

# Frequently Asked Questions

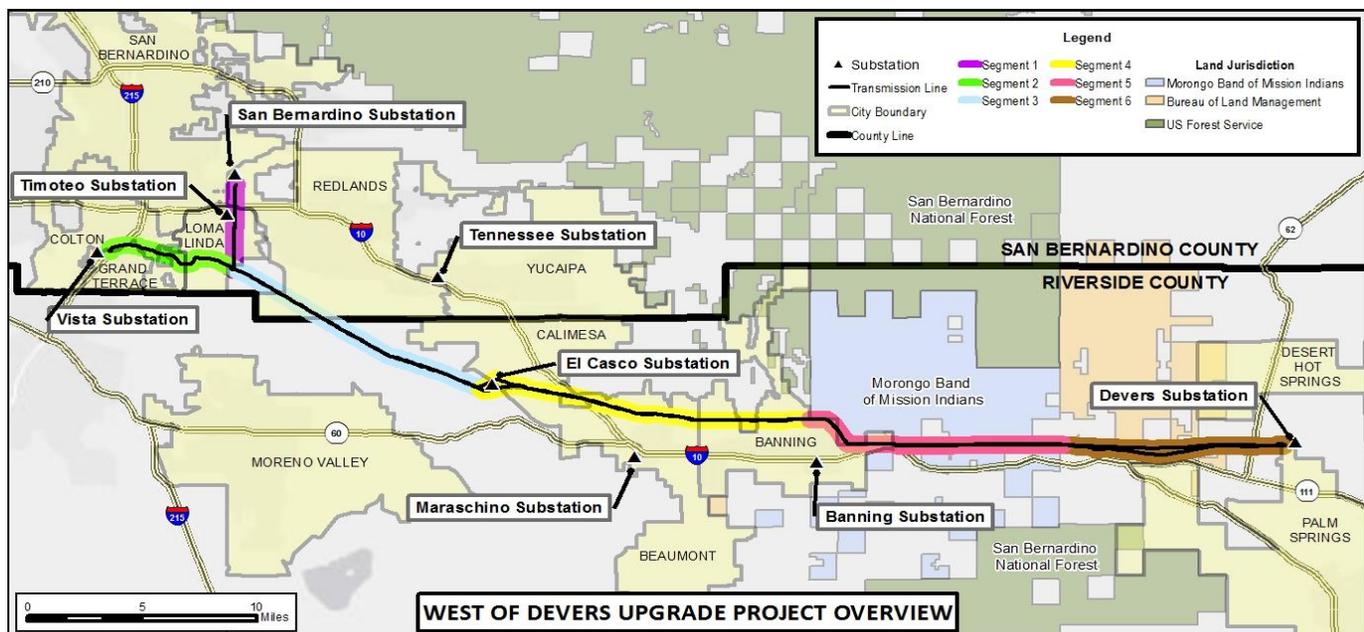
## West of Devers Upgrade Project Riverside and San Bernardino Counties



### What is the West of Devers (WOD) Upgrade Project?

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the WOD Upgrade Project (project). This project would increase the power transfer capability of WOD's transmission lines between the Devers, El Casco, Vista, and San Bernardino substations. It would accomplish this by: replacing existing 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and associated structures with new, higher-capacity 220 kV transmission lines and structures; modifying existing substation facilities; removing and relocating existing sub-transmission (66 kV) lines; removing and relocating existing distribution (12 kV) lines; and making various telecommunication improvements.

The project would be located primarily within the existing 48-mile WOD electrical transmission corridor. The project corridor crosses unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, reservation trust land of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa. The existing WOD corridor traverses a combination of residential, commercial, agricultural, recreational, and open space land uses.



### Why is the WOD Upgrade project needed?

As identified in SCE's application to the CPUC, the project would facilitate the full deliverability of new electric generation resources being developed in eastern Riverside County. As renewable energy generating facilities come on-line in eastern Riverside County, the project would allow the transfer of this electricity into the Los Angeles area, and would facilitate progress towards meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard goals. These goals require utilities to produce 33 percent of their electricity sales from renewable energy sources by 2020.

### What agencies will review the project and what are their roles?

The CPUC and the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have determined an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will be prepared to evaluate and document the project's impact on the environment. The CPUC as the state lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the BLM as the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will prepare the WOD Upgrade Project EIR/EIS consistent with procedural and content requirements identified in CEQA and NEPA.

