

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**Notice of Preparation
Environmental Impact Report****El Casco System Project
Proposed by Southern California Edison Company
Application No. 07-02-022****To: All Interested Parties**

Si usted necesita una copia de este documento en español o si necesita información acerca del proyecto por favor llame a (877) 576-8342.

A. Subject

On February 16, 2007 Southern California Edison (SCE) filed an application (No. 07-02-022) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Permit to Construct the El Casco System Project (Proposed Project). The CPUC deemed SCE's application complete on March 14, 2007. Under the direction of the CPUC as the lead agency, a draft and final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Proposed Project to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

B. Summary of the Proposed Project

The El Casco System Project includes the proposed El Casco Substation site, upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations and the SCE's Mill Creek Communications Site, upgrading of a total of 15.4 miles of existing 115 kV subtransmission line and associated structures, and the installation of fiber optic cables within existing conduits in public streets and on existing SCE structures between the Cities of Redlands and Banning. All portions of the Proposed Project are located within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California. The main project components are described below and indicated on the attached General Location Map.

Construction of the El Casco Substation. The new 14-acre El Casco 220/115/12 kV Substation would be located on a 28-acre plot within the Norton Younglove Reserve in Riverside County. This component would include associated 220 kV and 115 kV interconnections and new 12 kV distribution line connections (getaways). The substation would be designed with a low profile (structures no taller than 40 feet). Landscaping around the substation would incorporate primarily native vegetation and would be designed to screen views of the substation site. Once constructed, the substation would be an unattended, automated 220/115/12 kV substation.

Upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations. The 115 kV switchracks within the Zanja and Banning Substations, located in the Cities of Yucaipa and Banning, respectively, would be rebuilt to accommodate the new 115 kV subtransmission line, thereby allowing for at least two subtransmission lines to serve each substation at all times. This would reduce the likelihood of temporary power outages, which currently occur due to the fact that each substation is served by only one 115 kV subtransmission line at a time. If there is a problem with the primary (or "preferred") line, a brief delay currently occurs before the secondary (or "emergency") line can be connected. The upgrades to the Zanja and Banning Substations would eliminate this delay by providing a connection for a second

115 kV subtransmission line for each substation that would be active at all times. Replacement of the switchracks in both substations would occur within the existing fenced-in areas.

Transmission Line Upgrades and Installation. These upgrades would include replacement of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new, higher capacity lines; tying in existing 115 kV and 220 kV lines to the new El Casco Substation (looping in); and installation of new 12 kV distribution line getaways at the El Casco Substation.

The proposed upgrades of the existing single-circuit subtransmission lines would include the following:

- Approximately 13 miles of single-circuit 115 kV lines would be replaced with 115 kV double-circuit lines between the new El Casco Substation and the Banning Substation, traversing the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, and unincorporated Riverside County. Single-circuit 115 kV structures would be replaced with 115 kV double-circuit structures.
- Approximately 1.9 miles of single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission line would be replaced with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and new support structures within existing SCE right-of-ways (ROWs) in the City of Beaumont and unincorporated Riverside County.
- Approximately 0.5 miles of single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission line would be replaced with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines on existing support structures in the City of Beaumont.

The existing San Bernardino-Maraschino 115 kV subtransmission line would be looped into the new El Casco Substation 115 kV switchrack on two new approximately 900-foot long line segments between the existing ROW and the 115 kV switchrack. The Devers-San Bernardino No. 2 220 kV transmission line would be looped into the new 220 kV switchrack at the El Casco Substation on two new approximately 500-foot long line segments between the existing ROW and the 220 kV switchrack. Two approximately 400-foot-long underground duct banks would be constructed for the 12 kV distribution line getaways, traversing beneath San Timoteo Creek and the railroad tracks. These distribution lines would eventually be connected to future distribution lines in the area.

Telecommunications Improvements. Proposed improvements to the telecommunications systems as part of the Proposed Project include the construction of a microwave system at the proposed El Casco Substation and SCE's existing Mill Creek Communications Site in the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as installation of fiber optic cables within public streets and on existing SCE structures in the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Redlands, and Yucaipa, as well as unincorporated parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

C. Project Alternatives

Alternatives to the Proposed Project. The following alternatives, developed by SCE in their Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), would be considered. As part of the environmental review process for the El Casco System Project, the CPUC will evaluate the feasibility of the alternatives described below and whether or not they meet CEQA requirements. In addition, the CPUC will likely develop other alternatives for evaluation in the EIR. Based on the input received during the scoping process, new alternatives could be developed to reduce impacts identified for the Proposed Project.

