BLM SCOPING REPORT

Southern California Edison's West of Devers Upgrade Project

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California

NEPA Lead Agency:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Prepared by:

Aspen Environmental Group

October 2014

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1. Introduction

This Scoping Report documents the public scoping effort conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the West of Devers (WOD) Upgrade Project. Southern California Edison (SCE), the project applicant, has filed an application for approval to construct the WOD project on BLM-administered land. As part of the project review process, the BLM in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with NEPA, the BLM held a 30-day public scoping period, which started after publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on July 1, 2014. Scoping allows the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR/EIS and to identify issues that should be addressed in the environmental document. This report documents the issues and concerns expressed during the public scoping meeting held on July 16, 2014 and the written comments received from the public, community organizations, and governmental agencies during the July 2014 public scoping period.

In compliance with CEQA, the CPUC held a separate 30-day public scoping period in May/June 2014. In May 2014, the CPUC held four public scoping meetings. The CPUC published the CPUC Scoping Report in July 2014, which summarizes the results of this first scoping period.

1.1 Purpose of Scoping

The process of determining the focus and content of the EIR/EIS is known as scoping. Scoping helps to identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth, and eliminates from detailed study those issues that are not pertinent to the final decision on the proposed project. The scoping process is not intended to resolve differences of opinion regarding the proposed project or evaluate its merits. Instead, the process allows all interested parties to express their concerns regarding the proposed project and thereby ensures that all opinions and comments are considered in the environmental analysis. Scoping is an effective way to bring together and address the concerns of the public, affected agencies, and other interested parties. Members of the public, relevant federal, State, regional and local agencies, interests groups, community organizations, and other interested parties may participate in the scoping process by providing comments or recommendations regarding issues to be investigated in the EIR/EIS.

Comments received during the scoping process are part of the public record as documented in this scoping report. The comments and questions received during both public scoping periods have been reviewed and considered by the BLM and CPUC in determining the appropriate scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR/EIS and in the selection of alternatives to be carried forward for further analysis.

The purpose of scoping for the WOD project was to:

- Inform the public and relevant public agencies about the project, NEPA and CEQA requirements, and the environmental impact analysis process;
- Solicit input on the WOD project for evaluation in the EIR/EIS; and
- Update the mailing list of public agencies and individuals interested in future project meetings and notices.

1.2 Summary of the Project

The West of Devers Upgrade Project would be located primarily within the existing West of Devers transmission corridor in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties including the Morongo Band of Mission Indians reservation and the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and Redlands. The West of Devers corridor traverses residential, commercial, agricultural, recreation, and open space land uses.

The WOD project as proposed by SCE includes the following major components:

- **Removal and upgrade** of existing 220 kV transmission lines primarily within the existing WOD corridor in six segments (see Notice of Preparation figures in Appendix A). The project segments are described as follows:
  - **Segment 1: San Bernardino.** Two existing 220 kV double-circuit lines include 45 double-circuit towers (average height 136 feet) that would be removed, and installation of 61 towers (average height 135 feet) that would be installed within the existing right-of-way (ROW).
  - **Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda.** One existing 220 kV line (average height 139 feet) would be removed and rebuilt, including the removal of 29 double-circuit towers and installation of 35 towers (average height 146 feet).
  - **Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon.** Removal of three existing sets of 220 kV towers and construction of two sets of towers, requiring removal of 116 individual towers (average height 86 feet for single-circuit towers and 139 feet for double-circuit towers) and installation of 133 towers (average height 143 feet).
  - **Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning.** Removal of approximately 175 structures (average height 90 feet for single-circuit towers and 139 feet for double-circuit towers), and installation of approximately 136 towers (average height 142 feet).
  - **Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Vicinity.** Six miles of this 9.5-mile segment are on Morongo tribal lands. On the tribal lands, SCE was originally considering two route options, but as of April 7, 2014, the tribe indicated to SCE that it designated Route Option 1 as its preferred route alternative. In this segment, approximately 137 structures would be removed (average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 140 feet for double-circuit towers) and approximately 108 structures (average height 144 feet) would be installed. In this segment, three miles of the existing ROW on Morongo land would be abandoned and relocated to the south, near the I-10 Freeway (this route is Route Option 1).
  - **Segment 6: Whitewater and Devers Substation.** Removal of approximately 116 structures (average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 141 feet for double-circuit towers) and installation of 93 towers (average height 157 feet).
- **Substation equipment upgrades** at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, and Vista Substations to accommodate increased power transfer on 220 kV lines.
- **Subtransmission upgrades** would include removal and relocation of 2 miles of existing 66 kV lines and upgrades at Timoteo and Tennessee 66/12 kV Substations to accommodate the relocated 66 kV line.

- Electric **distribution line upgrades** would include removal and relocation of 4 miles of existing 12 kV lines.
- Installation of **telecommunication lines** and equipment for the protection, monitoring, and control of transmission lines and substation equipment.

1.3 Scoping Report Organization

This scoping report includes four main sections and appendices, as described below:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the report and describes the purpose of scoping and a brief overview of the WOD project considered for analysis in the EIR/EIS.
- Section 2 provides information on the scoping meetings and outreach resources.
- Section 3 summarizes the comments received and issues raised during the scoping comment period.
- Section 4 describes the next steps in the EIR/EIS process.
- Appendices consist of all the supporting materials used during scoping as well as copies of comment letters. The appendices include copies of the Notice of Intent, meeting materials provided at the public scoping meeting, newspaper advertisements, and a summary of all comments received during this second public scoping process.

2. Project Scoping

This section describes the methods used to notify the public and agencies about the scoping process conducted for WOD. It outlines how information was made available for public and agency review and identifies the different avenues available for providing comments on the project (meetings, fax, email, mail, and phone).

2.1 Notice of Intent

As required by federal regulation 40 CFR 1508.22, the BLM issued a Notice of Intent stating its intention to prepare an EIR/EIS. The BLM published the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on July 1, 2014, which initiated the BLM public scoping period on the WOD project. The NOI summarized the proposed project, stated the agency's intention to prepare a joint EIR/EIS, and requested comments from interested parties (see Appendix A). The 30-day scoping period ended on July 31, 2014.

2.2 Tribal Government Consultation

In June 2014, the BLM sent out letters to 14 tribal government representatives to initiate government-to-government consultation for this project. The letter provides initial notification regarding the project, explains the role of the BLM, and invites the tribal government to enter into government-to-government consultation. The intent is to identify any issues or concerns the tribe may have about the project.

2.3 Public Scoping Meeting

The BLM held one public scoping meeting on July 16, 2014. The scoping meeting provided an opportunity for the public, community and interest groups, and government agencies to obtain more information on the project, to learn more about the NEPA and CEQA environmental review processes, to ask questions regarding the project, and to provide comment on the project.

Meeting Location and Handouts

Table 1 presents information about the scoping meeting held for the West of Devers Upgrade Project in this second scoping period. Handouts and information materials available at the meeting are listed below. Refer to Appendices A and B for copies of these materials.

- Notice of Preparation
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Project Fact Sheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Self-addressed Comment Form
- Speaker Registration Card

Table 1. Public Scoping Meeting

Date and Time	Location	Signed-in	Speakers	Comment Letters
Wednesday, July 16, 2014 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	**Banning** Banning City Hall – Council Chambers 99 E. Ramsey Street, Banning, CA 92220	16	6	2

Other information was also made available for public review, which included an overview map of the project alignment, as well as a series of maps that provided more detailed information regarding the project segments. Also, the Frequently Asked Questions handout was translated into Spanish and available at the meeting for review.

Press Release

The BLM prepared and issued a press release announcing the start of the public scoping period and announcing the date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting. The BLM submitted this notice to print media for publication.

Scoping Meeting Notice

The BLM distributed a scoping mailer (postcard) to approximately 13,300 federal, State, regional, and local agencies, and elected officials, community and environmental organizations, Native American groups, and property owners. The postcard notice included a brief description about the project and provided information regarding the date, time and location of the public meeting. The mailing included the following approximate distribution:

- 142 agency representatives (includes over 71 different agencies)
- 37 environmental groups/organizations
- 5 tribal government representatives (2 different tribal governments)
- 30 elected officials
- 12,600 property owners within 600 feet of the project route alignment
- 421 other interested parties

2.4 Outreach

The BLM and CPUC provided opportunities for the public and agencies to ask questions or comment on the project outside of meetings. A project information hotline, email address, and website were established and available during the public comment period. Information on these additional outreach efforts are described below.

Project Information Hotline

To offer another opportunity to inquire about the public scoping meetings or the proposed project, a project-specific phone line (888-456-0254) was established to answer questions and take verbal comments from those unable to attend the meeting. Telephone messages were retrieved and all calls were promptly addressed. The phone line also allowed for comments to be submitted in writing by fax instead of mail. Only inquiries (questions) were provided through the phone line; no comments were received through this phone line (voice or fax) regarding the scope of the EIR/EIS.

Email Address

An email address (westofdevers@aspeneg.com) was established for the project to provide another means of submitting comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. The email address was provided on meeting handouts and posted on the website. Comments received by email have been considered and incorporated into this report.

Internet Website

The BLM established a project-specific website to provide ongoing information about the proposed project. The website provided, and will continue to provide throughout the project, another public venue to learn about the project. The website will remain a public information resource for the project and will announce future public meetings and hearings. The website address is:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/transmission/WestOfDeversProject.html

Distribution List/Database

The BLM and CPUC have compiled a comprehensive project-specific mailing list with over 13,300 entries. The mailing list/database was updated after the scoping meetings and the scoping comment period; the mailing list was reviewed to confirm all meeting attendees and all individuals, organizations, and agencies that submitted written comments were on the list. This mailing list will continue to be used throughout the environmental review process for the project to distribute public notices and will continue to be updated to ensure all interested parties are notified of key project milestones.

3. Scoping Comments

This section summarizes the key issues raised during the public comment period. A total of 12 written comment letters were submitted and 6 individuals presented oral comments during the public scoping meeting. Appendix C of this report includes a summary of all comments received on the WOD project including the oral comments presented at the public scoping meeting. Appendix D includes copies of the written comment letters submitted on the project. The key issues raised are discussed below.

Aesthetics/Visual

One commenter requested that the applicant consider the aesthetics of the neighborhood when building towers.

Conflicts with Existing Land Uses

The project bisects the Colorado River Aqueduct, and thus, there was some concern that the project could impact the ongoing operation, maintenance, and repair of the aqueduct. The Metropolitan Water District requested that design plans be reviewed and approved by them and that the EIR/EIS consider potential impacts to the aqueduct. The California Department of Water Resources noted that permits may be required if any improvements encroach on the Colorado River Aqueduct right-of-way.

Several commenters raised a concern with the placement of the towers closer to existing homes and wanted to know why SCE could not place the towers farther away from existing residences.

One commenter noted that they appreciated that the transmission towers would be placed far from the Interstate 10 freeway and not on the hillsides. They felt their area was one of the few remaining areas where residents got an unobstructed view of the hillsides.

One commenter requested that the two transmission line corridors near his property be consolidated into one existing corridor. He thought this would reduce the environmental footprint and be easier to maintain.

One commenter noted that the proposed location of towers would be in the middle of their property and would limit their ability to build on their property or to sell the property for full market value.

Social/Economic

Commenters expressed concern with the project's impact on property values because of towers being moved closer to homes.

Commenters expressed concern with security/safety and general wellbeing when living near an electrical transmission corridor.

Fire, EMF, and Other Hazards

CAL FIRE noted that the area has a history of wildfires and requested to be notified of construction activities and suggested that a plan be put in place to coordinate a response to fires if helicopters will be used in construction.

Several concerns were raised regarding the safety of the transmission lines especially if they are placed closer to homes and wanted to know if the lines would increase the potential for exposure to EMF with the new towers. One commenter requested that the EIR/EIS study the potential health risks associated with transmission towers.

One commenter noted that if there could be no guarantee that the transmission towers would not pose a health risk, then the project applicant should buy all of the properties close to transmission towers. Some of properties are rentals and no one will want to rent a house with a transmission line next to it.

One commenter stated that he wanted to see measures that address survival of the transmission lines when under terrorist bombs or other disaster designed to wipe out the electrical grid.

Construction-Related (Dust, Traffic)

Commenters expressed concern with construction dust and requested that dust suppression measures be included in the EIR/EIS.

Some commenters expressed concern with the potential for damaging local roads and increasing traffic.

Biological Resources

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife requested a thorough evaluation and mitigation of impacts to sensitive species in the project area and also asked for the EIR/EIS to consider the two Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plans that are in place in the project area.

Another request was for the EIR/EIS to evaluate the project's impact on common ravens, red-tailed hawks, and golden eagles. In the evaluation of these species, the commenter asked that other issues be taken into consideration, such as global warming.

4. Next Steps in EIR/EIS Process

While scoping is the initial step in the environmental review process, additional opportunities to comment on the WOD EIR/EIS will be provided. The BLM and CPUC will request additional public input when the Draft EIR/EIS is released, and during public meetings for the Draft EIR/EIS. Table 2 presents a proposed schedule for the EIR/EIS, and identifies where in the process the public and agencies can provide additional input in the environmental review process.

Table 2. EIR/EIS Schedule

Event/Document		Purpose	Approximate Date
Completed Events & Documents			
CPUC Scoping Notice of Preparation	Release of NOP	Notified interested parties and agencies of the CPUC's intent to prepare an EIR.	May 2014
	Public scoping period	Held 30-day public scoping period on the proposed project to provide for public comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS.	May 12 to June 12, 2014
CPUC Scoping Meetings	Held 4 scoping meetings	Presented information on the WOD project and provided opportunity for public and agency comments in a public forum.	May 19, 20, and 21, 2014
CPUC Scoping Report		Documents public and agency comments on the WOD project and environmental issues of concern to the public and agencies.	July 2014
BLM Scoping Notice of Intent	Release of NOI	Notifies federal agencies and interested parties of the BLM and CPUC's intent to prepare an EIR/EIS.	July 1, 2014
	Public scoping period	A second public scoping period was provided.	July 1 to July 31, 2014

Table 2. EIR/EIS Schedule

Event/Document		Purpose	Approximate Date
BLM Scoping Meeting	Held one scoping meeting	One additional scoping meeting was conducted approximately two weeks after publication of the NOI in the Federal Register.	July 16, 2014
BLM Scoping Report		Documents public and agency comments made during the BLM scooping period.	August 2014
Upcoming Events & Documents			
Draft EIR/EIS	Release of Draft EIR/EIS	Presents impacts and mitigation for the WOD project and its alternatives.	Early 2015
	Public Review Period	Minimum 45-day public review period on the Draft EIR/EIS.	Early 2015
	Draft EIR/EIS public meetings	Allows for public comment on Draft EIR/EIS in a public venue.	Early 2015
Final EIR/EIS	Release of Final EIR/EIS	Final EIR/EIS, with response to comments, issued by the CPUC and BLM.	Second quarter 2015
Decisions on Project		Commission certifies EIR and issues a Proposed Decision for public review. Full Commission votes and a Decision is published.	Spring 2015
		BLM issues Record of Decision.	Spring 2015

Dated: June 20, 2014.

Kevin K. Washburn,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2014–15470 Filed 6–30–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–W7–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCO921000–L51100000–GA0000–LVEMC1300020, COC–75916]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale COC–75916, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain Federal coal reserves in the Spruce Stomp Tract described below in Delta County, Colorado, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m. on July 30, 2014. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 9:30 a.m., July 30, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Colorado State Office, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kyle Free, Solid Minerals Engineer, by telephone at 303–239–3774, or by email at *kfree@blm.gov.* Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Bowie Resources, LLC. The Federal coal reserves to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by underground mining methods in the following described lands located in Delta County, Colorado:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 12 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.,
Sec. 31, lots 11 to 26, inclusive;
Sec. 32, lots 10 to 15, inclusive.
T. 12 S., R. 92 W., 6th P.M.,
Sec 36, S½.
T. 13 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.,
Sec. 5, lots 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11, E½SW¼NE¼, N½NW¼SW¼NE¼, N½N½ SE¼ NW¼, N½NE¼NE¼SE¼, NE¼NW¼NE¼SE¼, W½W½NE¼SE¼, E½NW¼SE¼;
Sec. 6, lots 1 to 4, inclusive.
T. 13 S., R. 92 W., 6th P.M.,
Sec. 1, lots 5 to 8, inclusive.

These lands contain 1,790.20 acres, more or less.

The tracts contain an estimated 8.02 million tons of recoverable coal reserves. The underground minable coal is ranked as B bituminous coal. The estimated coal quality on an as-received basis for the Tracts is as follows:

British Thermal Unit (BTU)	12,896 BTU/lb.
Volatile Matter	23.23%
Moisture	3.38%
Fixed Carbon	62.16%
Sulfur Content	0.63%
Ash Content	10.60%

The tracts will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds the BLM's estimate of the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tracts is $100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than $100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

The sealed bids should be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, or be hand delivered to the Cashier, BLM Colorado State Office, at the address given above and clearly marked "Sealed Bid for COC–75916 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 10 a.m., July 30, 2014." The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 9:30 a.m. on July 30, 2014 will not be considered. If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking, sealed-bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the sale official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received. A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of $3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States in the amount of 8 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods.

