



# California Public Utilities Commission

September 1999

Lodi Gas Storage Application

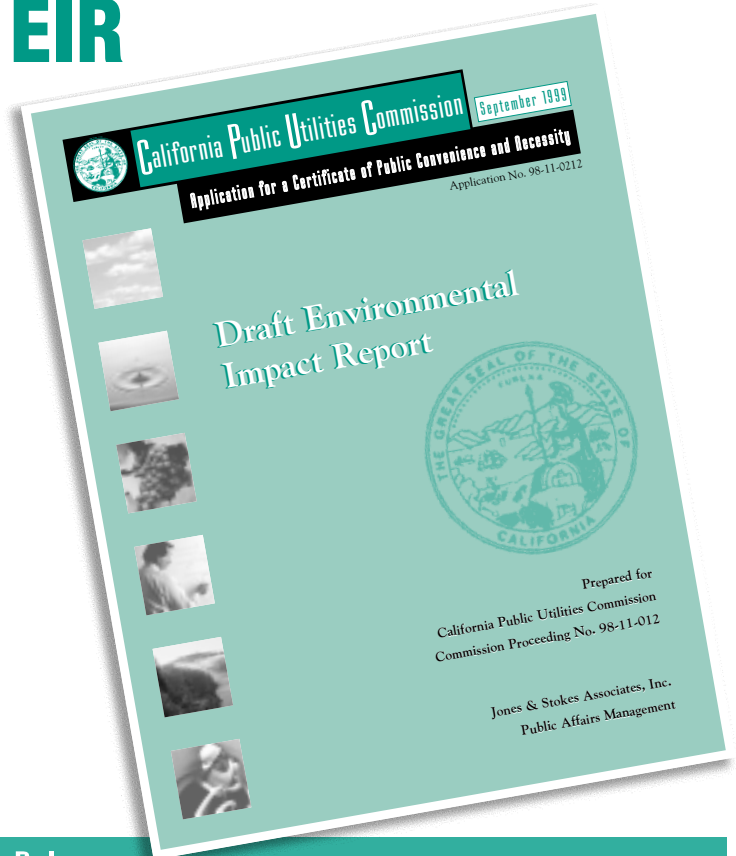
# UPDATE

## CPUC Releases Draft EIR

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Lodi Gas Storage Project. The Draft EIR analyzes potential environmental impacts for a proposed natural gas storage facility near Lodi, an approximately 33-mile gas pipeline, and three pipeline route alternatives.

Lodi Gas Storage, LLC, (LGS) applied to the CPUC in November 1998 for permission to construct and operate an underground natural gas storage facility, gas compression and separation facilities, and a pipeline to connect to Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) gas transmission pipelines. The CPUC Draft EIR provides a detailed description of the project and an independent evaluation of the potential environmental impacts. The Draft EIR also reviews the federal, state, and local permitting requirements that LGS would have to implement if the project is approved. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Pipeline Safety has stringent pipeline design standards LGS must meet to protect public safety and health. Construction techniques are described for the proposed facilities, and the report discusses mitigation measures to reduce or avoid environmental impacts. The EIR also includes a detailed description and evaluation of three alternatives to the proposed project. (See article on page 2.)

Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC analyzed the project for impacts to land uses, water and air quality, traffic, wetlands, endangered species, public health and safety, noise, cultural resources, housing, and other issue areas. The CPUC encourages public and agency review of the Draft EIR during the 45-day public comment period. Written comments on the Draft EIR are due no later than November 10, 1999. (See Review the Draft EIR on page 4.)



### Roles

- LGS** → Company that has requested permission from CPUC to construct, own, and operate the gas storage project
- CPUC** → State agency that reviews and approves utility projects and determines whether or not to grant LGS permission to construct and operate the gas storage project
- General Public** → Provide CPUC with their views on whether or not to grant LGS permission

## Upcoming Events

### Lodi Public Meeting on the Draft EIR

Wednesday, October 13, 1999  
6:00 p.m.  
Hutchins Street Square  
Kirst Hall  
125 S. Hutchins, Lodi  
(parking/entrance on Oak St.)