The two alternatives to the Proposed Project that SCE analyzed in the PEA include a Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative and an Alternate Site (Site 38) for the El Casco Substation.

The **Northerly Alternative** includes a 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route that begins at the El Casco Substation and proceeds east for approximately 9.5 miles paralleling the existing Devers-San Bernardino #2 transmission line. The route then proceeds south for approximately 0.2 miles and continues east for approximately 4.3 miles through the City of Banning. At this point, the route proceeds south for approximately 0.5 miles into Banning Substation. The Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative, unlike the Proposed Project, does not loop into the Maraschino Substation.

The **Alternative El Casco Substation Site** (Site 38) would include construction of the El Casco Substation on a 68-acre parcel approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the proposed location for the substation, across San Timoteo Canyon Road. At this time, it is unknown whether or not this alternative would be carried forward for full analysis in the EIR.

D. Available Information

According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), the lead agency for a project may forego the detailed initial review of a project and begin work on the preparation of an EIR if the lead agency is able to determine that an EIR would be clearly required for the project. CEQA further stipulates that in such a circumstance, the lead agency must focus the EIR on the significant effects of the project and indicate why other potential effects would not be significant. With regards to the Proposed Project, the CPUC, as lead agency, has identified a clear potential for significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, an initial study was not prepared for the proposed Project. With this Notice of Preparation (NOP), the CPUC is soliciting public and agency comment on the scope of the analysis and issues to be considered in the EIR for the proposed Project. Please note that this NOP and all future project-related documents are available for review at the following project information repository locations:

Yucaipa Branch Library
12040 5th St.
Yucaipa, CA 92399
Phone: (909) 790-3146

Business Hours: Sun Closed. Mon-Thurs 10-8,
Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5.

Banning Public Library
21 W. Nicolet St.
Banning, CA 92220
Phone: (951) 849-3192

Business Hours: Mon 9-7, Tues 9-6, Wed 9-7,
Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-5, Sat 9-2.

Calimesa Library
974 Calimesa Blvd.
Calimesa, CA 92320
Phone: (909) 795-9807

Business Hours: Sun Closed. Tues, Thurs,
Fri 10-6, Wed 12-8, Sat 9-5.

Beaumont Library
125 E 8th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
Phone: (951) 845-1357

Business Hours: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-8, Wed 10-6,
Thurs 10-8, Fri-Sat 10-6.

University of Redlands
Armacost Library
1200 East Colton Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373-0999
(909) 748-8081

Business Hours: May 29, 2007 through August 6, 2007: Tues-Thurs 1-7, Sun 1-5.
August 6, 2007 – August 26, 2007: Tues-Thurs 1-5.

Internet Website: Information about the Proposed Project and its environmental review process will be posted on the Internet at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/asp/en/casco/elcasco.htm>.

This website will be used to post all CEQA-related public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings for the Proposed Project.

SCE's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) is available for review in electronic format at the website listed above. The PEA includes a detailed description of the project that SCE proposes to undertake and it evaluates potential impacts of the project from SCE's perspective.

Project Information Hotline. You may request project information by leaving a voice message or sending a fax to (877) 576-8342.

E. The EIR Process

CEQA requires the CPUC to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from the Proposed Project, and requires the preparation of an EIR if the Project has the potential to result in significant impacts to the environment. CEQA also requires that the EIR development process include public notice of the Proposed Project and address relevant environmental concerns that the public may have regarding the Proposed Project. The initial public scoping and comment period for the Proposed Project will extend from July 16, 2007, until August 14, 2007. During this period, public comments will be accepted and two public scoping meetings and a pre-hearing conference will be held, prior to selection of alternatives and the preparation of the analysis documented in the EIR. The intent of the scoping process is to obtain input from affected agencies and members of the public on the scope and content of the EIR.

The Draft EIR will include an objective analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. In addition, the Draft EIR will provide a discussion of alternatives, including a comparison of each alternative to the Proposed Project. When completed, the Draft EIR will be distributed for a 45-day public review period. A notice of completion of the Draft EIR will be sent to the State Clearinghouse by the CPUC. The CPUC will consider all comments on the Draft EIR and revise the document as necessary prior to issuance of a Final EIR. The Final EIR will include responses to comments received on the Draft EIR during the public review period.