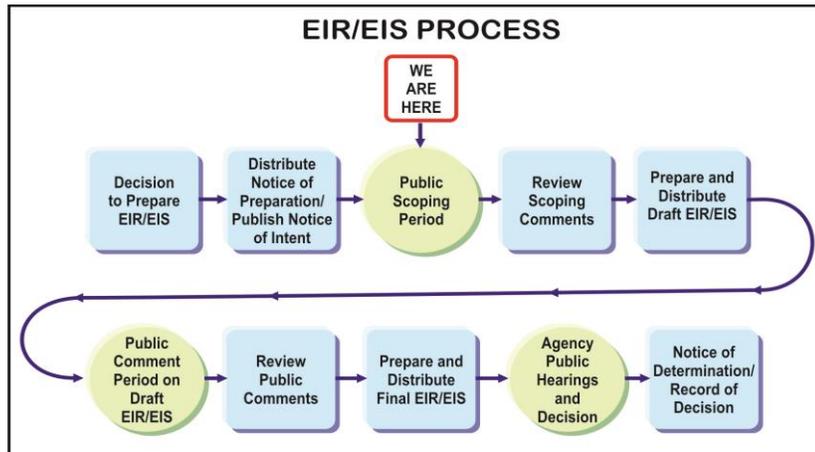
### What is meant by "scoping"?

Consistent with CEQA/NEPA requirements, scoping is a 30-day period of time where a lead agency provides an early opportunity for members of the public and agencies to provide input on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. Typically, projects have one public scoping period; this project will include two separate 30-day scoping periods. The CPUC has begun its scoping process by releasing a Notice of Preparation in early May 2014, which announced the intention to prepare an EIR on the project and started a 30-day scoping period. Four public scoping meetings will be held in mid-May for this scoping period. When the BLM publishes the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, there will be another 30-day scoping period and an additional public scoping meeting will be held for this project.

# West of Devers Upgrade Project

## What are the key steps in preparing an EIR/EIS?

The CPUC and BLM will prepare a Draft and Final EIR/EIS to evaluate and disclose potential environmental effects of the project, address public concerns, and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any potentially significant effects. The EIR/EIS Process (below) provides an overview of the key milestones and opportunities for public input during the environmental review process for the project. As noted above, scoping meetings will be held to initiate the study process and provide an opportunity to collect initial public and agency input. Public workshops will be held later in the process to present an overview of the results of the Draft EIR/EIS and to document public and agency comments on the draft report, which will be included in the Final EIR/EIS.



## What kind of information is included in the EIR/EIS?

The EIR/EIS will include a comprehensive description of the project and project alternatives, and will evaluate the project's impact on the environment. The purpose of the EIR/EIS is to provide an evaluation of impacts associated with the project, and to inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives, if any, that could avoid or minimize these adverse impacts. It will address issues such as traffic, air quality, noise, visual, and construction impacts. The EIR/EIS will also evaluate cumulative impacts of the project in combination with other present and planned projects in the area.

## What impacts will this project have on the environment?

No determinations have yet been made as to the significance of potential impacts; such determinations will be made in the environmental analysis conducted in the EIR/EIS after the issues are considered thoroughly. Refer to the Notice of Preparation for a preliminary indication of the potential environmental issues associated with the project.

## What mitigation measures are being considered? How will environmental impacts be minimized?

In its application to the CPUC and BLM, SCE has proposed measures that could reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the proposed project. The effectiveness of these measures (referenced as "applicant proposed measures") will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS, and additional measures ("mitigation measures") will be developed to further reduce impacts, if required. When the CPUC and BLM make their final decision on the project, they will define the mitigation measures to be adopted as a condition of project approval, and the CPUC will require implementation of a mitigation monitoring program.

## What alternatives are being considered for the proposed project?

State and federal environmental laws require the evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives. The EIR/EIS will evaluate alternatives to the project that would feasibly attain most of the project objectives and would avoid or substantially lessen significant effects of the project. Alternatives may include minor reroutes and different structure designs within the ROW, different routes for the transmission lines (in other corridors), and new transmission and substation facilities and/or equipment that could meet the electric system need and project objectives. Additionally, a No Project/No Action Alternative must also be analyzed in the EIR/EIS to assess the results in the absence of the project. Further, the EIR/EIS must evaluate the comparative merits of each of the alternatives.

## How can the public be involved during the scoping process?

During the scoping period, the CPUC and BLM are soliciting information regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR/EIS. The CPUC and BLM are committed to a comprehensive outreach program that provides stakeholders with the tools and resources to be informed regarding key project milestones as well as encourages public input in the process. All comments for the CPUC's CEQA scoping period must be received by June 12, 2014. The following are ways to submit comments on the project:

**Mail:** Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager) / Brian Paul (BLM Project Manager); California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management; c/o Aspen Environmental Group; 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935; San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

**Electronic Mail:** [westofdevers@aspeneq.com](mailto:westofdevers@aspeneq.com)

**Fax and Voicemail:** (888) 456-0254

## Where can I get more information?

Visit the project website at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm>