

CPUC A.23-08-019 Proceeding

Ventura Compressor Modernization Project

Webpage: [Ventura Compressor Station Modernization Project: Home](#)

CEQA Scoping Meeting

California Public Utilities Commission,
Energy Division



California Public
Utilities Commission



*Please note that this meeting will be recorded

Meeting Guidelines

- All attendees will be muted during the presentation.
- Please note that the **CHAT** box will be monitored, but questions will not be answered live. If you have a question, please reach out to the CPUC via email at: vcm_ceqa@aspenerg.com
- You may submit a written scoping comment via **CHAT** box if you wish, but email is preferred.
- If you would like to make an **oral scoping comment**, please wait until the end of the presentation. When we ask for scoping comments, use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will call on you to speak.
- **Note:** This meeting is being recorded.

Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Application and Permitting Process
- Environmental Review Process (CEQA)
- Project Overview
- Scoping: Environmental Impacts and Alternatives
- Public Comments
- Next Steps



Introductions

State Lead Agency (CEQA):

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
 - Michelle Wilson, CPUC Program Supervisor
 - John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

CEQA Consultant:

- Aspen Environmental Group
 - Brewster Birdsall, Aspen Project Manager
 - Grace Weeks, Aspen Associate Scientist

Project Applicant:

- Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)



Purpose of this Meeting



To inform the public, agencies, and interested parties about the project and the environmental review process.

To receive input to inform the scope and content of the environmental review and identify issues of concern.

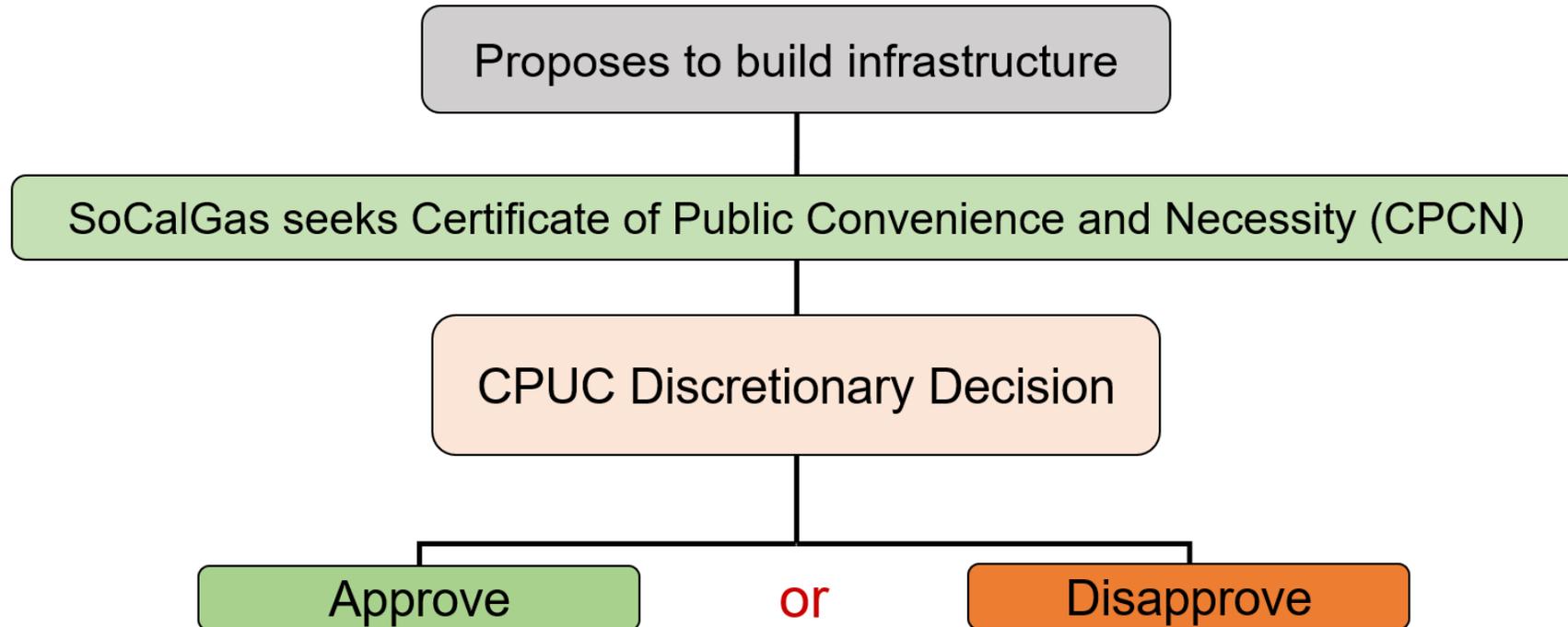
Your ideas are welcome and invited!

What is Scoping?

- Scoping is the process of soliciting public and agency input regarding the scope and content of an EIR, in advance of its preparation.
- CPUC is requesting comments to inform the scope and content of the EIR and help identify the project actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed.