Prior to lease issuance, the high bidder, if other than the applicant, must pay the BLM the cost recovery fees in the amount of $48,015.20 in addition to all processing costs the BLM incurs after the date of this sale notice (43 CFR 3473.2).

Bidding instructions for the LBA tracts offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale and available from the BLM Colorado State Office at the address above. Case file documents, COC–75916, are available for inspection at the BLM Colorado State Office Public Room.

Ruth Welch,

BLM Colorado State Director.

[FR Doc. 2014–15496 Filed 6–27–14; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–JB–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 63162, LLCAD06000.L51010000.ER0000.13X.LVRWB13B541]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report for the West of Devers Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office intends to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIR/EIS) in cooperation with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in order to analyze Southern California Edison's proposal for the West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD UP) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until July 31, 2014. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd.html* and at the CPUC Web site at: *http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm.* In order to be included in the analysis, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days

after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues related to the West of Devers Upgrade Project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/transmission/WestOfDeversProject.html.*
- *Email: blm_ca_west_of_devers@blm.gov.*
- *Fax:* 951–697–5299.
- *Mail:* ATTN: Field Manager; Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM California Desert District Office and the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS/EIR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Brian Paul; telephone 760–337–4445; address ATTN: Field Manager; Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262; email *rpaul@blm.gov.* Contact Mr. Paul to have your name added to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact Mr. Paul during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question for Mr. Paul. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Southern California Edison (SCE) is proposing to upgrade and adjust the routes of the following existing 220 kV transmission lines within SCE's existing West of Devers right-of way corridor in incorporated and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties: Devers-El Casco (30 miles), El Casco-San Bernardino (14 miles), Devers-San Bernardino (43 miles), Devers-Vista No. 1 and No. 2 (45 miles), Etiwanda-San Bernardino (3.5 miles), and San Bernardino-Vista (3.5 miles). Of the overall 48-mile length of the transmission corridor, approximately 6 miles would cross the reservation Trust Lands (Reservation) of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and approximately 1 mile is on BLM-administered public lands. The BLM lands are located east of the City of Banning and west of the City of Desert Hot Springs in Riverside County.

In addition to the transmission line improvements, substation equipment at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, Timoteo and Tennessee and Vista Substations would be upgraded to accommodate the project changes to transmission and subtransmission systems. Construction of WOD UP would facilitate the full deliverability of new renewable energy generation resources now being developed in eastern Riverside County, including the BLM's Riverside East Solar Energy Zone into the Los Angeles area.

The WOD UP would facilitate progress towards meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard goals requiring utilities to produce 33 percent of their electricity sales from renewable energy sources by 2020. Large-scale renewable energy projects in eastern Riverside County play an important role in meeting California's renewable energy goals, allowing for immediate and sizeable deployment, driving costs down, and taking advantage of the state's best renewable energy resources. Additionally, these upgrades are required to comply with transmission reliability standards and will support integration of small scale electricity generation.

This document provides notice that the Palm Springs/South Coast BLM Field Office, Palm Springs, California, intends to prepare a joint EIS/EIR with the California Public Utilities Commission for the WOD UP, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on environmental issues and planning criteria. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the EIR/EIS have been identified by BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues include: Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources including special status species, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, recreation, traffic, visual resources, cumulative effects, and areas with high potential for renewable energy development, and identification of opportunities to apply mitigation hierarchy strategies for on-site, regional, and compensatory mitigation.

The BLM will use the NEPA public participation requirements to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Thomas Pogacnik,

Deputy State Director.

[FR Doc. 2014–15410 Filed 6–30–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–PWR–PWRO–15353; PPPWSEKI00/PX.P0206452A.00.1]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California. The plan is needed to provide management direction for two designated wilderness areas, several potential wilderness additions, and an area of proposed wilderness. The plan

SCE's Proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project

CPUC / BLM
Scoping Meeting
for preparation of a
Draft EIR/EIS

May 19-21, 2014

Meeting Participants & Agenda

- **Introduction of Speakers; Agenda Summary**
  Chester Britt, Arellano & Associates
- **Purpose of Scoping** – ***Chester Britt***
- **Description of Proposed Project** – ***Susan Lee, Aspen***
- **CPUC Process and Schedule**
  Billie Blanchard, CPUC
- **BLM Process and Schedule**
  John Kalish, BLM
- **EIR/EIS Process** – ***Susan Lee***
- **Comments from the Public and Agencies**

The Purpose of Scoping

- To inform the public and responsible agencies about an upcoming project for which an EIR/EIS will be prepared
- To inform the public about the environmental review process
- To solicit input regarding the potential alternatives to the proposed project and the appropriate scope of issues to be studied in the EIR/EIS
- To identify issues of concern and areas of potential controversy
- Scoping Report will be prepared and distributed to repositories, and placed on project website

Key Players and their Roles in the CEQA / NEPA Process

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC): Lead Agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Lead Agency under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Southern California Edison Company (SCE): the Applicant
- Aspen Environmental Group: Environmental Consultant to the CPUC/BLM

Description of the Proposed Project: Transmission Components

Major elements of SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project:

- Replacing existing 220 kV transmission lines with higher-capacity 220 kV transmission lines; removal of older existing towers
- Transmission line changes would occur over 45 miles.
- Construction could take 3 to 4 years; online in 2019

Segment	New Towers	Removed Towers	Segment	New Towers	Removed Towers
1. San Bernardino	61	45	4. Beaumont, Banning	136	175
2. Colton, Loma Linda	35	29	5. Morongo Tribal Lands	108	137
3. San Timoteo Canyon	133	116	6. Whitewater, Devers	93	116

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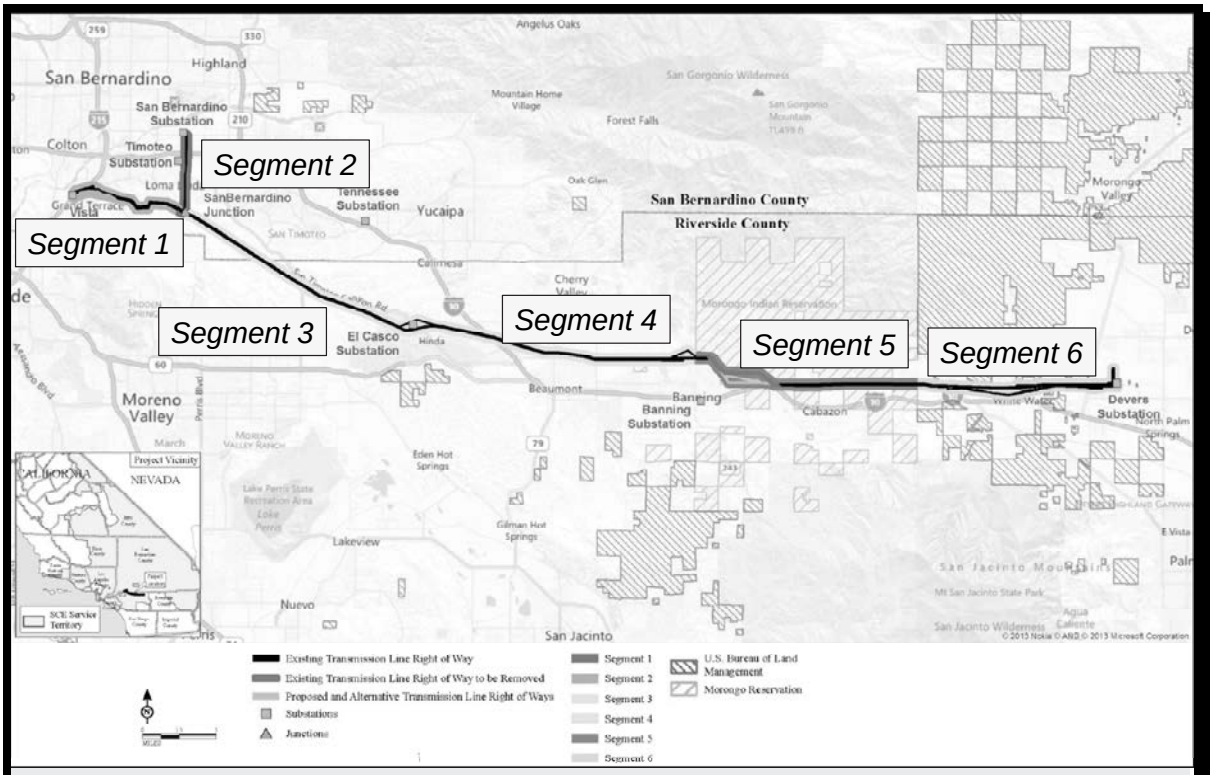


West of Devers Upgrade Project divides transmission line into 6 segments, numbered from west to east

6

Description of the Proposed Project: Other Components

Major non-transmission elements of SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project:

- Upgrade substation equipment at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, and Vista Substations
- Upgrade Timoteo and Tennessee 66/12 kV Substations to accommodate 66 kV subtransmission line relocations;
- Remove and relocate 2 miles of existing 66 kV subtransmission lines;
- Remove and relocate 4 miles of existing 12 kV distribution lines; and
- Install telecommunication lines and equipment for the protection, monitoring, and control of transmission lines and substation equipment.

Morongo Tribal Investment Option

- SCE and Morongo Transmission LLC have executed a Development and Coordination Agreement (DCA) which provides for an option to lease electricity transfer capability in the WOD transmission line
- This option was a key factor in the negotiation of the ROW agreement between SCE and Morongo to permit continued operation of existing and proposed upgrades on Morongo Land
- The option is exercisable at the commercial operation date of the project
- Approvals for the transaction are required from FERC and the CPUC before the option may be exercised

Need for the Proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project

SCE's major objective for the West of Devers Upgrade Project is to increase the now-limited electricity transfer capacity into the LA Basin from the desert.

Specifically, SCE states that the project would:

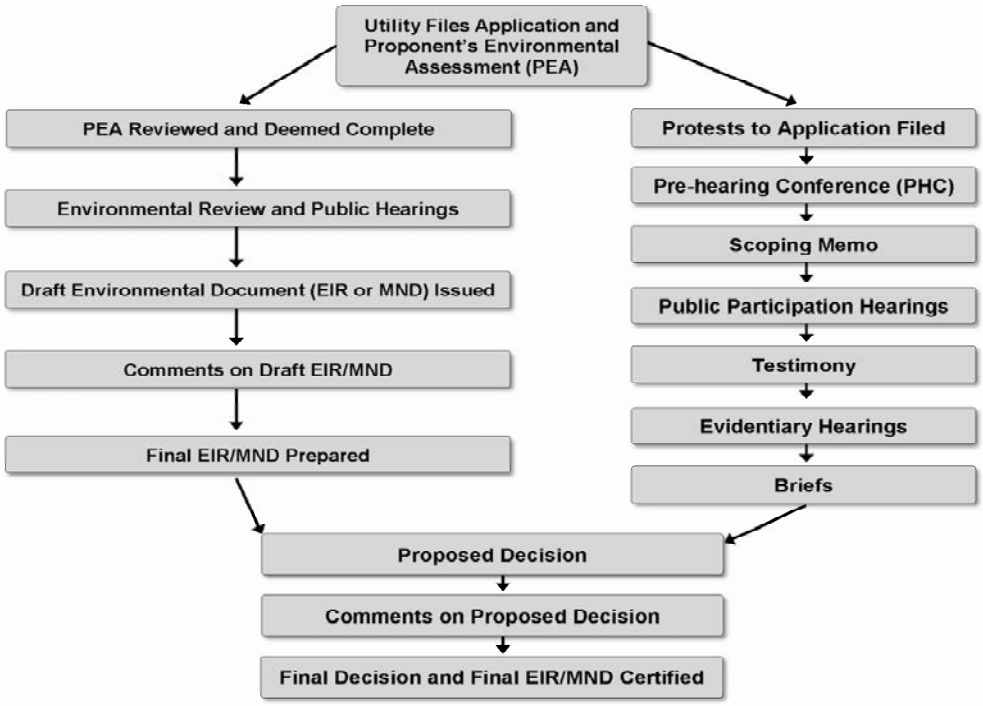
1. Allow SCE to fully deliver the output of new generation projects located in the Blythe and Desert Center areas.
2. Maximize the use of existing transmission line rights-of-way consistent with prudent transmission planning.
3. Meet project need while minimizing environmental impacts.
4. Facilitate progress toward achieving California's RPS goals.
5. Comply with applicable Reliability Standards and SCE's approved design, and construction standards.
6. Construct facilities in a timely and cost-effective manner by minimizing service interruptions to the extent practicable.

CPUC Review Process

The CPUC has two parallel review processes for this SCE Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN):

- General Proceeding: Applications # A.13-10-020
- Environmental Review: the CEQA/NEPA process

CPUC Process



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General Proceeding for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

Led by:

- Assigned Commissioner Michael Peevey and Administrative Law Judge Jessica Hecht

Scope (defined by Public Utilities Code Section 1002):

- Determine need for the project (facilities are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of the public)
- Consider community values, recreational and park areas, historic and aesthetic values
- Review environmental impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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CPUC General Proceeding

CPUC General Proceeding Schedule	
First Pre-Hearing Conference	After Release of Draft EIR/EIS
Second Prehearing Conference and Public Participation Hearing	To be determined by ALJ
Scoping Memo for General Proceeding	After pre-hearing conference, as determined by ALJ
Testimony Exchanged	To be determined by ALJ
Evidentiary Hearings	To be determined by ALJ
ALJ's Proposed Decision	To be determined by ALJ
Final Decision by CPUC	To be determined by ALJ

Environmental Review Schedule: CEQA

SCE filed CPCN Application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment	October 25, 2013
Notice of Preparation for EIR	May 12, 2014
CEQA Public Scoping for EIR/EIS	May 12 – June 12, 2014
Public Review of Draft EIR/EIS ■ 45-day Comment Period ■ Public Consultation	Estimated Fall 2014
Final EIR/EIS	Early 2015
EIR Certified by CPUC	Spring 2015

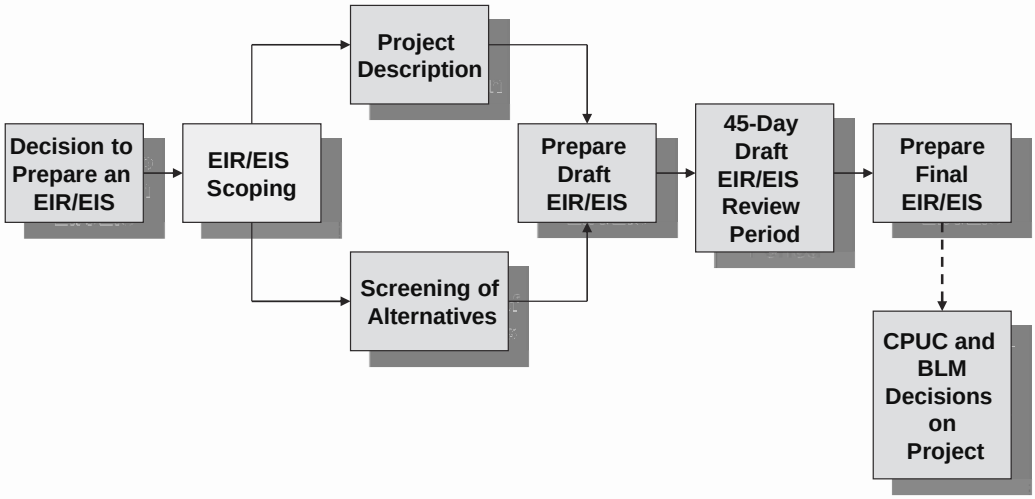
BLM Process

- SCE filed BLM Plan of Development for project on March 7, 2014
- A revised ROW must be granted to cross BLM-administered lands:
  - 1.1 linear miles in Riverside County and access roads
- Nation to Nation Consultation Process with interested tribes
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS will be published in Federal Register
  - BLM will hold an additional scoping meeting within another 30 day scoping period: likely June/July 2014

Other Key Agencies and Tribes

- Cities and Counties along the route
  - Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
  - Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Redlands, Loma Linda, Grand Terrace, Colton
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Other interested tribes
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
- CA State Historic Preservation Office

The EIR/EIS Process



General Contents and Purpose of an EIR/EIS

Contents:

- Describe the environmental setting of the project area
- Disclose the potential environmental impacts of the project and alternatives
- Propose measures to reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures)

Purpose:

- Provide technically sound information for decision-makers to consider in evaluating the proposed project

Major Elements of an EIR/EIS

- Detailed Project Description
- Description of Alternatives Screening Process and Alternatives Carried Forward
- Impacts of Proposed Project
- Impacts of Alternatives
- Mitigation Measures
- Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Growth Inducing Effects
- Mitigation Monitoring

Environmental Disciplines Included in an EIR/EIS

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Geology & Soils
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use
- Noise
- Paleontology
- Public Health & Safety
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities

Alternatives Analysis

Reasonable range of alternatives determined by:

- Consistency with most project objectives
  - Meeting all objectives is not required
- Ability to reduce or avoid impacts of proposed project
  - Scoping comments will help identify impacts
- Feasibility
  - Technical concerns (can it be built?)
  - Regulatory feasibility (could it be permitted?)
  - Legal issues (would it be allowed under law?)