### Isleton Public Meeting on the Draft EIR

Thursday, October 14, 1999  
6:00 p.m.  
Isleton Community Center  
208 Jackson Blvd.  
Isleton

### Public Participation Hearing

Tuesday, October 19, 1999  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Hutchins Street Square  
Cottage-Pisano Room  
125 S. Hutchins, Lodi  
(parking/entrance on Oak St.)

## CPUC Evaluates Three Alternatives

The CPUC conducts an environmental assessment following the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine whether the proposed project will have significant effects on the environment. According to CEQA, the CPUC must investigate alternatives that could feasibly achieve the objectives of the project while reducing any environmental impacts determined “significant.” In the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) evaluated three alternative pipeline routes, shown on the map, for the Lodi Gas Storage Project. The CPUC developed the alternatives in response to public concerns during the scoping process regarding disruption of agricultural lands and to comply with regional land use policies regarding pipeline corridors.

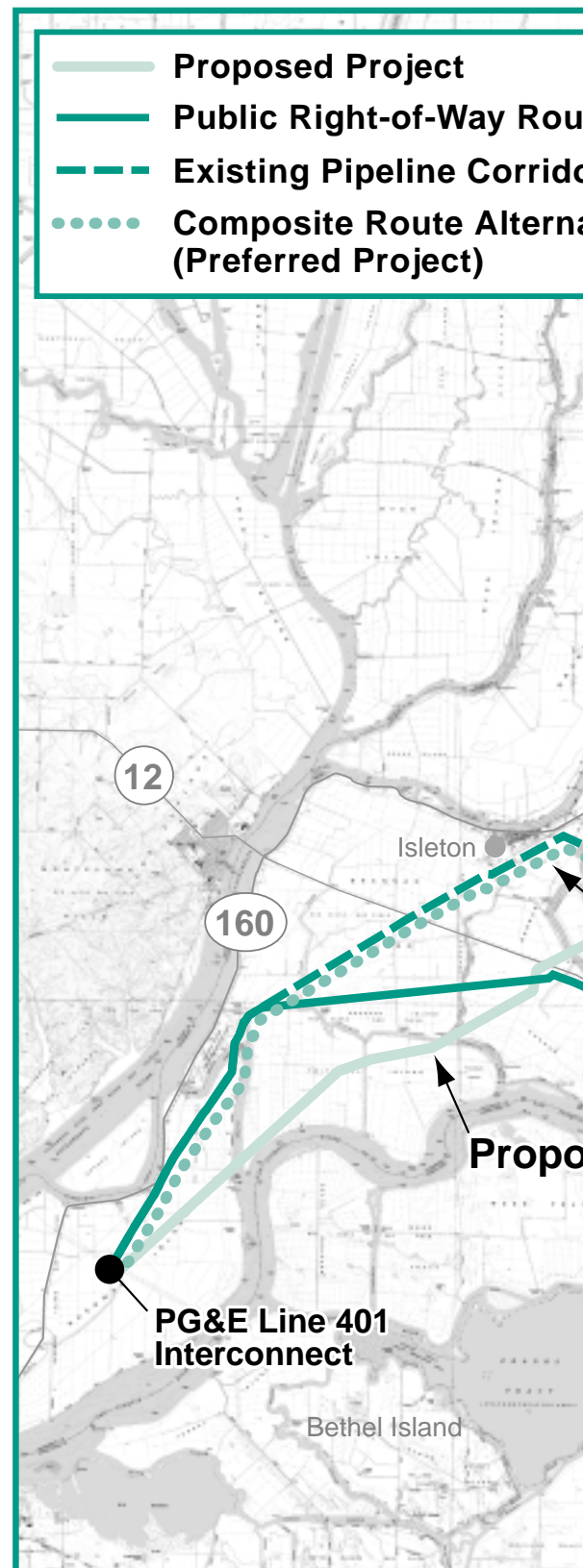
The first alternative, the Public Right-of-Way (ROW) Route Alternative would follow existing roadway easements where possible to reduce impacts to agriculture by avoiding adjacent agricultural land. The wells, separation facility, and connection points with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) gas transmission pipelines would be at the same locations as in the proposed project. Key features of this alternative include locating the compressor facility southwest of Lind Airport rather than northeast of Highway 99 and Peltier Road, as in the proposed project. The public ROW alternative would reduce the amount of pipeline in agricultural fields, but locate the pipeline near more residences and result in more disturbance of public roads during construction than the proposed project.