Application Process

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)



CEQA Overview

- The California Environmental Quality Act
 - Inform decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of a proposed project
 - Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced
 - Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures
 - Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved
- Focus on physical impacts to the environment

CEQA EIR Process



CEQA: Project Description

- **Construction**

- What would be built
- How would the project be built
 - Construction methodology
 - Equipment required
 - Workers required
- Project schedule- duration/phases

- **Operations**

- How would the project be operated
- Operational personnel required

- **Maintenance**

- How is the project maintained
- When is maintenance performed
- Maintenance personnel required

Project Location

- City of Ventura
 - 1555 North Olive Street
- Industrial, with mix including residential and schools
 - E.P. Foster Elementary School

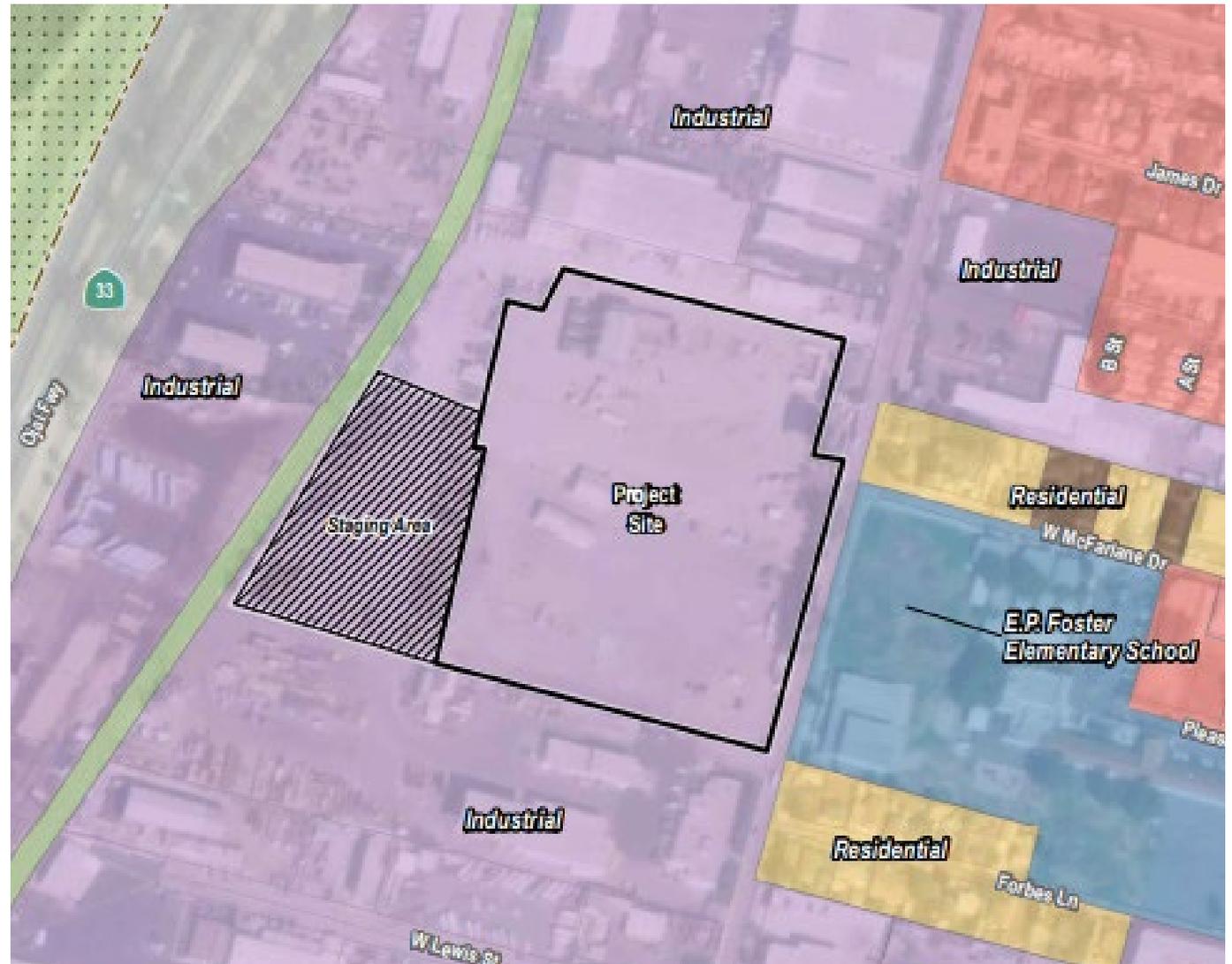
Land Use Designation (City of Ventura)

- Neighborhood Low
- Neighborhood Medium
- Neighborhood High
- Commerce
- Industry
- Public / Institutional
- Parks & Open Space
- Right of Way

- Project Site
- Staging Area
- City of Ventura

General Plan Land Use (County of Ventura)

- Open Space



CPUC's ESJ Action Plan

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted an Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan 2.0 on April 7, 2022.
- The plan is designed to serve as a roadmap for expanding public inclusion in Commission decision making and improving services to ESJ communities.
- Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies. The ESJ Action Plan Version 2.0 recognizes the disproportionate impacts of environmental hazards in communities of color and identifies ways the CPUC can use its regulatory authority to address funding and resources for these communities to mitigate the outcomes of past inequities and barriers.