Alternatives Analysis

Screening of alternatives analysis will include consideration of:

- Transmission design and location alternatives within existing right-of-way
- Reconsideration of SCE's PEA alternatives
- Reconsideration of alternatives eliminated by SCE
- Alternatives suggested in scoping comments

After EIR/EIS Completion

CPUC:

- Commission will vote on the project
- EIR is referenced in the Decision
- If the project or an alternative is approved, the Decision will require monitoring of adopted mitigation measures and definition of mitigation monitoring procedures.

BLM:

- 30-day comment/protest period following publication of Final EIR/EIS
- Prepare Record of Decision

EIR/EIS Scoping Comments

The most useful scoping comments —

1. Identify the location and extent of environmental impacts of the proposed project.
2. Recommend alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts of the proposed project.

Written Scoping Comments For CPUC Scoping Must be Postmarked by June 12, 2014

Please send comments to:

Billie Blanchard (CPUC) / Brian Paul (BLM)
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104
or
E-mail: westofdevers@aspeneg.com
Fax: (888) 456-0254

Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on all comments.

Reminder: An additional Scoping Period will be held by BLM in June or July 2014.

For More Information:

- Check our website:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm

- Information Repositories: 15 area libraries and offices have project information
- E-mail us at: **westofdevers@aspeneg.com**
- Call the Project Information Line: (888) 456-0254 (voice or fax)

Additional Questions?

Thank you for coming!

Comment Form

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Please print legibly. For more information, visit the project web site:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm Thank you for your comments.

Date: _____

Name*: _____

Affiliation (*if any*):* _____

Address:* _____

City, State, Zip Code:* _____

Telephone Number:* _____

Email:* _____

Comment:* _____

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Please send me notifications by: ☐ **email** ☐ **mail** ☐ **I do not want to be on the project mailing list**

**This information may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.*

Your comments will help determine the scope and content of the environmental document and identify alternatives and measures to reduce impacts. Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); attach additional sheets if needed. Please submit comments by June 12, 2014. You may also submit comments by email to westofdevers@aspeneg.com or by phone (888) 456-0254.

Place
Postage
Here

Billie Blanchard (CPUC PM)/Brian Paul (BLM PM)
California Public Utilities Commission and
Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Speaker Registration Card

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Speaker Registration Card

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tower Height

The West of Devers Upgrade Project requires removal of existing transmission towers and construction of new stronger towers to carry the heavier conductors that can carry more electricity. Table 1 presents the range of tower height within each existing segment and the average height of existing towers. In the last column, the table presents the range and average height of the proposed new towers. Note that the segment numbers and locations are defined on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

Table 1. WOD Upgrade Project - Height of Existing and Proposed Towers

Segment No.	EXISTING 220 kV Single Circuit Towers **		EXISTING 220 kV Double Circuit Towers		PROPOSED NEW 220 kV Double-Circuit Towers	
	Range of Existing Tower Height	Average Existing Tower Height	Range of Existing Tower Height	Average Existing Tower Height	Range of Proposed Tower Height	Average Proposed Tower Height
1	none	none	116' - 170'	**136 feet**	65’ – 180’	**134 feet**
2	none	none	111' - 174'	**139 feet**	113’ – 193’	**146 feet**
3	73' – 108'	**86 feet**	116' - 182'	**139 feet**	112’ – 180’	**143 feet**
4	47' – 108'	**84 feet**	115' - 182'	**139 feet**	113’ – 180’	**141 feet**
5	53' – 117'	**84 feet**	121' - 171'	**140 feet**	105’ – 180’	**140 feet**
6	61' – 109'	**82 feet**	115' - 187'	**141 feet**	113’ – 185’	**156 feet**

*** All existing single circuit towers are proposed to be replaced with double circuit towers.*

Schedule for CEQA/NEPA Process

Table 2 presents a preliminary schedule for issuance of the Draft and Final EIR/EIS that will evaluate the environmental impacts of the project proposed by SCE. The first step in the process will be public scoping, when the lead agencies will reach out to the public, appropriate local and regional agencies, and tribal governments. Concurrently, the BLM is beginning its process for outreach to Native American tribes as part of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Table 2. Proposed EIR/EIS Schedule

CEQA/NEPA Process Steps	Timeframe
Scoping and Agency Outreach	Spring 2014
Draft EIR/EIS	Late 2014
Public Comments on Draft EIR/EIS	Late 2014
Final EIR/EIS	Early 2015
Agency Decisions	Early 2015
Construction	2016 to 2020

Fact Sheet

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Southern California Edison (SCE) has proposed to upgrade existing transmission facilities in parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California. The West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD-UP Project or Proposed Project) is subject to review under both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The environmental review of the WOD-UP Project is being managed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The CPUC, as the lead agency under CEQA, and the BLM, as the lead agency under NEPA, will prepare and publish a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in compliance with CEQA and NEPA requirements.

Project Overview

If the Proposed Project is approved, 618 existing 220 kilovolt (kV) towers would be removed and two sets of 220 kV double-circuit towers would be constructed in the existing 48-mile corridor. As shown on the map on the following page, these lines interconnect the following substations:

- Devers Substation (North Palm Springs)
- El Casco Substation (Riverside County)
- Etiwanda Substation (San Bernardino)
- San Bernardino Substation (San Bernardino)
- Vista Substation (Colton).

Other project elements include:

- Upgrades of smaller subtransmission lines and improvements at the Timoteo and Tennessee substations
- Installation of telecommunication lines and equipment for the protection, monitoring, and control of transmission lines and substation equipment.

Project History

SCE previously proposed to upgrade these transmission lines in April of 2005, as part of an SCE application for a new 500 kilovolt (kV) interstate transmission line project in Arizona and California known as the Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 (DPV2) Project. As proposed in 2005, the DPV2 project had three major components:

- A 500 kV transmission line from Arizona to Blythe, California
- A 500 kV line from Blythe to Devers Substation north of Palm Springs
- Upgrades to SCE's 220 kV transmission system west of Devers Substation.

The CPUC and BLM approved the proposed DPV2 Project in January 2007, except for the West of Devers Upgrades. The upgrades were replaced by an alternative 500 kV transmission segment between the Devers and Valley Substations. The proposed 220 kV West of Devers components could not be approved by the CPUC and BLM because at the time of agency decisions the Morongo Band of Mission Indians had not reached an agreement with SCE regarding the renewal of the right-of-way (ROW) for the segment of the corridor crossing tribal land.

In May 2008, SCE modified the approved project so it would extend only from a new Colorado River Substation near Blythe to the Devers Substation and then onto the Valley Substation in Romoland. The modified project was approved and it has been constructed. The new transmission line was energized in 2013.

Current Project Details

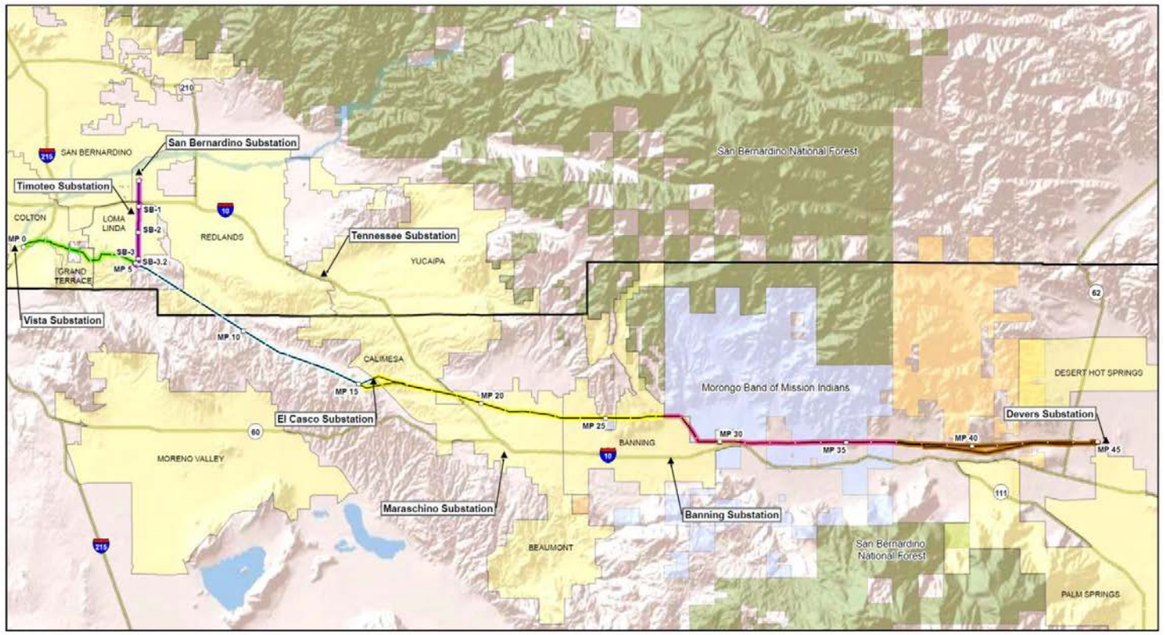
In 2013, SCE and the Morongo Band agreed on terms for ROW renewal for the portion of transmission corridor on Morongo tribal land. According to SCE, the Proposed Project is needed to facilitate delivery of new electric power into the greater Los Angeles area by increasing the capacity of the transmission system. The Proposed Project would facilitate progress towards meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard goals requiring utilities to produce 33% of their electricity sales from renewable energy sources by 2020.

For additional information on the WOD-UP Project, and a schedule of public meetings, please check the CPUC project website at:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm

Alternatively, you can call the project hotline at (888) 456-0254 or send an e-mail to the project team at **westofdevers@aspeneg.com**.

Spring 2014



Project Overview

The Project would be located primarily within the existing West of Devers transmission right-of-way (ROW) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The ROW crosses unincorporated county lands, 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 (see map).

The existing 220 kV transmission lines are supported by a mix of lattice steel towers, tubular steel poles, and wood pole structures.

Over 600 tower structures would be removed as part of the Project. These would be replaced with about 560 new structures.

The Project is divided into six segments, as shown on the map above. The segments are described in the following paragraphs, starting at the west end of the corridor. Additional detail on each segment is available on the project website (see page 1).

Segment 1: San Bernardino

This segment is 3.5 miles long and connects the San Bernardino Junction (where the transmission corridor from the east splits into two separate routes) with the existing SCE San Bernardino Substation. It passes through the Cities of San Bernardino, Redlands, and Loma Linda.

Transmission line work within Segment 1 would include removal of approximately 45 double circuit towers (average height 136 feet) and installation of 61 towers (average height 135 feet), within the existing ROW.

Also within Segment 1, SCE would relocate some lower voltage 66 kV lines to allow for construction space in the ROW, and install new telecommunications lines on existing wood or steel poles.

Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda

Segment 2 connects the Vista Substation (located adjacent to I-215 at Newport Avenue in Grand Terrace), the westernmost point of the Project, with the San Bernardino Junction.

Within this segment, one double-circuit tower line would be removed. It would be replaced in the same corridor along an approximately 5-mile segment, passing through the Cities of Colton, Grand Terrace, and Loma Linda.

Project work within Segment 2 would include removal of 29 double-circuit towers (average height 139 feet) and installation of 35 towers (average height 146 feet).

Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon

Segment 3 extends east from the Loma Linda area, through San Timoteo Canyon. Approximately 10 miles long, the segment ends at SCE's existing El Casco Substation, located on San Timoteo Canyon Road just west of Beaumont.

Segment 3 includes three separate sets of existing towers that would be removed and replaced with two sets of new 220 kV double circuit towers. Project work within Segment 3 would include removal of 116 towers (average height 86 feet for single-circuit towers and 139 feet for double-circuit towers) and Installation of 133 towers (average height 143 feet).

Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning

Segment 4 is about 12 miles long, extending east from El Casco Substation through Beaumont, to San Gorgonio Avenue at the eastern edge of the City of Banning.

Project work in this segment would require removal and replacement of three existing 220 kV transmission lines. This includes removal of 175 towers (average height 90 feet for single circuit towers and 139 feet for double circuit towers) and installation of 136 new towers (average height 142 feet).

Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Vicinity

Segment 5 extends east approximately 9 miles from San Gorgonio Avenue in Banning to the eastern limit of the Morongo Indian Reservation at Rushmore Avenue in the San Gorgonio Pass. About 3 miles of the existing ROW through the Morongo Indian Reservation would be abandoned and replaced with a new relocated 3-mile alignment pursuant to an SCE-Morongo ROW agreement. Project work within Segment 5 would include removal of 137 towers

(average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 140 feet for double circuit towers) and installation of 108 towers (average height 144 feet).

Segment 6: Whitewater and Devers Substation

Segment 6 extends east from the Morongo Indian Reservation to SCE's existing Devers Substation, north of Palm Springs. This segment includes

removal of 116 transmission towers (average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 141 feet for double-circuit towers) and installation of 93 new towers (average height 157 feet). The new towers would interconnect at the Devers Substation.

Frequently Asked Questions

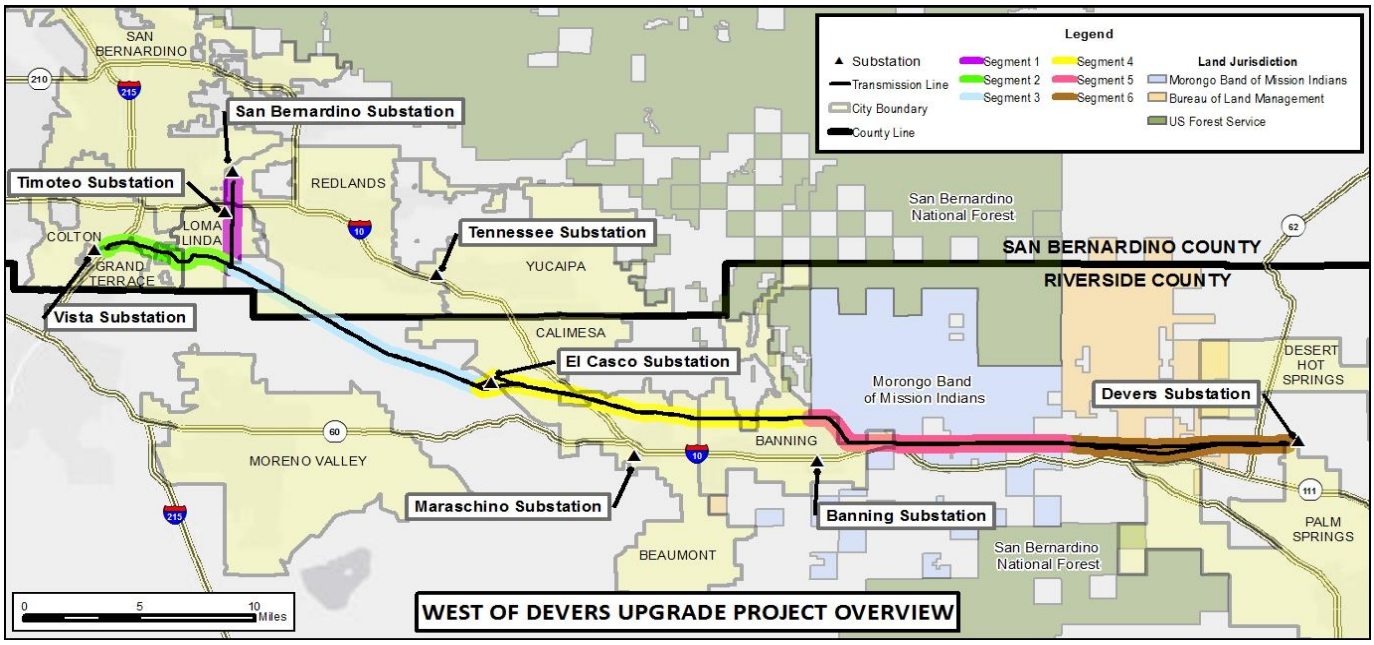
West of Devers Upgrade Project

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.