F. Proposed Scope of the EIR

The EIR will present the analysis of the environmental impacts, as well as identify appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts. See Attachment 1 for detail on the potential impacts by issue area. The EIR will address the following issue areas:

- **Aesthetics.** Construction and operation effects on visual resources resulting from presence of equipment, materials, workers, and above-ground facilities, especially in visually sensitive areas.
- **Agricultural Resources, Land Use/Planning, and Recreation.** Construction and operation impacts on the availability of land for agricultural use and/or recreational use. Any land use conflicts with the Proposed Project will be analyzed.
- **Air Quality.** Construction and operation emissions and effects.
- **Biological Resources.** Effects on native habitats that support rare, threatened, or endangered species; impacts on sensitive habitats or species as a result of sedimentation or erosion; damage to native plant habitats due to construction or widening of the ROW; loss of habitat due to vegetation removal; and effects of noise disturbance on nesting and foraging of wildlife species.

- **Cultural Resources.** Construction effects on prehistoric sites, structures, regional districts or other physical evidence associated with human activity; disturbance during grading and excavation, illicit artifact collection by transmission line workers and construction equipment encroachment in sensitive areas.
- **Geology and Soils.** Slope stability and seismic impacts associated with fault rupture and liquefaction/lateral spreading; damage to above ground structures from earthquake-induced ground shaking; potential for landslides and erosion in areas disturbed by construction.
- **Hazards/Hazardous Materials.** Potential for encountering previously contaminated soils during construction; potential for introducing contaminants into the environment during construction or operation; health effects associated with electric and magnetic fields from transmission lines.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** Potential construction impacts resulting in sedimentation, effects on water quality, altered drainage patterns, and flooding.
- **Mineral Resources.** Potential construction and operation impacts resulting in the loss of availability of a known, state-designated mineral resource or a mineral resource of local or regional importance.
- **Noise.** Construction and operation noise effects on sensitive land uses.
- **Population and Housing.** Construction and operation effects on the displacement of either housing or people (which would in turn require additional housing to be built elsewhere), or the inducement of substantial population growth in the area.
- **Public Services and Utilities.** Construction and operation effects on the provision or response time of public services (i.e. fire, police, and schools) or an increase in the need for additional public services due to construction and operation of the proposed project.
- **Traffic and Transportation.** Construction effects on project area's transportation system, traffic congestion, pedestrian circulation and emergency access.
- **Cumulative and Growth-Inducing Impacts.** According to CEQA, a "cumulative impact" results when two or more individual effects are considerable when combined, or when an action compounds or increases other environmental impacts (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). A "growth-inducing impact" occurs either directly or indirectly when an action causes an increase to the economy, population, or available housing in the surrounding environment.

G. Project Scoping Process and Scoping Meetings

The EIR will focus on the potentially significant environmental effects associated with the El Casco System Project. The process of determining the focus and content of the EIR is known as scoping. Scoping helps to identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIR. Scoping also eliminates any issues from detailed study that do not have the potential to result in significant impacts to the environment. Scoping is an effective way to determine the concerns of the public, affected agencies, and other interested parties. Significant issues may be identified through public and agency comments.

Scoping, however, is not conducted to resolve differences concerning the merits of the project or to anticipate the ultimate decision on the proposal. Rather, the purpose of scoping is to help ensure that a comprehensive EIR will be prepared that provides useful information for the decision-making process. Members of the public, affected government agencies, the proponent of the action, interest groups, and other interested parties may participate in the scoping process for this project by providing written and verbal comments or recommendations concerning the issues to be analyzed in the EIR. Comments can

be given by attending the scheduled scoping meetings listed below and/or sending written comments to the address listed below.

In addition, as part of the proceeding process, the CPUC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will hold a pre-hearing conference to establish the scope and schedule for the proceeding.

The CPUC will conduct the pre-hearing conference followed by two public scoping meetings as detailed in Table 1 and Table 2, below.

Table 1: Pre-Hearing Conference

Date	August 1, 2007
Time	1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Location	Banning City Hall (Council Chambers) 99 E. Ramsey Street Banning, CA 92220

Table 2: Public Scoping Meetings

Date	August 1, 2007	August 1, 2007
Time	2:30 to 4:30 p.m.	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location	Banning City Hall (Council Chambers) 99 E. Ramsey Street Banning, CA 92220	Beaumont Civic Center (Council Chambers) 550 East Sixth Street Beaumont, CA 92223

Each meeting location listed above is wheelchair accessible. If other accommodations for the handicapped are required (e.g., sign language interpreters), you must call the EIR public involvement manager at (877) 576-8342

Please send written comments postmarked by August 14, 2007, to:

Juralynne Mosley
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

By Electronic Mail: E-mail communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your full name and return address in the e-mail message. E-mail messages should be sent to the following address: elcasco@aspeneq.com.