Project Components

- Modernization of the existing Ventura Compressor Station, including:
 - replacing three existing 1,100 horsepower (HP) natural gas compressors with two new 1,900 HP natural gas compressors, and two new 2,500 nominal HP electric compressors, with zero nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, resulting in a “hybrid” compressor station;
 - erecting a new 10,458-square-foot compressor building;
 - erecting a new 4,641-square-foot permanent office building;
 - erecting a new 5,459-square-foot warehouse;
 - installing a new 8-foot-tall perimeter block wall to replace the existing west and south chain-link fence/block wall; and
 - implementing other ancillary site improvements, such as piping interconnection and storage tanks.

Existing – North Olive Street (facing west)



KOP 1 - Existing Conditions

Existing – West McFarlane Drive (facing west)



KOP 2 - Existing Conditions

Existing – North Olive Street (facing southwest)



KOP 3 - Existing Conditions

Existing – Ventura River Trail (facing east)



KOP 4 - Existing Conditions

Existing – Grant Park Ridgeline Trail (facing northwest)



KOP 5 - Existing Conditions

Proposed – Conceptual Site Plan



SOURCE: Bing Maps, Burns & McDonnell 2023



FIGURE 3-3

Conceptual Site Plan (Final)

Ventura Compressor Station Modernization Project

CEQA: Environmental Resource Areas

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

For Each Resource Area ...

- Define and Describe Existing Setting
 - Environmental setting
 - Regulatory setting
- Establish Thresholds of Significance
 - What defines a “significant” impact
- Identify Project Impacts and Mitigation
 - CPUC Mitigations
 - Significance after mitigation
- Evaluate Cumulative Impacts
- Impacts of Alternatives

CEQA: Project Alternatives

- Identify a range of reasonable alternatives to avoid or substantially lessen significant effects of the project
- Feasible
 - Legal, regulatory, technical
- Meet most basic project objectives

Project Objectives

SoCalGas has identified the following objectives for the Project:

- Meet system operational requirements by providing sufficient gas supply to the North Coastal System at adequate pressures year-round to reliably serve demand in the North Coastal System and inject into the La Goleta Storage Field.
- Promote system reliability and affordability by restoring the capability of replenishing the entire La Goleta Storage Field inventory during the summer operating season.
- Modernize the Ventura Compressor Station's aging infrastructure, which was designed and installed in the 1980s to meet operating requirements at that time, in support of year-round system reliability.

Project Objectives (continued)

- Provide resiliency through diversifying energy supply and improving station reliability.
- Reduce permitted nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions at the facility by installing new compressors equipped with state-of-the-art emissions control technology.
- Achieve Project functionality as soon as possible to support needed reliability.
- Maintain continuity of operations of the compressor station until the Project goes into service.
- Safeguard ratepayer funds by evaluating Project costs in a prudent manner and in accordance with CPUC direction.

Alternatives may include ...

- Those considered or suggested by:
 - SoCalGas and evaluated in application materials
 - Public/agencies during this scoping process
 - Developed by CPUC and CEQA team
- Project Alternatives:
 - Alternative Compressor Technologies
 - Relocation to Alternative Site
 - Other alternatives that meet most basic project objectives?
- “No Project” alternative

To Get Involved in the CEQA Process

- You're on the right track!
 - Please stay on and provide your scoping input
- Scoping Process
 - Notice of Preparation sent on February 28, 2025
 - Virtual scoping meeting on March 11, 2025: Comment period extended
 - In-person scoping meeting on April 15, 2025: Aviso en español
 - **Close of scoping period: April 30, 2025**
 - How to comment:
 - Verbally at this Scoping Meeting and/or by submitting a Comment Letter via Email
- Draft EIR
 - Anticipated release is October 2025

How to Submit a Scoping Comment

Public Comment Mailing Address:

John E. Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager
CPUC Energy Division, CEQA and Energy
Permitting Section
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Public Comment E-Mail Address:

John E. Forsythe, CPUC
Ventura Compressor Modernization
Project
vcm_ceqa@aspenerg.com

Scoping period will close on April 30, 2025.

Announcements of future events to come via email & project website.

Public Comments



Discussion Guidelines

- Be concise
- Stay on topic
- Respect others' opinions
- Comments will be recorded
- Written comments are encouraged

Public Comments

In Person

- Raise your hand to be called on

Via the Zoom Platform

- Click the Raise Hand icon to be called on



By Telephone

- Dial *9 to request to raise hand
- Dial *6 to unmute yourself when asked

Thank you for joining!

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