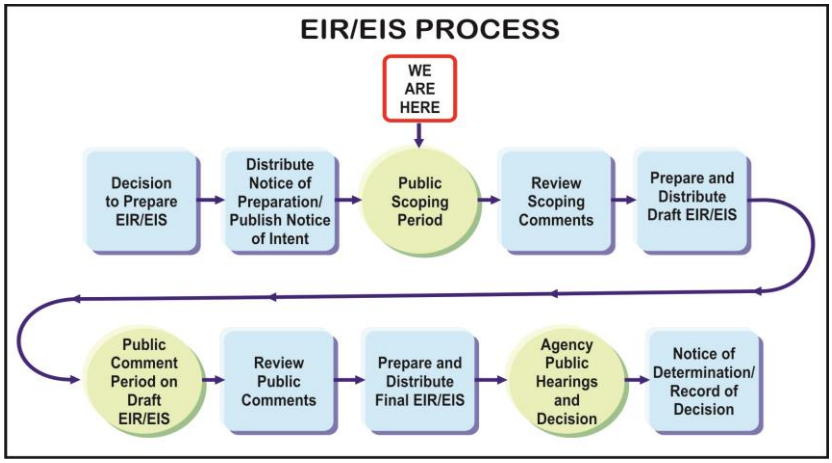
What is meant by "scoping"?

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@aspeneg.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

Preguntas Más Frecuentes

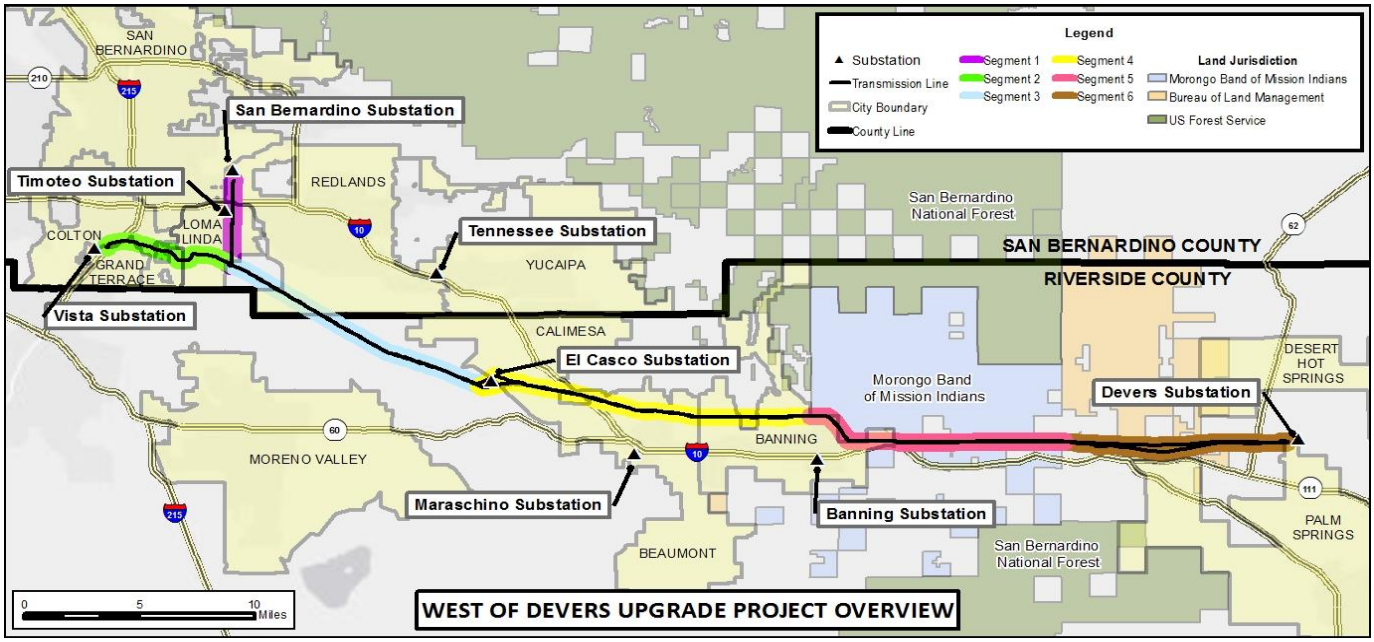
Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers

Condados de Riverside y San Bernardino

Qué es el Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers (WOD)?

La Compañía Southern California Edison (SCE) ha presentado una aplicación para un Certificado de Conveniencia y Necesidad Pública (CPCN) con la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California (CPUC) para el Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers (proyecto). Este proyecto aumentará la capacidad de transferir energía de las líneas de alta tensión de WOD entre las subestaciones Devers, El Casco, Vista, y San Bernardino. Logrará esto por reemplazar las líneas de 220 kilovoltios (kV) existentes y las torres asociadas con líneas de alta tensión nuevas de 220 kV de alta-capacidad y estructuras; modificando subestaciones existentes; eliminando y trasladando líneas de 66 kV existentes, eliminando y trasladando líneas de distribución (12 kV); y haciendo mejoramientos a componentes de telecomunicación.

El proyecto se localiza mayormente dentro del corredor existente de WOD de 48-millas. El corredor del proyecto cruza áreas no incorporadas de los Condados de Riverside y San Bernardino, tierra en reserva de los *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*, y las cuidades de Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, y Yucaipa. El corredor existente de WOD atraviesa usos residenciales, comerciales, agrícolas, recreativas, y de tierra abierta.



Por qué se necesita el Proyecto de Mejoramiento WOD?

Como indica la aplicación de SCE a la CPUC, el proyecto facilitará la entrega de los recursos eléctricos que se desarrolla en la parte este de Condado Riverside. En cuanto proyectos de generación de energía renovable sean completados en el Condado de Riverside, el proyecto permitirá la transferencia de electricidad al área de Los Ángeles, y facilitará progreso a alcanzar los objetivos de California para energía renovable. Estos metas requieren que servicio públicos producen 33 por ciento de las ventas por energía renovable antes de 2020.

Cuáles agencias revisarán el proyecto y qué son sus roles?

La CPUC y el Departamento Interior de Los Estados Unidos, Departamento de Manejo de Tierras (BLM) han determinados que un Informe de Impacto Ambiental/ Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIR/EIS) será preparado para evaluar y documentar los impactos ambientales del proyecto. La CPUC como agencia líder bajo la Ley de Calidad Ambienta de California (CEQA) y el BLM como agencia líder bajo la Ley Nacional de Política Ambienta (NEPA) prepararán el Proyecto de Mejoramiento WOD EIR/EIS consistente con los requerimientos de proceso y contenido identificados por CEQA y NEPA.

Qué significa "*scoping*"?

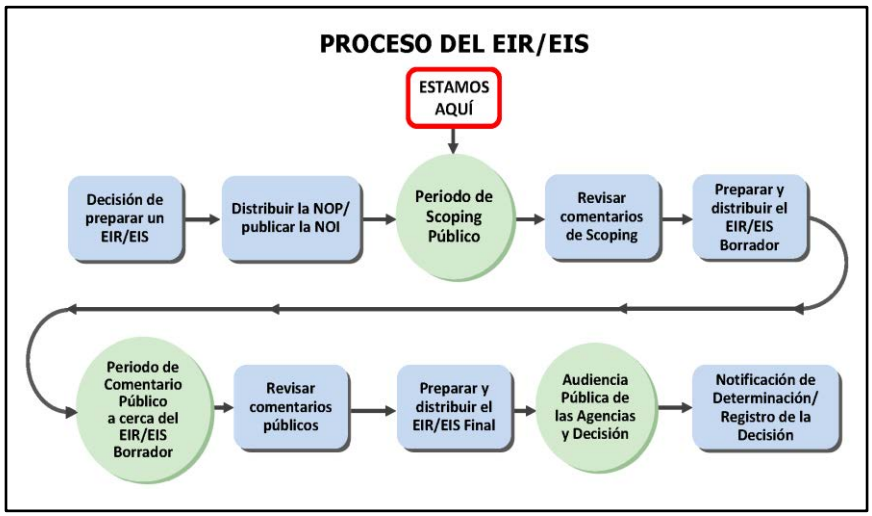
Consistente con las reglas de CEQA/NEPA, *scoping* es un periodo de 30 días en que la agencia líder ofrece una oportunidad por delante a miembros del público y a agencias para ofrecer información sobre el enfoque y contenido del EIR/EIS. Normalmente, proyectos tienen un periodo de *scoping;* este proyecto incluye dos periodos distintos. La CPUC ha comenzado su proceso de *scoping* con la publicación de la Notificación de Preparación en el comienzo de Mayo 2014, que anunció su intento para preparar un EIR para el proyecto y comenzó su periodo de 30 días. Se realizarán cuatro reuniones públicas a medio de Mayo para este periodo de *scoping.* Cuando el BLM publica la Notificación de Intento para preparar un EIS, habrá otro periodo de *scoping* de 30 días y habrá otra reunión pública para este proyecto.

Cuáles son los pasos claves para preparar un EIR/EIS?

La CPUC y el BLM prepararán un EIR/EIS Borrador y Final para evaluar y revelar los efectos ambientales del proyecto, responder a preocupaciones públicos, y proponer medidas de mitigación para reducir impactos potenciales significativos. El Proceso de EIR/EIS provee una visión

Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers

de las etapas principales y oportunidades para contribuir al proceso de reviso ambiental del proyecto. Las reuniones públicas iniciarán el proceso de estudio y ofrecerán una oportunidad para coleccionar información público y de agencias. Se ofrecerán talleres públicos más tarde para presentar un resumen de los resultados del EIR/EIS Borrador y para documentar los comentarios públicos y de agencias sobre el EIR/EIS Borrador, que serán incluidos en el EIR/EIS Final.



Qué tipo de información se incluye en un EIR/EIS?

Un EIR/EIS incluye una descripción comprehensiva del proyecto y alternativas y evaluará los impactos del proyecto sobre el medio ambiente. El propósito del EIR/EIS es proveer una evaluación de impactos asociados con el proyecto, y para informar las agencias responsables y el público de alternativas razonables, si existen, que podrían evitar o minimizar los impactos negativos. El EIR/EIS se dirigirá a temas como tráfico, calidad de aire, ruido, impactos visuales, e impactos de construcción. También evaluará impactos cumulativos del proyecto en combinación con otros proyectos presentes y planeados en el área.

Qué impactos tendrá este proyecto sobre el medio ambiente?

No se ha hecho ninguna determinación a cerca de los impactos potenciales en ente momento; las determinaciones serán hechas en el análisis ambiental en el EIR/EIS después de considerar los asuntos. Por favor vea la Notificación de Preparación para una lista preliminar de impactos ambientales potenciales asociados con el proyecto.

Qué medidas de mitigación serán considerados? Como se reducirá impactos ambientales?

En la aplicación a la CPUC y al BLM, SCE ha propuesto medidas que podrían reducir o eliminar impactos potenciales del proyecto propuesto. La eficacia de estas medidas (llamadas "medidas propuestas por el solicitante") serán evaluadas en el EIR/EIS, y medidas adicionales ("medidas de mitigación") serán desarrolladas para reducir impactos, si necesario. Cuando la CPUC y el BLM tomen sus decisiones finales a cerca del Proyecto Propuesto, definirán las medidas de mitigación que serán adoptadas como condiciones del proyecto, y la CPUC implementará un programa de monitorear las medidas.

Qué alternativas serán consideradas para el proyecto propuesto?

Las leyes ambientales estatales y federales requieren la evaluación de un alcance razonable de alternativas. El EIR/EIS evaluará alternativas al proyecto que podrían alcanzar los objetivos del proyecto y evitar o reducir los efectos significativos del proyecto. Alternativas pueden incluir desviaciones menores, diseños diferentes de las estructuras dentro del servidumbre, rutas diferentes para las líneas de alta tensión (en otros corredores), y nuevas líneas y subestaciones y/o equipo que podría alcanzar la necesidad del sistema eléctrica y los objetivos del proyecto propuesto. Adicionalmente la Alternativa de No Hacer el Proyecto/No Tomar una Acción será analizado en el EIR/EIS para analizará lo que ocurre en la ausencia del proyecto. El EIR/EIS tiene que evaluar los méritos comparativos de las alternativas.

Cómo puede el público involucrarse en el proceso de *scoping*?

Durante el periodo de *scoping* la CPUC y el BLM solicitan información acerca de temas y alternativas que se debe incluir en el EIR/EIS. La CPUC y el BLM son comprometidos a un programa de divulgación extensa que ofrece a las personas interesadas los instrumentos y recursos para ser informados sobre las etapas claves y para fomentar información del público. Todos los comentarios para el periodo de *scoping* de la CPUC necesitan ser recibidos al 12 de Junio de 2014 a lo más tarde. Uno puede comentar por lo siguiente:

Correo Postal: 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

Correo Electrónico: **westofdevers@aspeneg.com**

Fax y Mensaje de Voz: (888) 456-0254

Donde puedo encontrar más información?

Visite el sitio web del proyecto al: **http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm**

Notice of Preparation

for a Joint

Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

for the

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Proposed by Southern California Edison

Application No. A.13-10-020

A. Introduction

Southern California Edison (SCE) has filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project, also referred to as the Proposed Project. The CPUC and the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will direct the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) referred to as an EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project. The CPUC as the lead agency under California law, and the BLM, as the federal lead agency will prepare a Draft and Final EIR/EIS to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As required by CEQA, this CPUC Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to interested agencies and members of the public. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of an EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. This notice includes a description of the project that SCE proposes to construct, a summary of potential project impacts, the times and locations of public scoping meetings, and information on how to provide comments. Four public meetings will be held during the CPUC scoping period (see detail in Section E).The CPUC's scoping period will end on June 12, 2012.

As required by NEPA, the BLM will publish in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a joint EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project. Similar to this CPUC NOP, the intent of the NOI will be to initiate the public scoping for the EIR/EIS, provide information about the Proposed Project, and also serve as an invitation for other cooperating agencies to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. In the NOI, the BLM will set an additional comment period, and an additional public meeting will be held by the BLM, most likely in June 2014.

A Scoping Report will be prepared to summarize comments made to both agencies. This CPUC NOP, the BLM NOI (after its publication in the Federal Register) and the Scoping Report can be viewed on the project web site at the following link:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm

B. Project Description

As illustrated on **Figure 1** (Project Overview; attached to this NOP), the Proposed Project would be located primarily within the existing West of Devers transmission corridor in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties including the Morongo Band of Mission Indians reservation and the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and Redlands. The West of Devers corridor traverses residential, commercial, agricultural, recreation, and open space land uses.

The West of Devers (WOD) Upgrade Project as proposed by SCE includes the following major components:

- **Removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission lines** primarily within the existing WOD corridor in six segments, illustrated in **Figures 2a, 2b, and 2c** at the end of this NOP. **Figures 3a through 3f** illustrate the cross-section view of each segment, showing the current view of existing towers and the proposed reconfiguration. The project segments are described as follows:
  - **Segment 1: San Bernardino.** Two existing 220 kV double-circuit lines include 45 double-circuit towers (average height 136 feet) that would be removed, and installation of 61 towers (average height 135 feet) that would be installed within the existing right-of-way (ROW).
  - **Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda.** One existing 220 kV line (average height 139 feet) would be removed and rebuilt, including the removal of 29 double-circuit towers and installation of 35 towers (average height 146 feet).
  - .**Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon.** Removal of three existing sets of 220 kV towers and construction of two sets of towers, requiring removal of 116 individual towers (average height 86 feet for single-circuit towers and 139 feet for double-circuit towers) and installation of 133 towers (average height 143 feet).
  - **Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning**. Removal of approximately 175 structures (average height 90 feet for single-circuit towers and 139 feet for double-circuit towers), and installation of approximately 136 towers (average height 142 feet).
  - **Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Vicinity.** Six miles of this 9.5-mile segment are on Morongo tribal lands. On the tribal lands, SCE was originally considering two route options, but as of April 7, 2014, the tribe indicated to SCE that it designated Route Option 1 as its preferred route alternative. In this segment, approximately 137 structures would be removed (average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 140 feet for double-circuit towers) and approximately 108 structures (average height 144 feet) would be installed. In this segment, three miles of the existing ROW on Morongo land would be abandoned and relocated to the south, near the I-10 Freeway (this route is Option 1).
  - **Segment 6: Whitewater and Devers Substation.** Removal of approximately 116 structures (average height 83 feet for single-circuit towers and 141 feet for double-circuit towers) and installation of 93 towers (average height 157 feet).
- **Substation equipment upgrades** at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, and Vista Substations to accommodate increased power transfer on 220 kV lines.
- **Subtransmission upgrades** would include removal and relocation of 2 miles of existing 66 kV lines and upgrades at Timoteo and Tennessee 66/12 kV Substations to accommodate the relocated 66 kV line.
- **Electric distribution line upgrades** would include removal and relocation of 4 miles of existing 12 kV lines.
- **Installation of telecommunication lines** and equipment for the protection, monitoring, and control of transmission lines and substation equipment.