By Fax: You may fax your comment letter to (877) 576-8342. If handwritten comments are being provided, please write clearly to ensure that your comments are legible. Please remember to include your full name and return address in the fax.

A **Scoping Report** will be prepared, summarizing all comments received (including oral comments made at the public scoping meetings). This report will be posted on the project website (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/elcasco/elcasco.htm>), and will be available for review at the project information repository locations listed above in Section D (Available Information). In addition, a limited number of copies will be available upon request to the CPUC.

Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

Following are some suggestions for preparing and providing the most useful information for the EIR scoping process.

- 1. Review the description of the project** (see Section B of this Notice of Preparation and the map provided). Additional detail on the project description is available on the project website where SCE's Proponent's Environmental Assessment may be viewed.
- 2. Review potential impacts** associated with the project and the **CEQA impact assessment questions** (see Attachments 1 and 2).
- 3. Attend the scoping meeting and pre-hearing conference** to get more information on the project and the environmental review process (see times, dates, and locations detailed in Table 1 and Table 2 above).
- 4. Submit written comments** or attend the scoping meeting or pre-hearing conference and **make oral comments**. Explain important issues that the EIR should cover.
- 5. Suggest mitigation measures** that could reduce the potential impacts associated with SCE's Proposed Project.
- 6. Suggest alternatives to SCE's Proposed Project** that could avoid or reduce the impacts of the Proposed Project.

H. Agency Comments

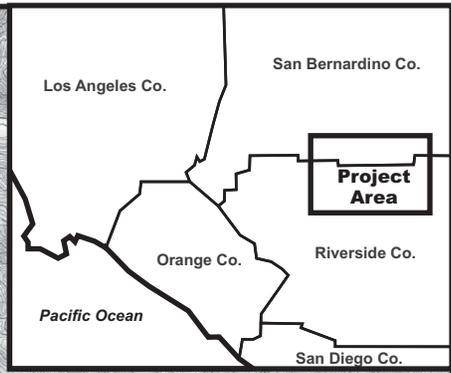
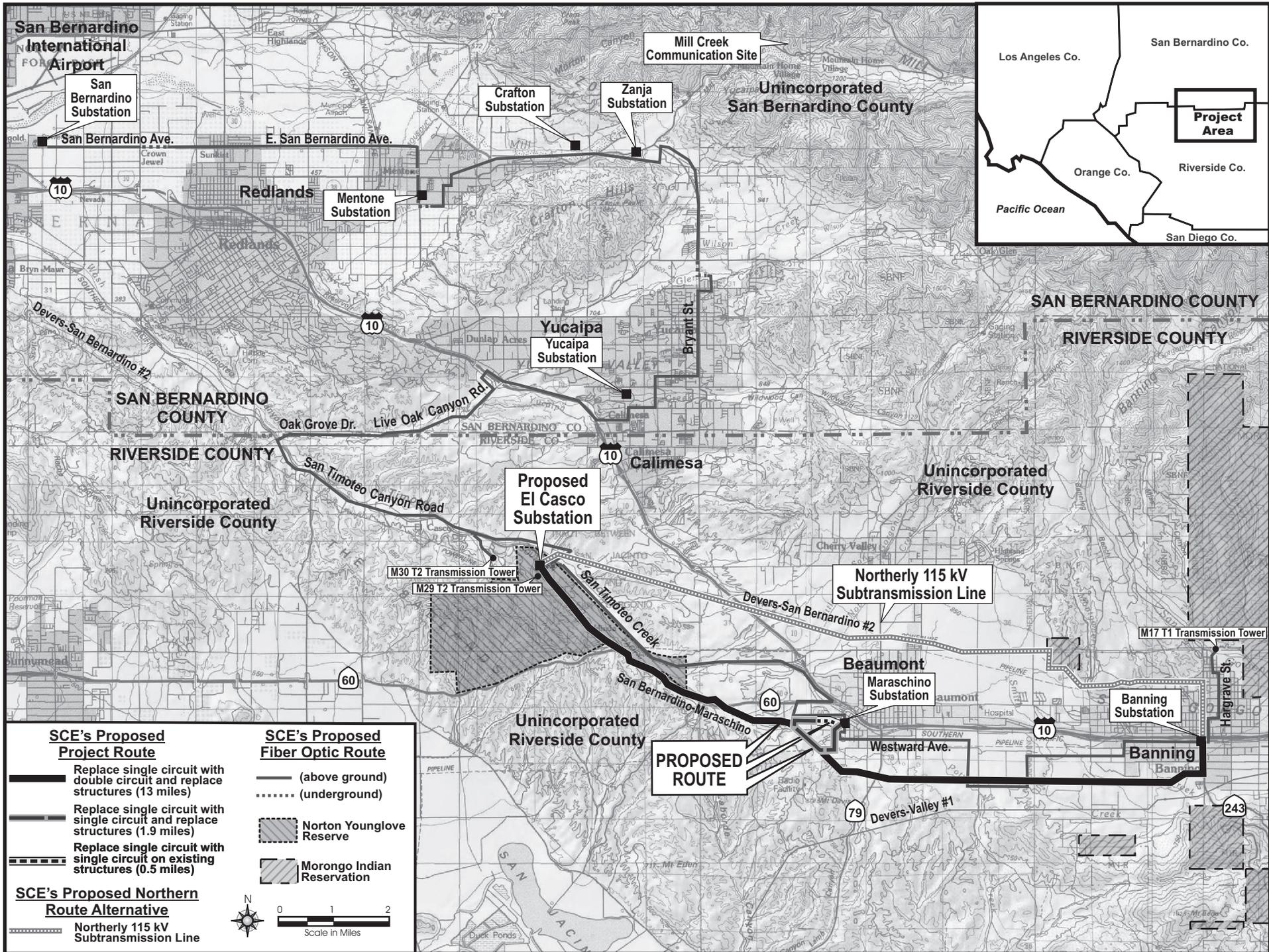
This NOP has been sent to responsible and trustee agencies, cooperating federal agencies, and the State Clearinghouse. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which reflects your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. Once again, responses should identify the issues to be considered in the Draft EIR, including significant environmental issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, and whether the responding agency will be a responsible agency or a trustee agency. Due to the time limits mandated by State laws, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days (August 14, 2007) after receipt of this notice. Please send your response to:

Juralynne Mosley
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

The California Public Utilities Commission hereby issues this Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

Juralynne Mosley
California Public Utilities Commission
(415) 703-2210

July 11, 2007



Attachment 1

Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: El Casco System Project

Environmental Issue Area	Potential Issues or Impacts
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the Proposed Project transmission line route and the El Casco Substation site would travel through and be located in rural areas with extended views of the natural environment, including hillsides and natural landscape features, there is the potential for the Proposed Project to have an adverse effect on scenic vistas in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project route and substation locations or in sufficiently close proximity such that views from and to those vistas would be adversely affected by the Proposed Project.• Both the I-10 Freeway and State Route 38 in the vicinity of the Proposed Project transmission line route are designated as Eligible State Scenic Highways. There is the potential for the Proposed Project to have an adverse effect on scenic vistas in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project route or in sufficiently close proximity such that views from and to those vistas would be adversely affected by the Proposed Project.• The Proposed Project transmission line route and substation site would alter the existing landscape and travel through rural areas with extended views of the natural environment, including hillsides and natural landscape features. In addition, the proposed El Casco substation would result in grading and construction activities permanently altering the existing visual character and quality of the proposed substation site, which is currently open space and part of the Norton Younglove Reserve.• Nighttime construction lighting would be used during project construction and the proposed El Casco substation would include operational nighttime security lighting that could be viewed by adjacent residential structures. In addition, reflective parts of construction equipment and transmission facilities and structures could create a new source of daytime glare.
Agricultural Resources, Land Use/Planning, and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The majority of the components comprising the Proposed Project would not be located on or adjacent to Farmland. Portions of the 115 kV subtransmission line, however, would traverse Farmland, particularly between Milepost 3.9 and 4.1 of the El Casco-Banning route and at Milepost 0.3 of the Maraschino Loop South.• The El Casco Substation would be constructed within the boundaries of the Norton Younglove Reserve, which is designated for open space and conservation and would utilize 28 acres of the 640 acres of the Reserve.• A portion of the 115 kV subtransmission line would be within 4,000 feet of the Banning Municipal Airport and some of the support structures for the subtransmission line would be greater than the maximum permitted height described in the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Plan and FAA regulations. SCE would be required to file a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration with the FAA and submit design of the poles to the Airport Land Use Commission for review.• The proposed El Casco Substation Site and portions of the 115 kV subtransmission lines would be within the bounds of the Western Riverside County MSHCP and the Mill Creek Communications Site would be located in a resource conservation area.• Construction of the El Casco Substation in this location would not include the construction of recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Construction of El Casco Substation within Norton Younglove Reserve, however, could potentially encourage the expanded use of Norton Younglove Reserve.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of the Proposed Project (in particular, site grading activities for the El Casco Substation) would generate emissions that could potentially exceed construction and operational emission thresholds, as established by the SCAQMD, potentially contributing to an existing or projected air quality violation.• Construction of the Proposed Project would generate emissions that could potentially exceed emission thresholds, as established by the SCAQMD, potentially resulting in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SCAQMD is in non-attainment.• Construction of the Proposed Project would generate emissions that could potentially exceed emission thresholds, as established by the SCAQMD, potentially exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: El Casco System Project

