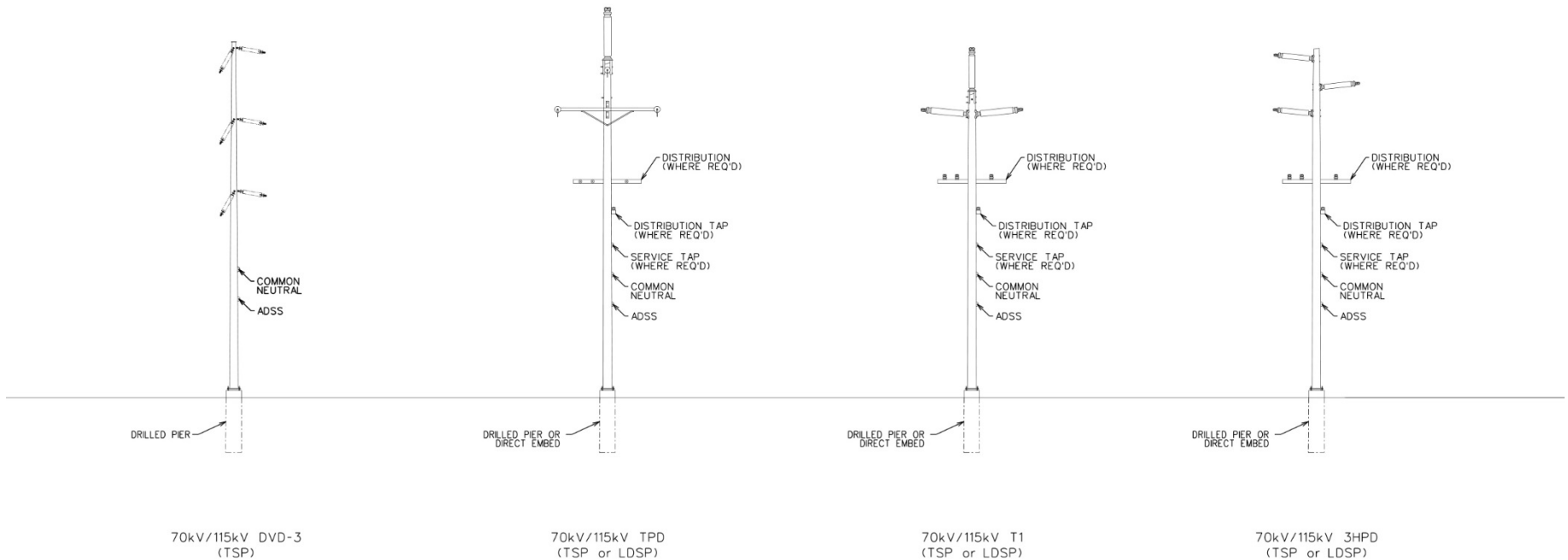


70kV/115kV V2P (TSP or LDSP)



Typical Transmission Structure Diagrams (Reconductoring Segment)

Note: Not to scale. LDSPs have a 3-foot diameter at base and a 1-foot diameter at tip. TSPs have a 4-foot diameter at base and a 1.5-foot diameter at tip.



CEQA Draft EIR

TOPICS:

Aesthetics

Agriculture and forestry resources

Air quality/greenhouse
gas emissions

Biological resources

Cultural, archaeological, paleontological, and
Tribal resources

Geology and soils

Hazards and hazardous materials

Hydrology and water quality

Land use and planning

Mineral resources

Noise

Population and housing

Public services
(fire, police, schools, parks)

