

7. REPORT PREPARATION

7.1 PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

7.1.1 PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING

In order to gather information relating to possible environmental effects of the project, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) consulted other affected agencies and jurisdictions. The CPUC's Public Agency Outreach Program was developed for the purpose of establishing early contact and opening lines of communication with key public agencies directly affected by the divestiture plan proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company in its Application, and to obtain insights and information useful for this Environmental Impact Report (EIR). More than 450 entities including Native American tribes, Federal, State, local, trustee, and responsible agencies affected by the project were notified by a mailing of the Notice of Preparation (NOP). In addition, the CPUC contacted over 300 agencies and special districts by facsimile, electronic mail, and telephone to invite participation in the agency meetings.

Although scoping meetings are not required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC conducted scoping meetings in May 2000 to provide the public and government agencies opportunities to identify environmental issues, and to propose alternatives that should be considered in the preparation of the EIR. The CPUC initiated an extensive notification effort to inform agencies and interested members of the public of the scoping meetings and comment opportunities. The CPUC published display advertisements in 32 newspapers throughout the State twice before each meeting. The CPUC also mailed a notification flyer to more than 9,500 stakeholders, homeowners, residents, interest groups, city and county officials, and Federal, State and local agencies (including all property owners within 300 feet of the affected facilities).

The CPUC conducted 18 public meetings and nine agency meetings between May 1 and June 1, 2000. The meetings assisted the CPUC in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, perspectives, and potential effects associated with the proposed sale of the hydroelectric facilities and associated lands. More than 700 people attended the agency and public meetings.

The environmental team also scoped environmental issues with individual trustee and responsible agencies prior to and during preparation of the EIR. All issues raised in the scoping meetings were reviewed by the CPUC and the environmental team to determine the appropriate consideration and level of analysis for each issue raised by commentors.

7.1.2 AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED

Contacts are included in each section of Chapter 4 under "References".

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