Project Purpose. According to SCE, the Proposed Project is needed for six primary reasons:

1. To integrate and interconnect generation resources within the Blythe and Desert Center areas.
2. To comply with executed Large Generator Interconnection Agreements (LGIAs) for the Blythe and Desert Center areas and enable full deliverability of any solar projects in these two areas.
3. To support integration of new generation in the Blythe and Desert Center areas with executed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).
4. To facilitate integration of renewable generation resources being developed in the Coachella Valley area.

5. To comply with Reliability Standards and the Regional Business Practice developed by the North American Electric Reliability Council, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, California Independent System Operator, and the individual utility.
6. To help facilitate progress towards California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals.

In addition, SCE has presented the following six objectives in its Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA):

1. Allow SCE to meet its obligation to integrate and fully deliver the output of new generation projects located in the Blythe and Desert Center areas that have requested to interconnect to the electrical transmission grid.
2. Consistent with prudent transmission planning, maximize the use of existing transmission line rights-of-way to the extent practicable.
3. Meet project need while minimizing environmental impacts.
4. Facilitate progress toward achieving California's RPS goals in a timely and cost-effective manner by SCE and other California utilities.
5. Comply with applicable Reliability Standards and Regional Business Practice developed by NERC, WECC, and the CAISO; and design and construct the project in conformance with SCE's approved engineering, design, and construction standards for substation, transmission, subtransmission, and distribution system projects.
6. Construct facilities in a timely and cost-effective manner by minimizing service interruptions to the extent practicable.

The objectives presented by SCE will guide the development of alternatives to the West of Devers Upgrade Project, but because CEQA does not require that alternatives meet all objectives, these objectives do not unreasonably constrain the alternatives development process.

C. Project Background

C.1 Prior CPUC Applications Related to West of Devers

SCE originally filed an application (A.05-04-015) with the CPUC for a CPCN to construct the Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 (DPV2) on April 11, 2005. The project included three major components:

- A 500 kV line from the Palo Verde area in Arizona to a new substation near Blythe, California;
- A 500 kV line from the Blythe area substation to the Devers Substation; and
- Upgrades to SCE's lower voltage transmission system west of the Devers Substation.

The CPUC approved the DPV2 Project in January 2007 in Decision D.07-01-040. The approved project included the SCE proposal but did not include the West of Devers segment; this segment could not be approved because at the time of agency decisions (January 2007), the Morongo Band of Mission Indians had not reached an agreement with SCE in regards to terms of the right-of-way (ROW) renewal for most of the 6 miles of the corridor that crosses tribal land. Therefore, the CPUC approved construction of a new 500 kV transmission line connecting the Devers Substation and the Valley Substation. Construction of the approved DPV2 Project, including the Devers-Valley line, has now been completed.

C.2 Memorandum of Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians

In 2013, SCE and the Morongo Band reached an agreement on the terms for ROW renewal for the corridor on Morongo tribal land. This agreement grants SCE four new easements and rights-of-way allowing

SCE's continued use, operation, maintenance, inspection, and upgrade and access of existing facilities, in return for appropriate compensation for the continued use of the reservation lands for Existing Facilities and Future Facilities. In addition, the Morongo Band agreed to allow a corridor for the construction, use, operation, maintenance, inspection, upgrade and access of SCE's Future Facilities, including either two double-circuit 220 kV transmission lines or four single-circuit 220 kV transmission lines where engineering constraints require single-circuit lines.

C.3 Current West of Devers Upgrade Project

After reaching an agreement with the Morongo Band, SCE filed a CPCN application for the West of Devers Upgrade Project with the CPUC and filed a Plan of Development with the BLM. On October 25, 2013, SCE filed an application and PEA for the Proposed Project. Since this filing, the CPUC has conducted a 30-day completeness/deficiency review. Based on this review, the CPUC sent a deficiency letter to SCE on November 25, 2013, indicating that the PEA is incomplete. SCE submitted information in response to the deficiency letter in several parts between mid-December 2013 and late January 2014.

SCE has stated that the remaining outstanding information that was identified in the CPUC's deficiency letter (dated November 25, 2013) will be submitted by the end of June 2014. Therefore, the CPUC sent a second deficiency letter on February 18, 2014 stating that the PEA is still considered incomplete. However, while SCE is assembling the remaining data required for preparation of a complete and adequate Draft EIR/EIS, the Energy Division has decided that it can move forward with issuance of this Notice of Preparation, scoping and agency consultation, and preparation and agency review of an initial internal Administrative Draft EIR/EIS.

D. Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects

In accordance with CEQA and NEPA guidelines, the CPUC and BLM intend to prepare a joint EIR/EIS to evaluate potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project, and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects identified. The EIR/EIS will also study the environmental impacts of the alternatives to the Proposed Project, and propose mitigation to reduce these effects.

Based on preliminary analysis of the Proposed Project and review of documents submitted by SCE and other parties to the CPUC's CPCN proceeding, completion of the Proposed Project may have a number of potentially significant environmental effects. Potential issues and impacts to the existing environment include those listed in Attachment A. No determinations have yet been made as to the significance of these potential impacts; such determinations will be made in the environmental analysis conducted in the EIR/EIS after the issues are considered thoroughly. In addition to analysis of the issues listed in Attachment A and other issues raised in the scoping process, the EIR/EIS will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project in combination with other present and planned projects in the area.

Mitigation Measures. SCE has proposed measures that could reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the Proposed Project. The effectiveness of these measures (called "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 Proposed 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.

Alternatives. In addition to mitigation measures, the EIR/EIS will evaluate alternatives to the Proposed Project that could potentially reduce, eliminate, or avoid impacts of the Proposed 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 Proposed Project objectives. In compliance with CEQA and NEPA, a Draft EIR/EIS must describe a reasonable range of alternatives to the project or project location that could meet the project's purpose and need, feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives, and avoid or lessen any of the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Additionally the No Project/No Action Alternative must also be analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS. The No Project/No Action Alternative will describe the situation that would likely occur in the absence of Proposed Project implementation. Further, the EIR/EIS must evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.

In the PEA for WOD, SCE evaluated a variety of project alternatives that may be able to achieve the same objectives as the Proposed Project, including alternative routes, alternative transmission projects, and non-transmission alternatives, which are briefly described below. As part of the environmental review process for the Proposed Project, the CPUC and BLM will evaluate the feasibility of the alternatives presented by SCE in its PEA and consider whether or not they meet CEQA and NEPA requirements. In addition, the CPUC and BLM will likely develop other alternatives for evaluation in the EIR/EIS. New alternatives developed during the environmental review process for the Proposed Project could potentially be based on the input received during the scoping process and the impacts identified during analysis.

E. Public Scoping Meetings

The CPUC will initially conduct four public Scoping Meetings in three locations in the project area, as shown in Table 1. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to present information about the Proposed Project and the CPUC and BLM's decision-making processes, and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR/EIS.

Table 1. Public Scoping Meetings

Location	Banning, CA	Loma Linda, CA	Beaumont, CA
Day & Date	Monday May 19, 2014	Tuesday May 20, 2014	Wednesday May 21, 2014
Time(s)	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Address	Banning City Hall Council Chambers 99 E. Ramsey Street Banning, CA 92220	Loma Linda Civic Center Community Room 25541 Barton Road Loma Linda, CA 92354	Beaumont Civic Center Auditorium/Gym 550 E. 6th Street Beaumont, CA 92223

F. Scoping Comments

CPUC Scoping for CEQA: At this time, the CPUC is soliciting information regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR/EIS. Suggestions for submitting scoping comments are presented at the end of this section. **All comments for the CPUC's CEQA scoping period must be received by June 12, 2014.**

BLM Scoping for NEPA: BLM staff will participate in the scoping meetings listed in Table 1 above. However, after publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, BLM will schedule an additional scoping meeting in the project area. This meeting will be advertised in local newspapers and on the BLM and CPUC websites. **The publication of the NOI will start a 30-day public scoping period in accordance with NEPA during which additional comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS can be provided**.

All Scoping Comments: You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail, (3) by fax, or (4) by attending a Public Scoping Meeting (see times and locations in Table 1 above) and making a verbal statement or handing in a written comment at the scoping meetings.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. The CPUC and BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

By Mail: If you send comments by U.S. mail, please use first-class mail and be sure to include your name and a return address. Please send written comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS to:

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
Fax and Voicemail: (888) 456-0254

By Electronic Mail: Email communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the email message. Email messages should be sent to westofdevers@aspeneg.com.

By Fax: You may fax your comment letter to our information line at (888) 456-0254. Please remember to include your name and return address in the fax, to write legibly, and use black or blue ink.

A **Scoping Report** will be prepared, summarizing all comments received (including oral comments made at the Scoping Meetings). This report will be posted on the project website at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm, and copies will be placed in local document repository sites listed in Table 2 below. In addition, a limited number of copies will be available from the CPUC upon request.

Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

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

1. Review the description of the project (see Section C of this Notice of Preparation and the maps provided). Additional detail on the project description is available on the project website where SCE's Proponent's Environmental Assessment may be viewed.
2. Attend the scoping meetings to get more information on the project and the environmental review process (see times and dates above).
3. Submit written comments or attend the scoping meetings and make oral comments. Explain important issues that the EIR/EIS should cover.
4. Suggest mitigation measures that could reduce the potential impacts associated with SCE's Proposed Project.
5. Suggest alternatives to SCE's Proposed Project that could avoid or reduce the impacts of the Proposed Project.

G. For Additional Project Information

Internet Website – Information about this application and the environmental review process will be posted on the Internet at http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm. This site will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings. In addition, a copy of SCE's PEA may be found at this site, and the Draft EIR/EIS will be posted at the site after it is published.

Project Information Hotline – You may request project information by leaving a voice message at (888) 456-0254 or sending a fax, using the same telephone number.

Document Repositories – Documents related to the WOD Project and the EIR/EIS will be made available at the sites listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Project Document Repository Sites

West of Devers – Library Sites		
City of Riverside Library	3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501	(951) 826-5201
San Bernardino County Library	104 W. Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415	(909) 387-5723
Colton Public Library	656 N. Ninth Street, Colton, CA 92324	(909) 370-5083
Grand Terrace Library	22795 Barton Road, Grand Terrace, CA 92313	(909) 783-0147
City of Loma Linda Library	25581 Barton Road, Loma Linda, CA 92354	(909) 796-8621
A.K. Smiley Public Library	125 West Vine Street, Redlands, CA 92373	(909) 798-7565
Mentone County Library	1870 Mentone Boulevard, Mentone, CA 92359	(909) 794-2657
Yucaipa Branch Library	12040 5th Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399	(909) 790-3146
Calimesa City Library	974 Calimesa Boulevard, Calimesa, CA 92320	(909) 795-9807
Beaumont Library District	125 East 8th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	(951) 845-1357
Banning Public Library	21 W Nicolet Street, Banning, CA 92220	(951) 849-3192
Morongo Community Library	11581 Potrero Road, Banning, CA 92220	(951) 849-5937
West of Devers – U.S Bureau of Land Management Office		
Palm Springs/So. Coast Field Ofc	1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262	(760) 833-7100
California Desert District Office	22835 Calle San Juan Del Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553	(951) 697-5200

*Copies of material from these documents may be made at these locations at the requester's expense.

H. Issuance of NOP

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

Billie Blanchard

Date: May 5, 2014

Billie Blanchard, Project Manager
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Attachment A – Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: West of Devers Upgrade Project

Environmental Issue Area / Potential Issues or Impacts

AESTHETICS / VISUAL

- Visual impacts would occur to sensitive viewpoints from which the proposed transmission line would be visible, including: residences, park and recreation areas, open space areas, cemeteries, and travel routes and highways.
- Short-term visual impacts from project construction.
- Long-term visual impacts to residents along the WOD corridor from the increased height and new locations of the proposed towers as compared to the current towers.
- Potential visual impacts of short duration to traveling viewers located where the proposed transmission line crosses or runs parallel to roadways, such as I-10 and CA 62.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- Temporary impacts would occur during the construction phase from the removal of cropland from production and interference with agricultural activities (including tilling and irrigation, restricted access to agricultural areas, and/or potential conflict with crop dusters).
- Project would potentially convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Long-term impacts would occur where transmission line foundations would permanently remove active agricultural land from production and interfere with agricultural operations (including tilling and irrigation patterns).
- There would be potential impacts related to zoning for agricultural use.

AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS

- Impacts during construction would occur as a result of airborne dust and heavy equipment, helicopters, support vehicles, and other equipment powered by internal combustion engines that generate exhaust containing: carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Potential ongoing impacts from emissions and fugitive dust produced during operation and maintenance of the proposed transmission lines.
- Potential impacts to human and environmental health by contributing to existing non-attainment conditions with respect to the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California standards for particulate matter and ozone.
- Total emissions generated from construction activities would exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) recommended thresholds of significance.
- Project implementation may conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – *VEGETATION*

- Potential temporary and permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities from removal of existing lines and construction of new lines.
- Impacts from an increase in non-native weed establishment and recruitment, particularly at tower sites, crane pads, material stockpile yards, and concrete batch plant sites.
- Potential temporary and permanent impacts to sensitive plant species, including Coachella Valley milk-vetch and Nevin's barberry.
- Potential temporary and permanent impacts to federal or state jurisdictional wetland or non-wetland drainages through vegetation removal, placement of fill, erosion, sedimentation, and degradation of water quality.

Attachment A – Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: West of Devers Upgrade Project

Environmental Issue Area / Potential Issues or Impacts

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – *WILDLIFE*

- Potential direct, permanent impacts to wildlife, which may be accidentally run over by vehicles during construction.
- Potential direct and indirect impacts to reptile species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), including Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.
- Potential direct and indirect, temporary and permanent impacts to the following sensitive wildlife species: desert tortoise, coastal California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and desert kit fox.
- Potential direct, permanent impacts to burrowing rodents, which may be inadvertently killed when burrows are collapsed by heavy machinery.
- Potential direct and indirect impacts to bird species listed in the CNDDB, including: burrowing owl, golden eagle, and peregrine falcon.
- Potential ongoing impacts to bird and bat species, which may collide with conductors or static lines during flight.

Nesting Birds

- Potential direct, permanent impacts to birds nesting in structures, equipment, cacti, shrubs, trees, or on the ground, if their nests are disturbed or destroyed.
- Potential impacts to nesting bird species from helicopter rotor wash, noise, dust, and vibrations.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological Sites

- Potential impacts to known and unknown archaeological sites during construction.

Traditional Cultural Properties

- Potential impacts to Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) or potential TCPs from the construction, operations, and maintenance of the proposed transmission line.
- Potential ethnographic impacts where the WOD corridor (220 kV Upgrade) crosses the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Reservation.

Historical Sites

- Potential impacts to historic-era sites that are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Paleontological Resources

- Potential impacts to paleontological resources between Devers and Vista Substations, where the west of Devers corridor (220 kV Upgrade) would traverse 26 miles of high or undetermined areas of paleontological sensitivity, including: Pleistocene older alluvium, Canebrake Conglomerate or Palm Springs Formation, and San Timoteo Formation.

Attachment A – Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: West of Devers Upgrade Project

Environmental Issue Area / Potential Issues or Impacts

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- Potential impacts from grading access roads, spur roads, and tower pads within the utility ROW.
- Potential impacts from localized soil erosion on low fill slopes and steeply graded areas.
- Potential impacts from seismic activity from five fault zones in the project area. The towers along the alignment in this area would be subject to severe seismic shaking within the lifetime of the Proposed Project.
- Possible impacts from ground surface rupture where the proposed transmission line would cross active fault lines.
- Possible impacts from landslides, mudslides, or other related ground failures from seismic activity, particularly where the proposed transmission line would cross active fault lines.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Potential impacts from the improper storage or handling or hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes during project construction, operations, or maintenance.
- Potential impacts from the leaking or spilling of petroleum or hydraulic fluids from construction equipment or other vehicles during project construction, operation, or maintenance.
- Potential impacts from the inadvertent uncovering of hazardous materials during excavation activities, causing toxic releases to the environment.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- Possible impacts from increased surface water runoff, erosion, siltation, and sedimentation.
- Possible impacts to streams or washes from violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

LAND USE

- Possible conflicts with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.
- Effects on to landowners, businesses, and public and community facilities in the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Loma Linda, Redlands, Colton, and Grand Terrace, and in Riverside County areas east of the City of Banning and within San Timoteo Canyon.
- Impacts to tribal lands under the jurisdiction of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.
- Potential impacts at a cemetery in Banning.
- Potential short-term impacts where construction activities during the 220 kV Upgrades may impede mining operations at two existing material extraction mines; long-term operational impacts would occur in the vicinity of the two extraction mines.

NOISE

- Impacts from construction noise generated by equipment operation.
- Potential impacts from noise generated during the operation of the proposed transmission line, which would increase ambient noise levels surrounding the corridor.
- Potential impacts from noise generated by helicopters used during construction and operation and maintenance activities.
- Potential impacts from noise in residential areas along the proposed transmission corridor, if construction activities violate local noise ordinances (for volume and hours of operation) in order to take advantage of low electrical draw periods.

