

Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Notice of Availability and Public Meetings



California SCH #2007081156

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이 서류의 한국어 사본이 필요하거나 다른 정보를 원하는 분은 전화 (888) 331-9897번을 이용하시거나 아래의 웹 사이트를 방문하십시오.

如果您需要本文件的中文版本或其他相關資訊,請致電(888) 331-9897,或拜訪下列網站。

ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/environ/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP.htm

To: Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

From: John Boccio, CPUC, EIR Project Manager

Justin Seastrand, USDA Forest Service, Special Uses Coordinator

Subject: Notice of Availability, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the

Proposed Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

Date: February 12, 2009 (*Revised February 18, 2009*)

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the U.S. Department of the Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for consideration of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP).

Proposed Project (Alternative 2). The TRTP, as proposed by SCE, would involve the construction, operation, and maintenance of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure along approximately 173 miles of new and existing rights-of-way (ROW) in southern Kern County, portions of Los Angeles County, including the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lands, and southwestern San Bernardino County, California. The Draft EIR/EIS describes the proposed Project, also known as Alternative 2, and evaluates and describes the environmental impacts associated with construction and operation, identifies those impacts that could be adverse, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CPUC, Forest Service, or other responsible agencies, would avoid or minimize those impacts. The Draft EIR/EIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposed Project; these alternatives include the following:

- Alternative 1: No Project/Action Alternative. The Project would not be implemented and none of the associated Project activities would occur. SCE would continue to operate and maintain the existing transmission structures, access, and spur roads for operations and maintenance purposes under a variety of agreements and permits.
- Alternative 3: West Lancaster Alternative. The new 500-kV transmission line (T/L) currently proposed along 110th Street West in Lancaster would be re-routed 0.5 miles farther west along 115th Street West.
- Alternative 4: Chino Hills Alternatives. Four routing options have been considered that re-route the double-circuit 500-kV T/L through Chino Hills State Park and eliminate construction of approximately 16 miles of 500-kV structures through the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, and Ontario.
- Alternative 5: Partial Underground Alternative. This alternative would place approximately 3.5 miles of double-circuit 500-kV T/L in an underground tunnel through a portion of the City of Chino Hills.
- Alternative 6: Maximum Helicopter Construction in the ANF Alternative. Utilizes helicopter construction within the ANF to the maximum practical extent.
- Alternative 7: 66-kV Subtransmission Alternative. Provides for undergrounding and/or re-routing 66-kV lines along a segment of the San Gabriel River and around the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

Impacts of the Project. According to the Draft EIR/EIS, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use (Alternatives 4 and 5 only), noise, visual resources, and wildfire prevention and suppression (Alternative 4 only). All other Project impacts were determined to not be significant or can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

Public Meetings/Hearings. The CPUC and Forest Service will hold informal public workshops followed by public meetings on March 18 and 24, 2009. In addition, an informal public workshop followed by a Public Participation Hearing (PPH) will be held on March 19, 2009, which will be presided over by the CPUC's Administrative Law Judge, Victoria Kolakowski. The workshops provide the public an opportunity to become more familiar with the Project and the alternatives under consideration. The public hearing and meetings are an opportunity for interested parties to provide oral and written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and other matters related to SCE's applications to the CPUC and Forest Service. The comments presented at the hearing and meetings will be recorded and entered into the public record.

	Public Workshops and Public Meetings		Public Workshop and Public Participation Hearing
Location	Palmdale, CA	Pasadena, CA	Chino Hills, CA
Date	Wednesday, March 18, 2009	Tuesday, March 24, 2009	Thursday, March 19, 2009
Workshop*	5:00 pm to 6:30 pm	5:00 pm to 6:30 pm	5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Hearing*	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Address	Hilton Garden Inn** 1309 Rancho Vista Blvd. (Formerly West Avenue P) Palmdale, CA 93551	Pasadena High School, Cafeteria 2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107	City of Chino Hills Council Chambers 14000 City Center Drive Chino Hills, CA 91709

^{*}Depending on attendance, meetings/hearings may end earlier than noted.

Availability of Draft EIR/EIS. The Draft EIR/EIS will be available for review at several area libraries, other community locations and on the Project website identified below. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS on CD or a separately bound Draft EIR/EIS Summary may be requested by phone or fax at (888) 331-9897 or by e-mail at TRTP@aspeneg.com.

Sources of Project Information. For additional information or to read the Draft EIR/EIS online, please check the Project website at: ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/environ/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP.htm

Public Review of the Draft EIR/EIS begins on February 13, 2009, and ends on <u>April 6, 2009</u> (extended from original deadline of April 1, 2009). Written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than <u>April 6, 2009</u>. Please be sure to include your name and address.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review. Written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS should be sent to:

John Boccio/Justin Seastrand CPUC/USDA Forest Service

c/o Aspen Environmental Group 30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215 Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Fax: (888) 331-9897

E-mail: TRTP@aspeneg.com

^{**}Located at the northwest corner of the Antelope Valley Mall.