The second alternative follows an existing Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) pipeline corridor. The Existing Pipeline Corridor Alternative was developed to

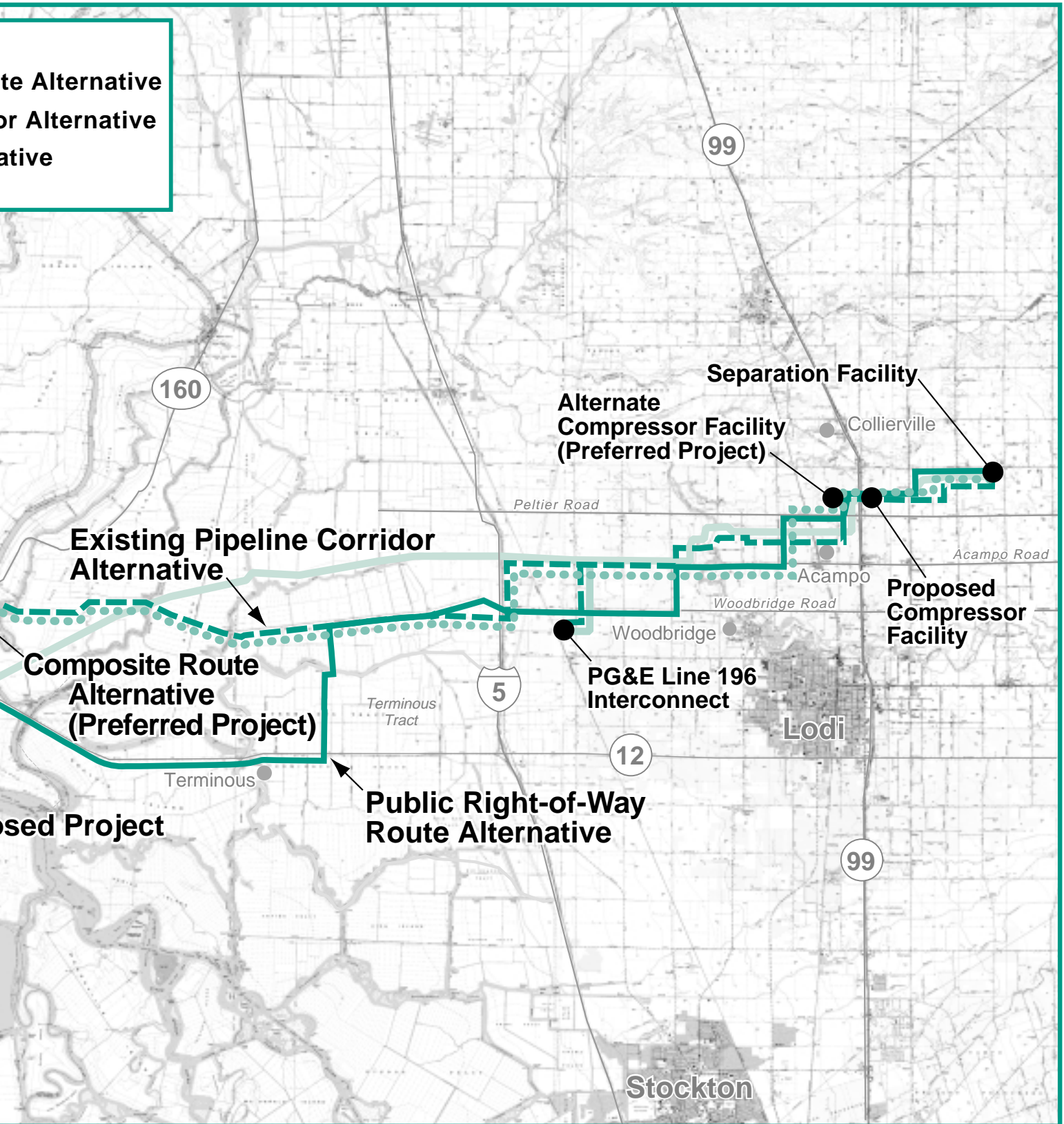
be consistent with County and Delta Protection Commission land use policies that recommend consolidating new pipelines in the Delta region within existing pipeline corridors. The pipeline would follow farm roads, field edges, and farm ditches along the eastern portion of the pipeline, then parallel the PG&E Line 196, 195, and 131 to the PG&E interconnect point on Sherman Island.