Attachment A – Summary of Potential Issues or Impacts: West of Devers Upgrade Project

Environmental Issue Area / Potential Issues or Impacts

SOCIOECONOMICS

- Potential positive fiscal impacts in property-taxing jurisdictions, which would receive tax revenues from the proposed transmission line.
- Potential for project impacts to disproportionately affect low-income or minority populations (environmental justice).
- Potential impacts from employment of approximately 300 construction personnel.
- Potential impacts to lands of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Potential impacts to air traffic safety from the installation of taller transmission towers.
- Potential for wildland fires caused by construction activities or by failing or failed transmission or distribution line.
- Potential safety risks to fire crews fighting a fire near rights-of-way.
- Potential impacts to public safety from helicopters carrying external loads.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

- Possible impacts during construction activities from increased usage of public resources, services, and utilities.
- Possible impacts during construction activities from increased generation of waste and disposal needs.
- Potential for additional transmission line projects related to the growth of renewable energy projects in the project area.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

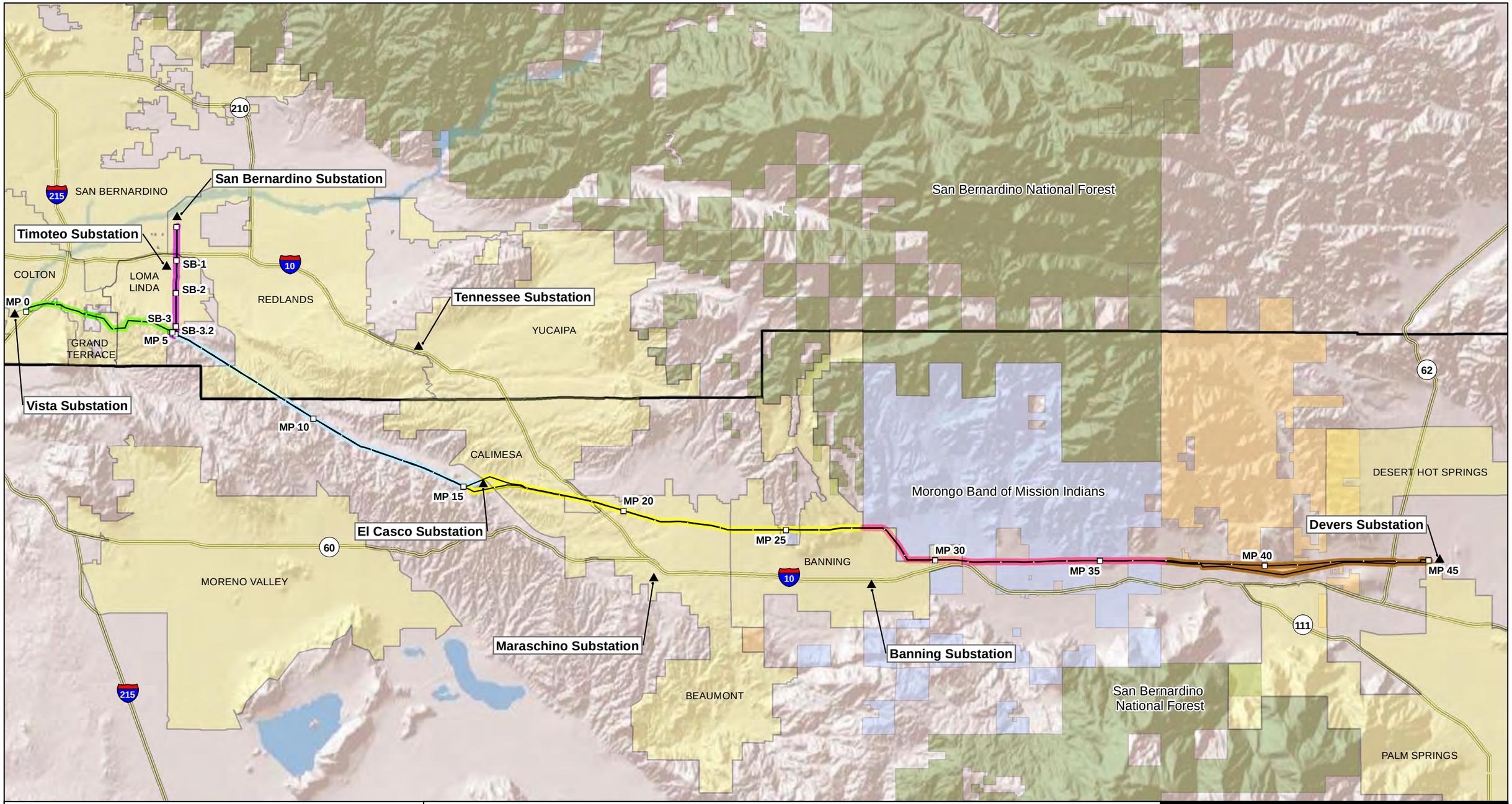
- Possible impacts upon established or pending conservation plans.
- Temporary disruption of recreational activities at the following recreational areas, among others: Noble Creek Regional Park and Oak Valley Golf Course.
- Potential impacts from road closures and increased traffic during construction activities, which may impede access to recreational areas.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

- Additional traffic in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line.
- Potential road closures during construction activities, which may impede access to areas along the transmission line corridor, including impediment of access for firefighting and police response.
- Potential increased traffic during operation and maintenance of the proposed transmission line.
- Short-term elimination of parking spaces.
- Potential impacts to compliance with FAA requirements that limit the height of structures around airports and hazard marking (e.g., Banning Airport).

OTHER ISSUES

- Cumulative Impacts, including potential future transmission lines in the WOD corridor.
- Growth-Inducing Effects.
- Adequacy of CEQA and NEPA, ensuring effective coordination between CPUC, BLM, and BIA.
- Consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives.
- Enforceable and effective mitigation measures.



Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Legend

- Mileposts (eg. MP 1, SB-1)
- Substation
- Transmission Line
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- City Boundary
- County Line

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 1

Project Overview

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 2a

Segments 1, 2, and 3

(Grand Terrace, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands)

San Bernardino Substation
SB-0
San Bernardino Ave
W Lugonia Ave
SAN BERNARDINO
REDLANDS
SB-1
Redlands Blvd
Timoteo Substation
COLTON
LOMA LINDA
Mountain View Ave
Vista Substation
SB-2
MP 0
MP 1
MP 2
Barton Rd
MP 3
MP 4
Beaumont Ave
SB-3
MP 5
SB-3.2
Tennessee Substation
MP 6
GRAND TERRACE
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
MP 7
San Timoteo Canyon Rd
MP 8
Live Oak Canyon Rd
MP 9
MP 10
CALIMESA
Reche Canyon Rd
MP 11
MP 12
MP 13
MP 14
MP 15
El Casco Substation

Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

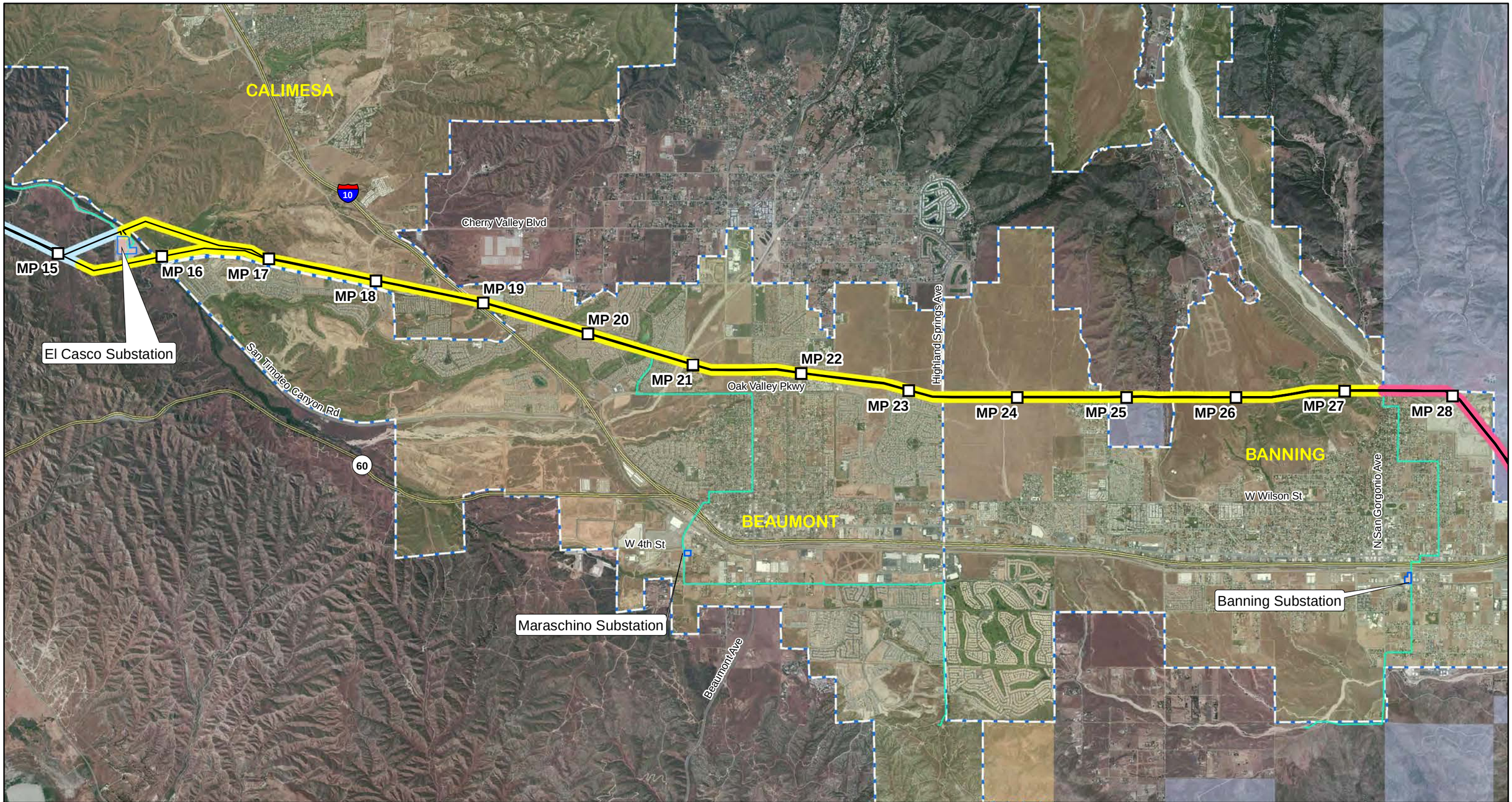
LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Substation

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management
- City Boundary
- County Line

May 2014



Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Substation
- County Line
- City Boundary

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 2b

Segment 4

(Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning)

May 2014

Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Substation
- County Line
- City Boundary

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management

West of Devers Upgrade Project

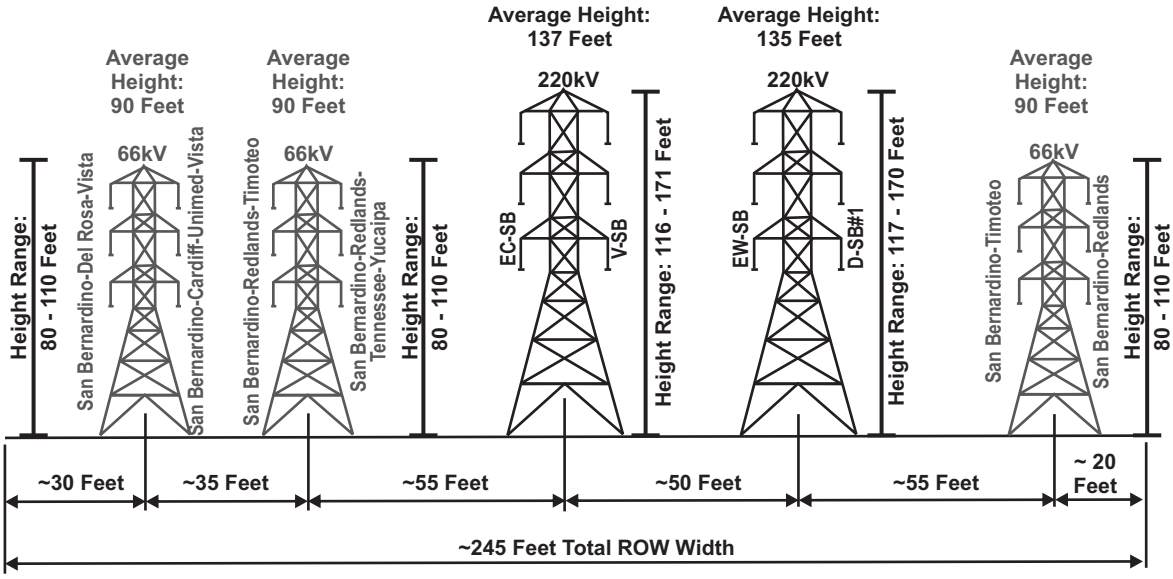
NOP Figure 2c

Segments 5 and 6

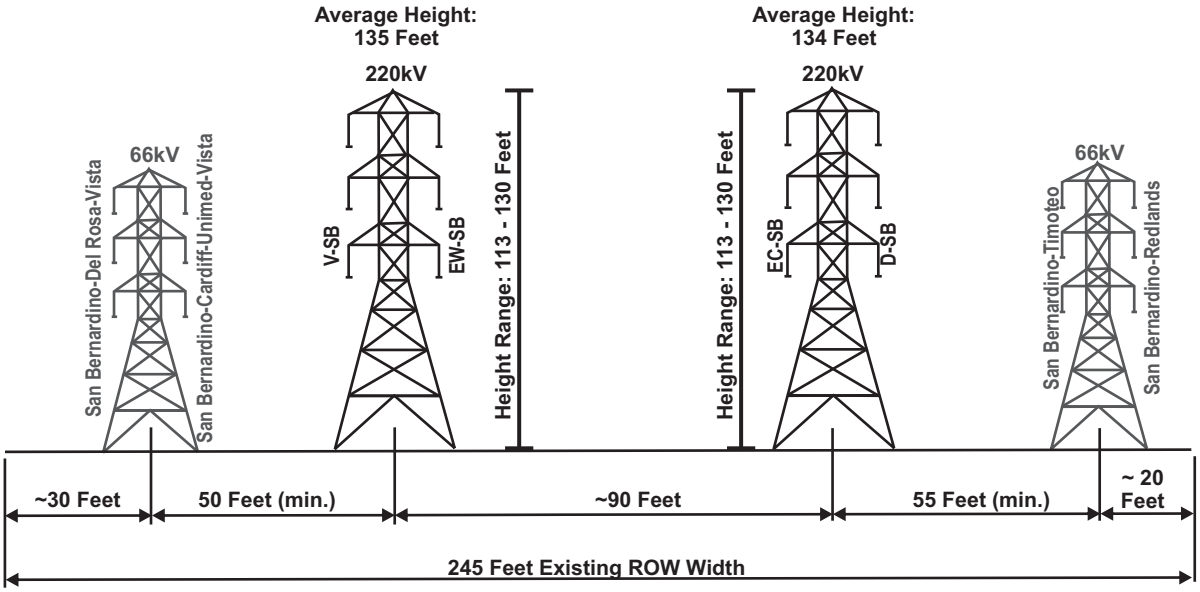
(Morongo Tribal Lands, Banning, Palm Springs)