Biological Resources

- Impacts to biological resources from the Proposed Project could occur at the proposed El Casco Substation, along the 115 kV subtransmission line route, at the Mill Creek Communications Site, and along the fiber optic line.
- Construction of the proposed El Casco Substation would temporarily disturb approximately 7.98 acres and would permanently impact approximately 14.36 acres of habitat. Wildlife species and habitat in San Timoteo Creek could also be impacted by improvement of the substation access road resulting from siltation and sedimentation into the Creek.
- Similarly, horizontal directional drilling for the 12 kV getaway duct banks could temporarily result in increases in turbidity and sedimentation that could affect amphibians and habitat in San Timoteo Creek.
- Noise impacts from construction could also affect wildlife by frightening or repelling individuals, impairing communication, and impairing foraging success and predator detection
- Construction of the 115 kV subtransmission line and installation of the four new poles for the fiber optic cable could potentially destroy or adversely affect sensitive species as a result of grading previously undisturbed surfaces for pole structure sites or cable pulling, or blading to remove rocks, large shrubs, or other objects from the soil surface. In areas where grading or blading would not occur, habitat could still be damaged by vehicle parking and storage of materials during construction. Sensitive species could be crushed by the operation of heavy machinery or foot traffic. The establishment of nonnative weeds could also suppress or eliminate special status species.
- Permanent impacts to habitat would occur adjacent to the existing communications building at the Mill Creek Communications Site as a result of the installation of the microwave antenna tower and temporary impacts would occur to a 60-foot by 60-foot staging area. While construction would largely affect disturbed habitat and non-native grassland, chaparral habitat would also be disturbed by these activities.
- Construction of the El Casco Substation and its access road would permanently disturb 3.50 acres of scrub oak chaparral and 0.01 acres of chamise chaparral and would temporary disturb 3.71 acres of scrub oak chaparral, 0.12 acres of chamise chaparral, and 0.03 acres of southern mixed chaparral
- While no direct impacts are anticipated to occur to riparian habitat along San Timoteo Creek, grading and road widening for the El Casco Substation access road could cause siltation or sedimentation that could damage riparian habitat along the Creek
- Construction of the El Casco Substation would indirectly affect wetlands along San Timoteo Creek as a result of improvements to the substation access road. Grading and road widening could cause siltation and sedimentation to be released to San Timoteo Creek. This siltation and sedimentation could disrupt the growth of aquatic plants and interfere with the biological processes of aquatic animals such as fish and insects.
- Construction of the Proposed Project could, however, potentially affect nesting birds.
- The Proposed Project could require the removal of trees or other vegetation.

Cultural Resources

- The El Casco Substation would be located in the vicinity of the historic Duff Weaver Ranch. As such, construction of the proposed substation could damage or destroy significant cultural resources, including structures and features from the historic Ranch.
- Construction of the El Casco Substation and the 115 kV subtransmission line could potentially affect archaeological resources.
- Components of the Proposed Project, including the El Casco Substation Site and access roads to the 115 kV subtransmission lines, would be located on or within 0.5 miles of paleontological resource localities. Excavation associated with construction of the El Casco Substation and the 115 kV subtransmission line could impact paleontological resources, including datable organic materials.
- Although no known burial grounds have been identified along the Proposed Project alignment, the possibility of uncovering human remains exists.

Geology and Soils

- The proposed El Casco Substation site would be approximately two miles southwest of the Cherry Valley Fault Zone. Zanja Substation is located approximately 0.3 miles southeast of the South Branch of the San Andreas Fault Zone and the Mill Creek Communications Site is located approximately 0.9 miles northeast of the South Branch of the San Andreas Fault Zone. Banning Substation is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the San Geronio Pass Fault Zone. The
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Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: El Casco System Project

Geology and Soils Continued

115 kV subtransmission line and fiber optic lines would pass over traces of the Beaumont Plain Fault Zone at Mileposts 6.58 and 7.9 and Milepost 0.76 of the Maraschino Loop West.

- All of the components of the Proposed Project would be located within the California Building Code (CBC) Seismic Zone IV and all components would be designed to meet or exceed CBC criteria and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 693 recommendations to reduce the effects of ground shaking.
- While the majority of the Proposed Project components would be located on soils that would not be susceptible to seismic-related ground failure or liquefaction, the El Casco Substation site and portions of the 115 kV subtransmission line would be located on soils with a moderate potential for ground failure or liquefaction.
- The majority of the Proposed Project components would not be susceptible to landslides, but El Casco Substation would be located in an area where past landslides have been identified in soil borings. Site preparation for the El Casco Substation would include excavation, which could increase the potential for landslides.
- Construction of the TSPs, LWS poles, poles for the fiber optic lines, and line stringing, could potentially result in the disturbance of topsoil as a result of grading for pulling sites or installation of the poles.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Construction vehicles would require on-site refueling, and may require routine or emergency maintenance that could result in the release of oil, diesel fuel, transmission fluid or other materials.
- It is unclear at this time if the components of the Proposed Project would be located on a site listed as a hazardous materials site. SCE has described that in the event that contaminated soil is encountered during excavation activities, the soil would be segregated, sampled, and tested to determine appropriate disposal or treatment options.
- A portion of the 115 kV subtransmission line would be located approximately 4,000 west of Banning's Municipal Airport runway and within the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Plan. Construction of any TSPs or LWS poles exceeding the maximum permitted height of the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Plan or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations would require SCE file a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration with the FAA and submit designs of the poles to the Airport Land Use Commission for review.
- The Proposed Project would limit roadway access for short-term periods during construction of the 115-kV transmission line. SCE would inform the transportation department of the affected local jurisdictions for their input and approval of the emergency response plan for the Proposed Project.
- The Mill Creek Communications Site, El Casco Substation site, portions of the fiber optic lines, and portions of the 115 kV subtransmission line route would be located in high fire risk areas. Short-term fire hazard impacts could result during the construction of the Proposed Project.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- During construction activities, there is a possibility that excavated material could be eroded into local drainages or San Timoteo Creek. Construction would also require the use of potential sources for water quality degradation such as diesel fuel, lubrication oil, hydraulic fluids, antifreeze, and other construction-related materials. If unchecked, these materials could be carried by runoff into drainages or San Timoteo Creek. Excavation for transmission structures could also require dewatering to ensure the stability of the structures.
 - The Horizontal Directional Drilling proposed for installation of the 12 kV distribution line getaways and fiber optic duct bank from the El Casco Substation would have the potential to affect water quality in San Timoteo Creek. Vertical leakage of drilling fluids in the formation over the boring could occur or hazardous materials from equipment during the boring could be transmitted to the Creek. Drilling fluids could also reach the surface through existing natural fractures, induced fractures, or porous and permeable zones and could degrade water quality.
 - Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project could also result in accidental mineral oil releases from oil-filled electrical equipment at the El Casco Substation or the accidental release of diesel fuel, lubrication oil, hydraulic fluids, antifreeze, or other vehicle related hazardous materials during maintenance and inspection activities.
 - Due to the Proposed Project's creation of impermeable surfaces, potential impacts to groundwater recharge could occur.
 - Construction and operation of the 115 kV subtransmission lines could potentially affect drainage as new TSPs and LWS poles would be sited in the same area as existing wood poles but could
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Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: El Casco System Project

Hydrology and Water Quality Continued

require the grading of new site pads. Construction and operation of the new structures for the 220 kV transmission lines and fiber optic lines could also require grading, and therefore could potentially alter existing drainage patterns.

- Drainage at the El Casco Substation would be altered significantly due to the large amount of site grading required.
- The proposed El Casco Substation and the 220 kV transmission towers could be affected by 500-year flood flows.
- The Proposed Project could potentially create or contribute substantial new sources of runoff water that would exceed the capacity of stormwater drainage systems. Construction and operation of the proposed El Casco Substation site, in particular, would create a new source for polluted runoff draining into San Timoteo Creek.
- Short-term erosion could occur during excavation and construction activities, which could adversely affect surface water quality from runoff water. Construction equipment and vehicles may potentially leak contaminants during construction activities and electrical equipment could potentially leak during operation, increasing the possibility of washing contaminated runoff into nearby waterbodies.

Noise

- On-site noise during construction would occur primarily from heavy-duty diesel and gasoline-powered construction equipment. Off-site noise would be generated from trucks delivering materials and equipment to the job-sites, as well as from vehicles used by workers commuting to and from the job sites.
- Operational noise would occur as a result of corona noise discharge from active electrical line, noise generated from substation activities, and noise generated from maintenance activities.
- On-site groundborne vibration and groundborne noise during construction would occur primarily from heavy-duty diesel and gasoline-powered construction equipment. Off-site groundborne vibration and groundborne noise would be generated from trucks delivering materials and equipment to the job-sites.

Public Services and Utilities

- Fire protection could be required at a project construction site in the event of a construction accident. The likelihood of an accident requiring such a response would be moderate, as project construction would occur in areas of high fire danger. Furthermore, Proposed Project construction may require the temporary blockage or closure of roadway facilities affecting emergency access and response times to the area. Once operational, the proposed electrical facilities could generate an increase in fire risk, and new towers could potentially affect firefighting helicopter operations.
- Police service could be required at a Project construction site in the event of a construction accident. Furthermore, Proposed Project construction may require the temporary blockage or closure of roadway facilities affecting emergency access and response times to the area.
- During construction, construction workers and any potential change in stormwater drainage could generate additional wastewater to the treatment facilities serving the area.
- During construction, grading activities and a change in the amount of permeable surface area associated with new tower footings and Proposed Project facilities could change the amount of stormwater drainage.
- The Proposed Project may require water during site grading for dust suppression purposes. Due to the short-term nature of construction, the water consumed is expected to be minimal.
- Construction of the transmission and subtransmission lines would result in the generation of various waste materials including wood, soil and vegetation, and sanitation waste.

Transportation and Traffic

- There are three primary categories of traffic impacts that would occur as a result of the Proposed Project. The first category would be the impacts associated with construction traffic on the roadways that provide access to the project route and construction sites. During the construction activities, a number of vehicles would be traveling to and from the project site, including trucks delivering materials to the site, trucks transporting waste material away from the site, and construction workers' vehicles commuting to and from the site. The second category of traffic impacts would be the physical impacts of the construction activities that would occur within the ROW of the affected public roadways (i.e., lane closures, detours, driveway blockages, loss of parking, and disruptions to traffic, transit, and pedestrian movements in the construction area). The third category of traffic impacts would be the impacts associated with the operation of the Proposed Project after construction is complete.
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Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: El Casco System Project

**Transportation
and Traffic
Continued**

- Once operational, the proposed electrical facilities would include new towers that could potentially affect firefighting helicopter operations.
 - Construction of the Proposed Project across, along, and within public street ROW areas could potentially result in increased hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians because the construction activities would occur within the travel lanes of various roadways.
 - The Proposed Project could potentially result in a significant impact relative to emergency access due to construction activities across, along, and within public street ROWs which could increase the response times for emergency vehicles (police, fire, and ambulance/paramedic units) and block or disrupt access to adjacent properties.
 - The Proposed Project could potentially result in parking capacity impacts due to construction activities along and within public street ROWs that could block or disrupt street parking.
 - The project could potentially result in temporary impact to bus routes and bicycle lanes due to construction activities within public street ROW.
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Attachment 2

Environmental Checklist

Following are the questions included in the California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA) Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form. These are issues that may be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Report, if they are determined to be relevant to the project. This list is provided only to provide the reader with a general idea of the types of impacts that will be considered in the EIR.

I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- Involve other changes in the existing environmental which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projects air quality violation?
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site unique geologic feature?
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

- Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to the California Division of Mines and Geology Spec. Pub. 42)
 - Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - Landslides?
- Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
- Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?
- Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?
- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?
- Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
- Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?
- Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?
- Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

- Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

- Physically divide an established community?
- Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?
- Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?
- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

X. NOISE. Would the project result in:

- Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?
- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

XI. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

- Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extensions of roads or other infrastructure)?
- Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

XII. PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES.

- Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
 - Fire protection?

- Police Protection?
- Schools?
- Parks?
- Other public facilities?
- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

XIII. RECREATION. Would the project:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood, and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

XIV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

- Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?
- Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
- Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?
- Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses?
- Result in inadequate emergency access?
- Result in inadequate parking capacity?
- Conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

GENERAL ISSUES:

- Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)
- Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?