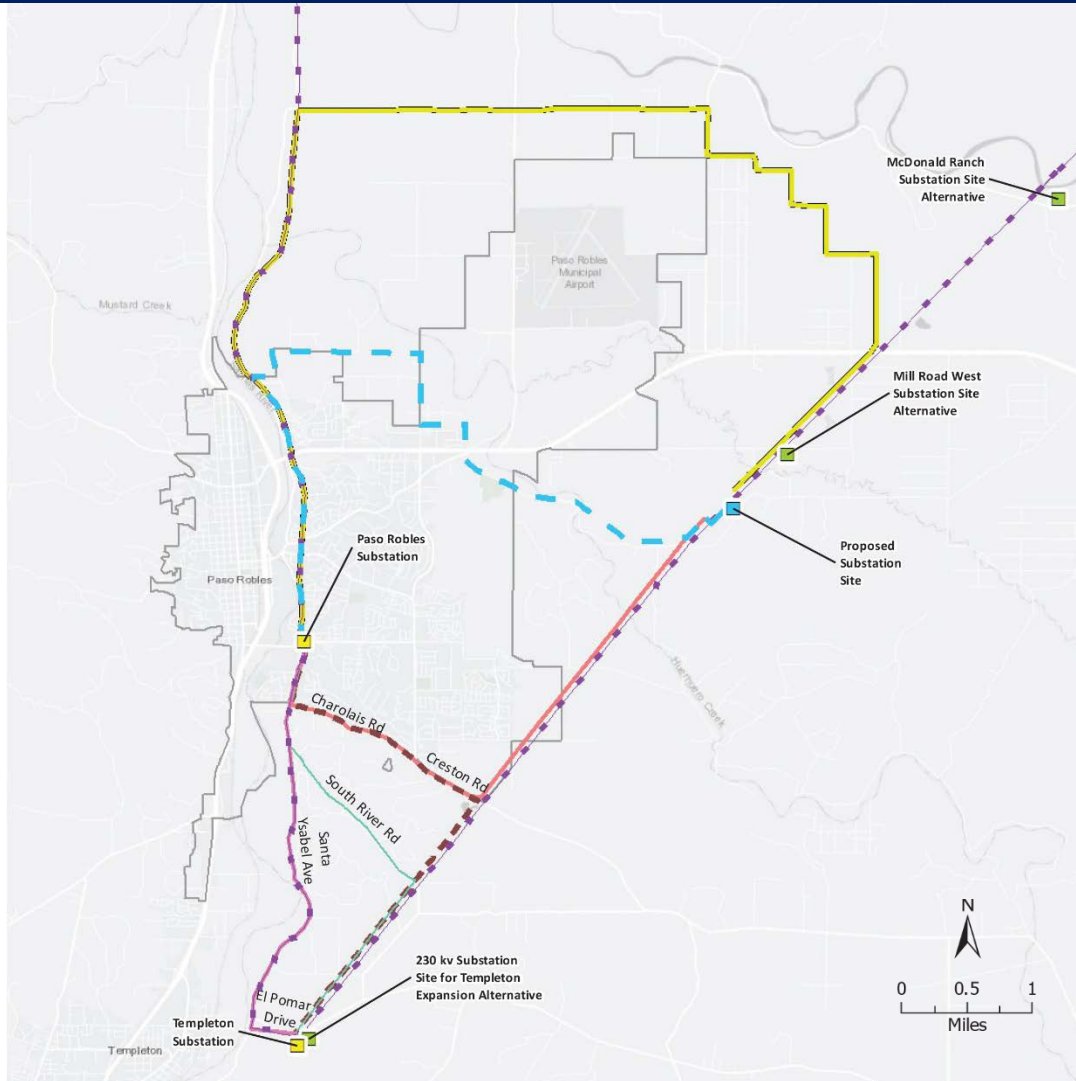
Recreation

Transportation and traffic

Utilities and service systems
(water, wastewater, solid waste)



Proposed Project and Potential Alternatives



- Existing Substation
 - Existing Infrastructure
 - - - Proposed Project
- Alternatives**
- Estrella Route Alternative
 - Creston Route Alternative
 - - - Templeton-Paso Creston Route Alternative
 - Templeton-Paso South River Route Alternative
 - Templeton-Paso Existing 70 kv Route Alternative
 - Substation Site Alternatives

Notes:

1. 70 kv power line alignments have not yet been provided for the McDonald Ranch and Mill Road West substation site Alternatives.
2. All Templeton - Paso Route Alternatives would require expansion of the existing Templeton substation.
3. Other alternatives (e.g. battery storage) will be considered, but have not yet been sited or sized.



Example Battery Storage Unit



How Can You Provide Comments?

- Fill out a comment card to submit written comments and questions tonight
- Submit comments after this meeting by mail, phone, or email

Mail	Voice Mail	Email
Mr. Rob Peterson CPUC c/o Horizon Water and Environment 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500 Sacramento, CA 95814	(844) 211-7510	estrellaproject@ horizonh2o.com

- Comments due by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2018

For more information, go to:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/index.html>



Written Comment Form

Place
Stamp
Here

**Rob Peterson, CPUC Project Manager
c/o Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814**

(fold here)

Tape
Here-
Do not
staple