May 2014

Existing
Segment 1



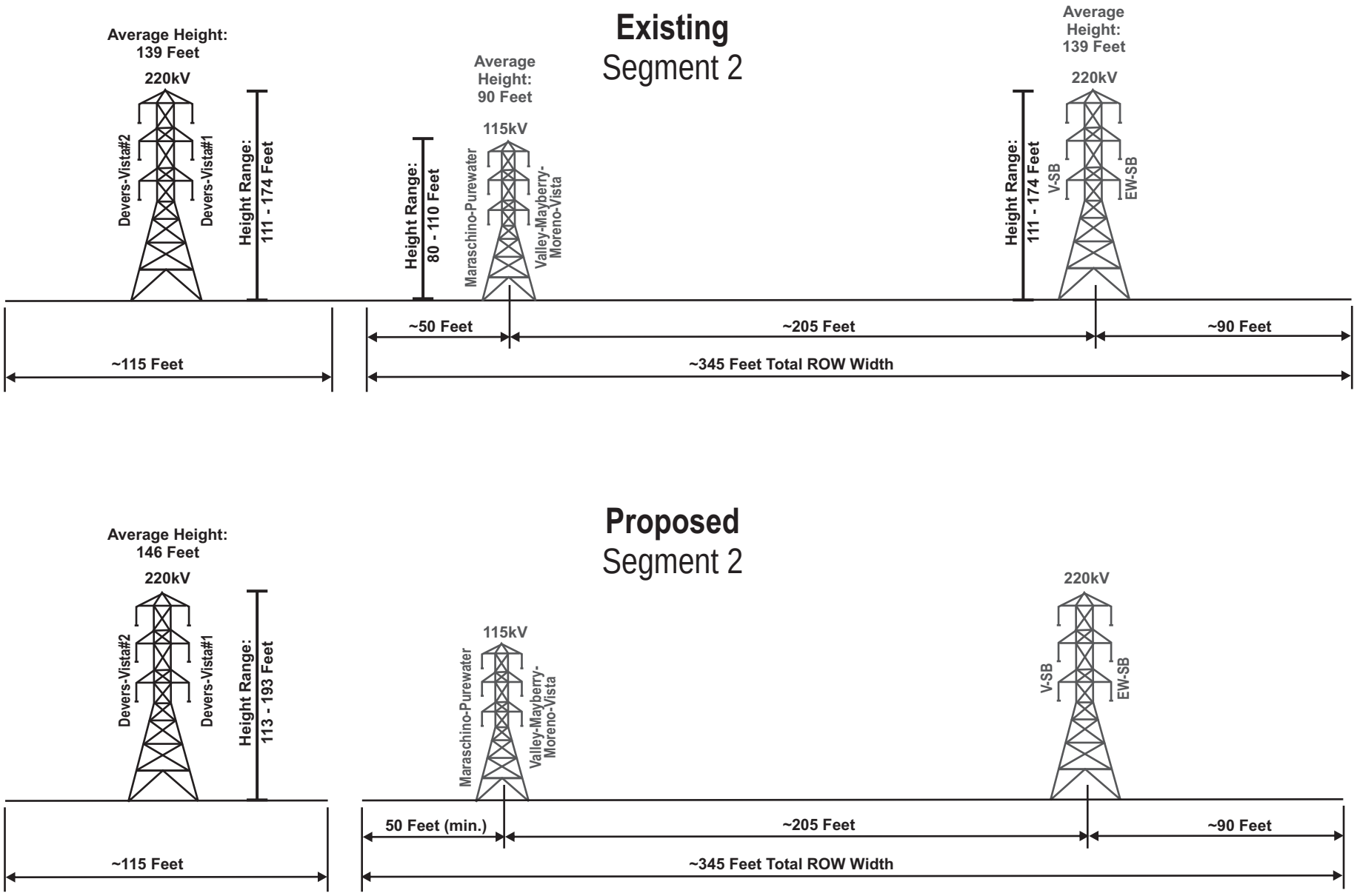
Proposed
Segment 1



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3a

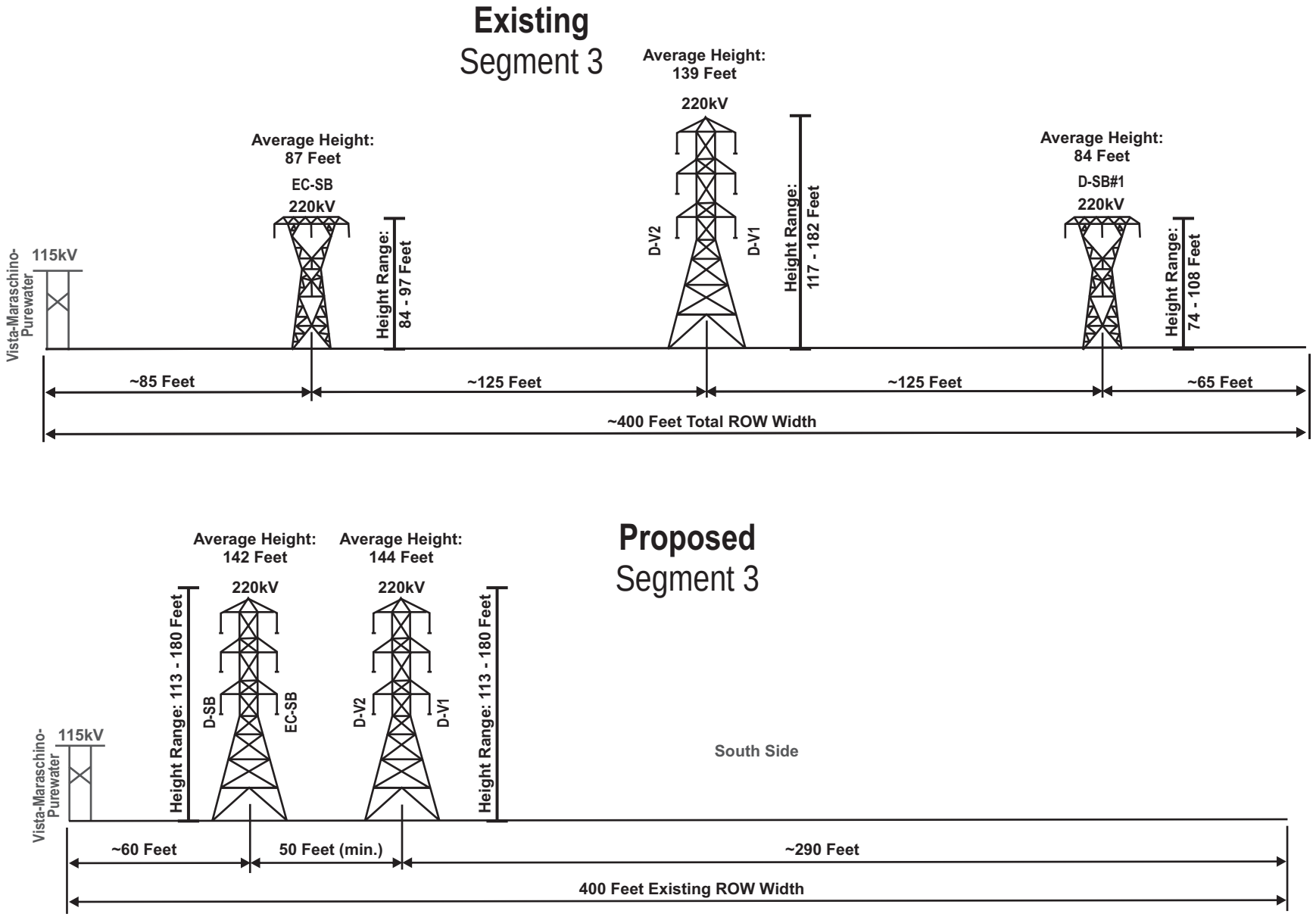
Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 1



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3b

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 2



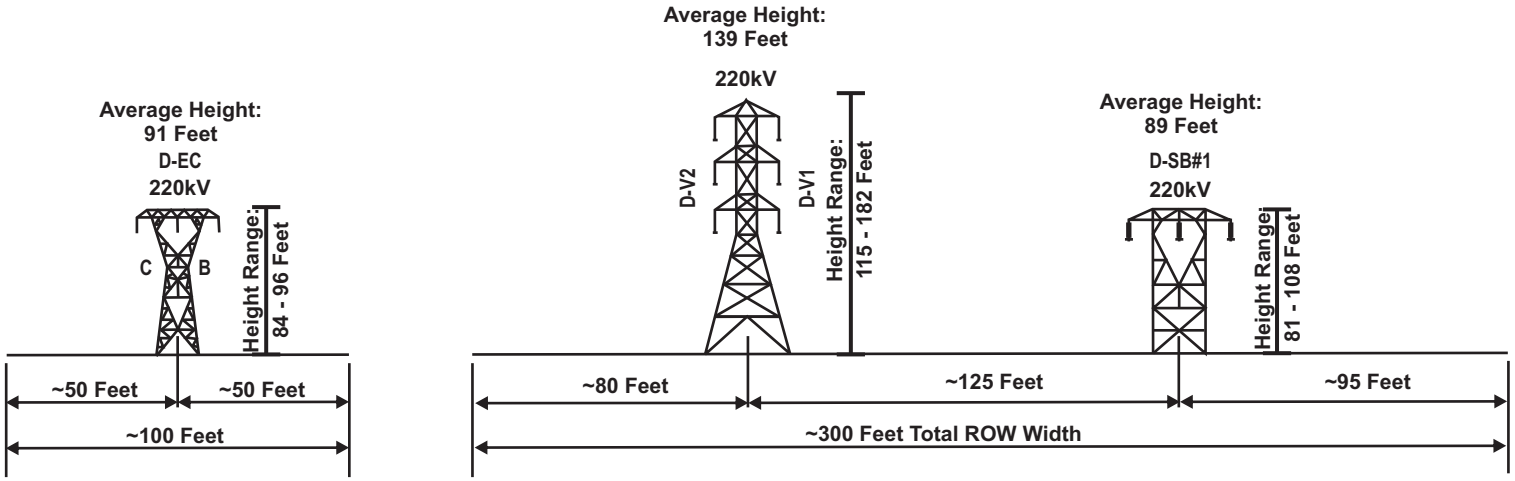
Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3c

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 3

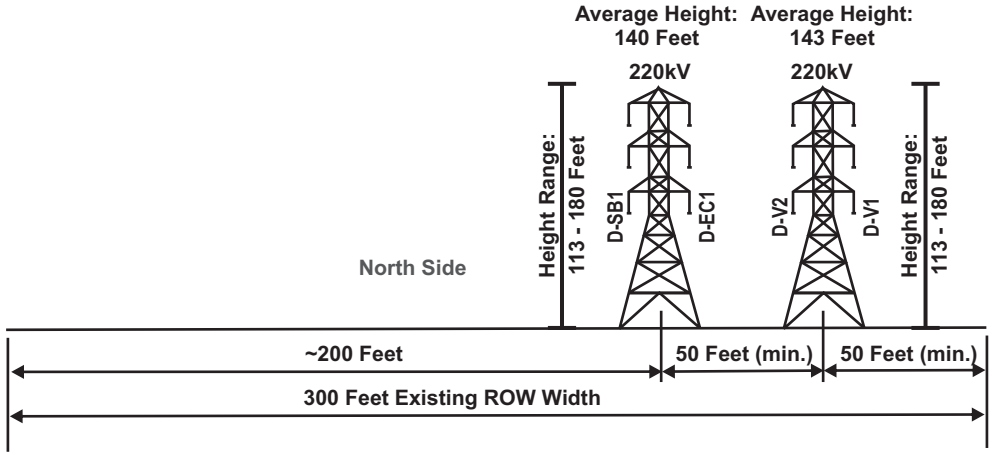
Existing

Segment 4 - East of El Casco



Proposed

Segment 4 - East of El Casco

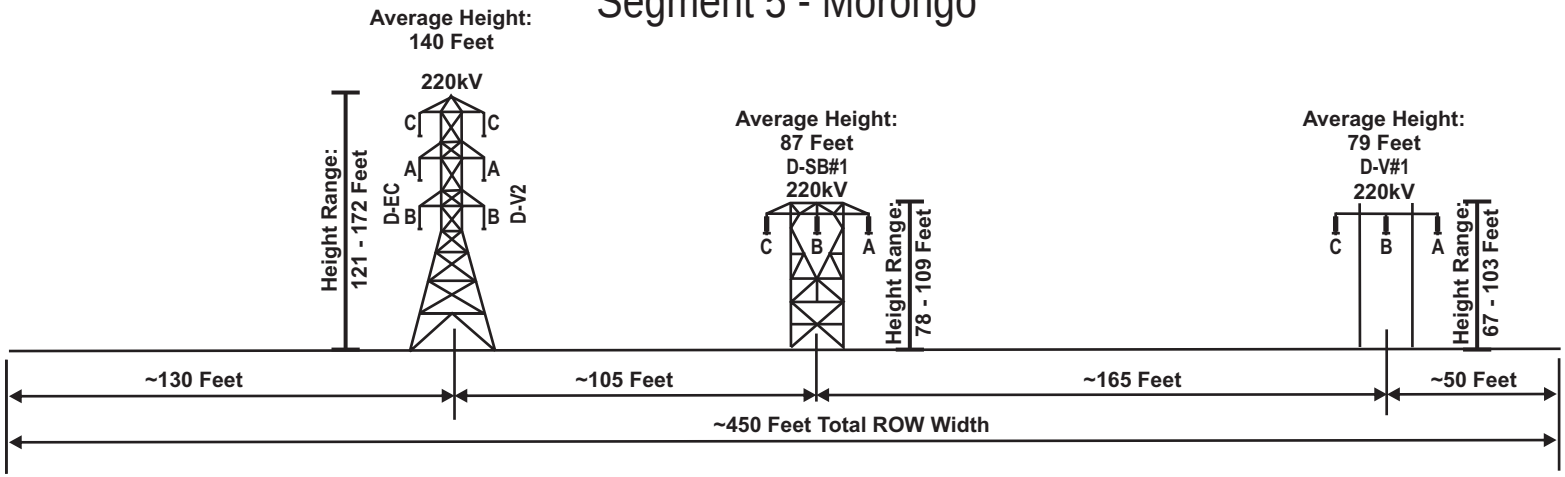


Source: SCE, 2013.

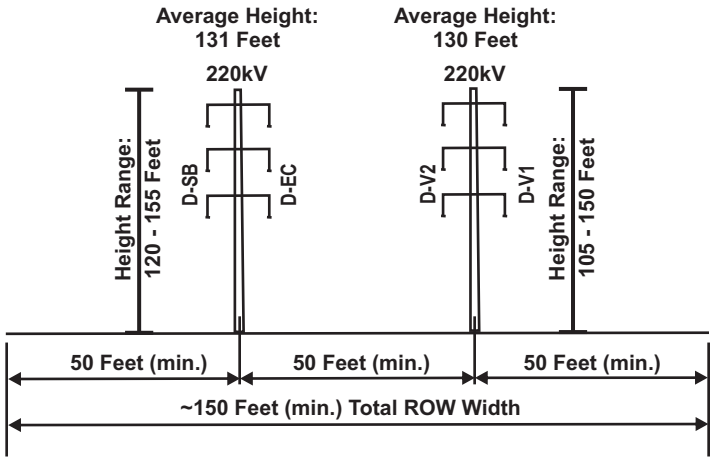
Figure 3d

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 4

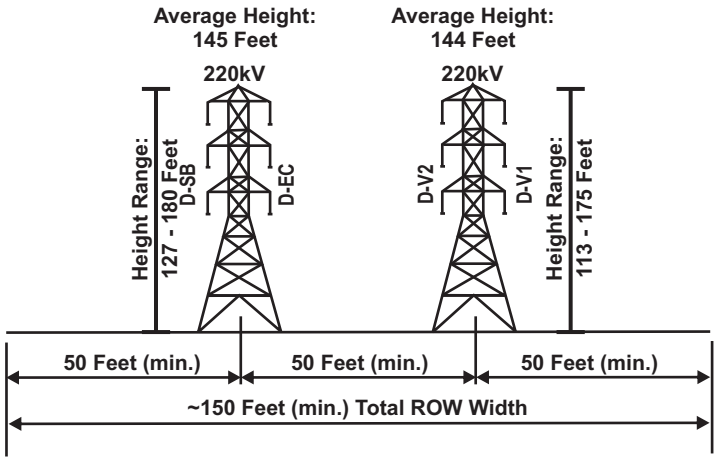
Existing
Segment 5 - Morongo



Proposed (Current Design)
Segment 5A - Morongo



Proposed (Current Design)
Segment 5B - Morongo



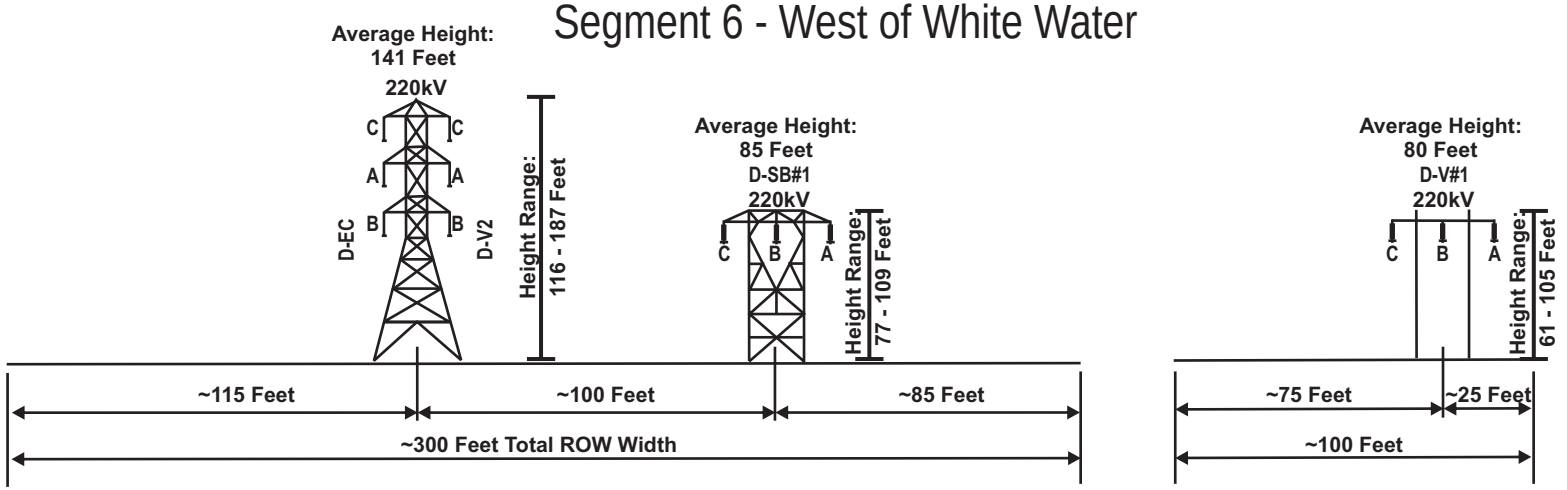
Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3e