The third alternative, the Composite Route Alternative, follows farm roads and field edges and avoids the residential area along Jahant Road in the eastern portion. Between Highway 99 and Interstate 5, the composite route goes along public rights-of-way. This alternative parallels the existing pipeline corridor crossing some agricultural fields west of Interstate 5. The compressor facility would be located southwest of Lind Airport. The CPUC has designated this alternative as the preferred alternative in the Draft EIR.

When comparing the pipeline alternatives, impacts to roadways, residences, and agriculture vary. The public ROW alternative affects 14.6 miles of roadway; the composite route, 5.2 miles; the existing pipeline alternative, 1.7 miles; and the proposed project, no miles. The number of residences within 220 yards of the pipeline also differs: 170 residents for the composite route, 140 for the public ROW, 122 for the existing pipeline alternative, and 74 for the proposed project. The public ROW alternative affects 30 acres of vineyard, the composite route affects 50 acres, the existing pipeline corridor alternative affects 80 acres, and the proposed project affects 100 acres. The duration of construction and cost varies slightly with the public ROW alternative being the most expensive. The pipeline route alternatives are discussed in greater detail in the Draft EIR including comparison of impacts for each alternative.



te Alternative  
or Alternative  
ative



# Public Review of the Draft EIR

## Submit Written Comments

The CPUC invites you to review the Draft EIR and submit formal written comments by November 10, 1999. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines require the CPUC to respond in the Final EIR to all comments submitted within the review period.

## Attend Public Meetings

The CPUC will hold two public information meetings in Lodi, October 13, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins, and in Isleton, October 14, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., at the Isleton Community Center, 208 Jackson Blvd. At the meetings, you can learn about the Draft EIR and the status of the project. CPUC staff will present alternatives in the Draft EIR and be available to answer questions.

In addition to the public information meetings, the CPUC-assigned Commissioner, President Richard Bilas, and Administrative Law Judge Janet Econome will hold a public participation

hearing to receive testimony from the public on the project. The public participation hearing is scheduled for October 19, 1999, at 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi. Input from local residents continues to play a valuable role in the evaluation of the project.

CPUC Commissioners will consider the Draft EIR, public comments, the Final EIR, and the entire record of the general proceeding in deciding whether to approve the Lodi Gas Storage Project.

## Contact Information

For more information about the environmental review, please contact:

CPUC Information Line  
(415) 989-1446, extension 85  
E-mail: [cpuc-gas-lodi@pamsf.com](mailto:cpuc-gas-lodi@pamsf.com)

For more information about the public participation hearing, please contact:

CPUC Public Advisor's Office  
(415) 703-2074  
E-mail: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

## Review the Draft EIR

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Lodi Gas Storage Project is available for review and public comment. The Draft EIR can be viewed at the following locations:

### Lodi Public Library

201 W. Locust Street  
Tel: 209-333-8507

### Isleton Public Library

412 Union Street  
Tel: 916-777-6638

### Isleton City Hall

210 Jackson Boulevard  
Tel: 916-777-7770

### Walnut Grove Public Library

14177 Market Street  
Tel: 916-776-1412

### Sacramento Public Library

828 I Street  
Tel: 916-264-2755

### Stockton Public Library

605 N. El Dorado Street  
Tel: 209-937-8683

WEBSITE: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/lodi-gas.htm>



California Public Utilities Commission

Judith Iklé  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 11751