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 5

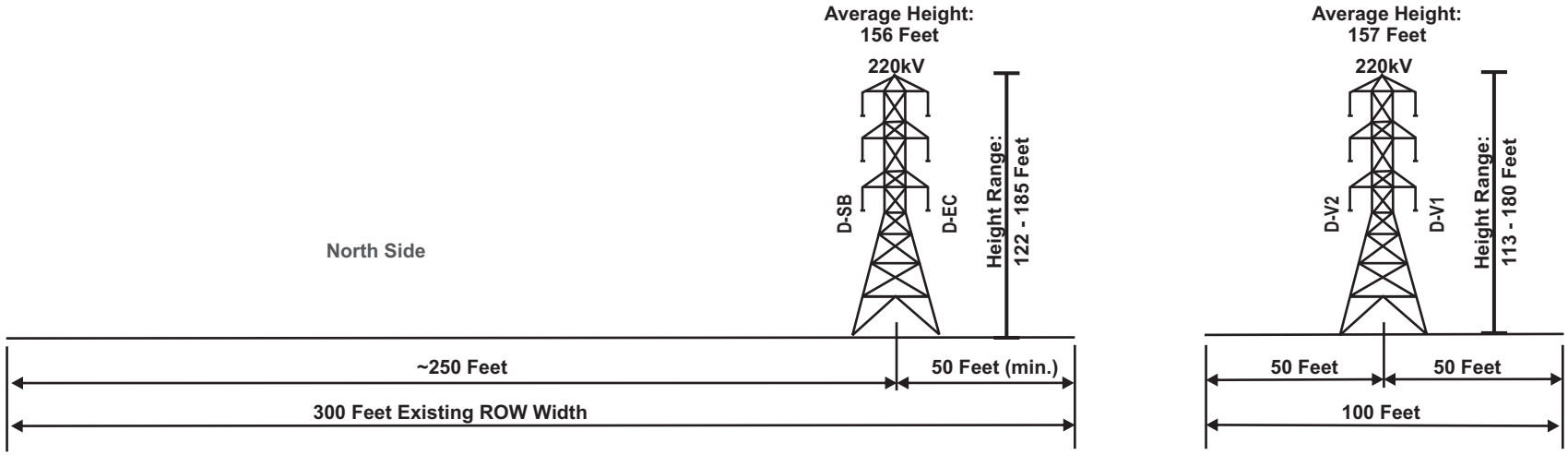
Existing

Segment 6 - West of White Water



Proposed

Segment 6 - West of White Water



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3f

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 6

Aviso de Preparación
De un Informe de Impacto Ambiental/ Declaración de Impacto Ambiental
Conjunto para el
Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers
Propuesto por Southern California Edison
Aplicación No. A.13-10-020

A. Introducción

Southern California Edison (SCE) ha presentado una aplicación para un Certificado de Conveniencia y Necesidad Pública (CPCN) con la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California (CPUC) para el Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers, referido como el Proyecto Propuesto. La CPUC y el Departamento Interior de los Estados Unidos, Departamento de Manejo de Tierras (BLM) guiarán la preparación de un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR) y una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) conjunto referido como un EIR/EIS para el Proyecto Propuesto. La CPUC como la agencia líder bajo la ley de California, y el BLM, como la agencia líder federal prepararán un EIR/EIS para cumplir con la Ley de Calidad Ambienta de California (CEQA) y la Ley Nacional de Política Ambienta (NEPA).

Como requiere CEQA, esta Notificación de Preparación (NOP) de la CPUC se enviará a agencias interesadas y miembros del público. El propósito de la NOP es informar que la CPUC está comenzando la preparación de un EIR/EIS y solicitar información que ayudará el proceso de evaluación ambiental. Esta notificación incluye una descripción del proyecto que SCE construirá, un resumen de impactos potenciales del proyecto, los horarios y locales de las reuniones públicas, e información sobre como comentar. Durante el proceso para determinar el enfoque y contenido del EIR/EIS, habrán cuatro reuniones públicos (vea Sección E). El periodo de enfoque terminará el 12 de Junio de 2014.

Como requiere NEPA, el BLM publicará una Notificación de Intento (NOI) para preparar un EIR/EIS conjunto para el Proyecto Propuesto en el Registro Federal. Tanto como el NOP de la CPUC, el propósito del NOI será iniciar el periodo de enfoque para el EIR/EIS, proveer información acerca del Proyecto Propuesto, y servirá como una invitación para agencias cooperativas para proveer comentarios sobre el enfoque y contenido del EIR/EIS. En el NOI, el BLM establecerá un periodo de comentario adicional y tendrá una reunión pública adicional, probablemente en Junio 2014.

Un Informe de Enfoque será preparado para resumir los comentarios escritos a las dos agencias. Esta NOP de la CPUC, la NOI del BLM (después de la publicación en el Registro Federal) y el Informe de Enfoque se publicarán en el sitio web en la dirección siguiente:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm

B. Descripción del Proyecto

Como ilustra la **Figura 1** (Visión del Proyecto; acompañando esta NOP), el Proyecto Propuesto sería localizado primariamente dentro del corredor de la línea de alta tensión existente West of Devers en las áreas incorporadas y no incorporadas de los Condados de Riverside y San Bernardino incluyendo la Reserva del *Morongo Band of Mission Indians* y las ciudades de Banning, Beaument, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, y Redlands. El corredor de West of Devers cruza áreas residenciales, comerciales, agrícolas, de recreación, y espacio libre.

El Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers (WOD) incluye los componentes siguientes:

- **Remover y mejorar líneas existentes de alta tensión de 220 kV** mayormente dentro del corredor existente de WOD en seis segmentos, ilustrados en **Figuras 2a, 2b, y 2c** localizados al final de esta NOP. **Figuras 3a a 3f** ilustran la vista en sección transversal de cada segmento, indicando la vista actual de las torres existentes y la reconfiguración propuesta. Los segmentos del proyecto son las siguientes:
  - **Segmento 1: San Bernardino.** Eliminación de dos líneas de alta tensión de circuito-doble de 220 kV con 45 torres de circuito-doble (altura media de 136 pies) e instalación de 61 torres (altura media de 135 pies) instalados dentro del servidumbre (ROW) existente.
  - **Segmento 2: Colton y Loma Linda.** Una línea de 220 kV existente (altura media 139 pies) sería eliminada y reconstruida, incluyendo la eliminación de 29 torres de circuito-doble e instalación de 35 torres (altura media 146 pies).
  - **Segmento 3: San Timoteo Canyon.** Eliminación de tres líneas existentes de 220 kV, eliminando 116 torres individuales (altura media 86 pies para las torres de un solo circuito y 139 pies para las torres de circuito-doble) e instalación de do líneas nuevas con 133 torres (altura media 143 pies).
  - **Segmento 4: Beaumont y Banning.** Eliminar aproximadamente 175 estructuras (altura media 90 pies para las torres de un solo circuito y 139 pies para las torres de circuito-doble) e instalar aproximadamente 136 torres (altura media 142 pies).
  - **Segmento 5: Tierra del Morongo Tribe y Vecindad.** Seis millas de este segmento de 9.5 millas se encuentran sobre tierras del *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*. Para estas tierras, SCE examinó dos rutas opcionales, desde el 7 de Abril de 2014, la tribu ha indicado a SCE que la Ruta Opción 1 es la ruta preferida. Aproximadamente 137 estructuras serían eliminados (altura media 83 pies para las torres de un solo circuito y 140 pies para torres de circuito-doble) y se instalarían aproximadamente 108 estructuras (altura media 144 pies). Tres millas de servidumbre existente sobre la tierra Morongo serían abandonados y reubicados hacia el sur, cerca de la Autopista I-10 (Opción 1).
  - **Segmento 6: Subestación Whitewater y Devers.** Eliminación de aproximadamente 116 estructuras (altura media 83 pies para las torres de un solo circuito y 141 pies para torres de circuito-doble) e instalación de 93 torres (altura media 157 pies).
- **Mejoramiento del equipo del subestación** en las Subestaciones de Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, y Vista para acomodar el aumento de poder transferido sobre las líneas de 220 kV.
- **Mejoramiento** incluyendo la eliminación y reubicación de 2 millas de líneas existentes de 66 kV y mejoramiento de las Subestaciones de 66/12 kV Timoteo y Tennessee para acomodar estas líneas.
- **Mejora de la línea de distribución de electricidad** incluyendo eliminar y reubicar 4 millas de líneas existentes de 12 kV.
- **Instalación de líneas de telecomunicación** y equipos para la protección, observación, y control de las líneas de alta tensión y equipo de las subestaciones.

Propósito del Proyecto. Según SCE, se necesita el Proyecto Propuesto por seis razones principales:

1. Para integrar y conectar generación de poder dentro de las áreas de Blythe y Desert Center.
2. Para cumplir con Acuerdos de Interconexión de Generador Mayor (LGIAs) en las áreas de Blythe y Desert Center para cumplir la entrega de energía de proyectos solares en estos áreas.
3. Para integrar nueva generación en las áreas de Blythe y Desert Center con Acuerdos de Adquisición de Energía (PPAs) ejecutados.
4. Para integrar generación de recursos renovables que se desarrolla en el Valle Coachella.

5. Para cumplir con los Estándares de Confiabilidad y las Prácticas Comerciales Regionales desarrollados por el Consejo de Confiabilidad Eléctrica de Norte América, Consejo del Coordinación de Electricidad del Oeste, y Operador del Sistema Independiente de California, y la empresa de servicios públicos individuo.
6. Para facilitar el progreso hacia los objetivos de energía renovable (Renewable Portfolio Standard) de California.

SCE ha presentado los seis objetivos siguientes en su Evaluación Ambiental del Proponente (PEA):

1. Asegurar que SCE cumple con su obligación para integrar y entregar la producción de la nueva generación de proyectos localizados en Blythe y Desert Center que han requeridos la interconexión con la red de electricidad.
2. Como dicte planificación prudente para líneas de alta tensión, usar servidumbres existentes para líneas de alta tensión lo máximo posible.
3. Satisfacer la necesidad para el proyecto mientras minimizar los impactos ambientales.
4. Facilitar progreso hacia los objetivos de California para energía renovable en una manera oportuna y rentable para SCE y otros servicios públicos de California.
5. Cumplir con los Estándares de Confiabilidad y las Prácticas Comerciales Regionales desarrollados por el Consejo de Confiabilidad Eléctrica de Norte América, Consejo del Coordinación de Electricidad del Oeste, y Operador del Sistema Independiente de California; y diseñar y construir conforme a los métodos de diseño y estándares de construcción aprobados para proyectos de subestaciones, líneas de alta tensión, líneas de baja tensión, y líneas de distribución.
6. Construir el proyecto en una manera oportuna y rentable y minimizar las interrupciones de servicio lo máximo posible.

Los objetivos presentados por SCE guiarán el desarrollo de las alternativas al Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers, pero CEQA no requiere que las alternativas cumplen con todos los objetivos. Por lo tanto, no serán utilizados para restringir excesivamente el proceso de desarrollar las alternativas.

C. Historia del Proyecto

C.1 Aplicaciones Anteriores a la CPUC Relacionadas a West of Devers

Originalmente, SCE presentó una aplicación (A.05-04-015) con la CPUC para un CPCN para construir el proyecto Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 (DPV2) el 11 de Abril, 2005. El proyecto incluyó tres componentes:

- Una línea de alta tensión de 500 kV desde Palo Verde en Arizona hasta una subestación nueva cerca de Blythe, California;
- Una línea de alta tensión de 500 kV desde la subestación de Blythe hasta las subestación de Devers; y
- Mejoramientos al sistema de líneas de alta tensión al oeste de la subestación de Devers.

La CPUC aprobó el Proyecto DPV2 en Enero de 2007 con la Decisión D.07-01-040. El proyecto aprobado incluyó el propuesto de SCE pero no incluyó el segmento West of Devers; no se podía aprobar este segmento (en Enero de 2007) ya que SCE no tenía un acuerdo con el *Morongo Band of Mission Indians* acerca de la reafirmación del uso de la servidumbre para las 6 millas que cruzan la tierra tribal. Por lo tanto, la CPUC aprobó la construcción de una línea de alta tensión nueva de 500 kV que une la Subestación Devers con la Subestación Valley. La construcción del Proyecto DPV2, incluyendo la línea de Devers a Valley, ya se realizó.

C.2 Memorando de Acuerdo con el *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*

En 2013, SCE y el *Morongo Band of Mission Indians* llegaron a un acuerdo sobre los términos de la reafirmación del uso de servidumbre para el corredor dentro de la tierra Morongo. Este acuerdo concede cuatro servidumbres nuevas autorizando el uso para operación, mantenimiento, inspección, y mejoramiento y acceso a comodidades existentes, a cambio de compensación para el uso de las tierras en reservas para Comodidades Existentes y Comodidades Futuros. Además, han permitido un corredor para la construcción, uso, operación, mantenimiento, inspección, mejoramiento, y acceso a Comodidades Futuras, incluyendo dos líneas de alta tensión de 220 kV de circuito-doble o cuatro líneas de 220 kV de un solo circuito si restricciones de ingeniería requieren líneas de un solo circuito.

C.3 Proyecto Actual de Mejoramiento West of Devers

Después de conseguir un acuerdo con el *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*, SCE presentó una aplicación de CPCN para el Proyecto de Mejoramiento West of Devers con la CPUC y presentó un Plan de Desarrollo con el BLM. SCE entregó la aplicación y el PEA el 25 de Octubre de 2013. La CPUC hizo un repaso de completad/deficiencia. Basado en este repaso, la CPUC mandó una carta de deficiencia a SCE el 25 de Noviembre de 2013, indicando que la PEA era incompleta. SCE entregó información adicional para responder a la carta de deficiencia entre mitades de Diciembre 2013 y fines de Enero 2014.

SCE ha dicho que la información restante identificado en la carta de deficiencia de la CPUC (fechado 25 de Noviembre de 2013) será sometida antes del fin de Junio 2014. Por los tanto, la CPUC mandó otra carta el 18 de Febrero de 2014 indicando que la PEA continúa incompleta. Sin embargo, mientras que SCE reúne la información requerida para la preparación de un EIR/EIS Borrador completo y adecuado, la División de Energía ha decidido continuar con la emisión de esta Notificación, el enfoque y consultación de las agencias, y la preparación y repaso del EIR/EIS Borrador interno inicial.

D. Análisis de Impactos Ambientales Potenciales

De acuerdo con las guía de CEQA y NEPA, la CPUC y el BLM intentan preparar un EIR/EIS conjunto para evaluar los impactos ambientales potenciales del Proyecto Propuesto, y proponer medidas para mitigar los efectos significativos identificados. El EIR/EIS también estudiará los impactos ambientales de las alternativas al Proyecto Propuesto e identificará medidas para mitigar estos efectos.

Basado en el análisis preliminar del Proyecto Propuesto y el repaso de los documentos entregados por SCE y otros partidos, el Proyecto Propuesto podría tener un número de impactos ambientales significativos. Asuntos e impactos potenciales al medio-ambiente incluyen la lista atajada en el Documento A, ajuntado a esta Notificación. No se ha hecho determinaciones a cerca de los impactos potenciales, estas determinaciones serán hechas durante el análisis conducido en el EIR/EIS. Para analizar los asuntos listados y otros problemas elevados durante el periodo de enfoque, el EIR/EIS evaluará impactos cumulativos del proyecto en combinación con otros proyectos actuales o propuestos en el área.

Medidas de Mitigación. SCE ha propuesto medidas que podrían reducir o eliminar impactos potenciales del Proyecto Propuesto. La eficacia de estas medidas (llamadas “medidas propuestas por el solicitante”) serán evaluadas en el EIR/EIS, y medidas adicionales (“medidas de mitigación”) serán desarrolladas para reducir impactos, si necesario. Cuando la CPUC y el BLM tomen sus decisiones finales a cerca del Proyecto Propuesto, definirán las medidas de mitigación que serán adoptadas como condiciones del proyecto, y la CPUC implementará un programa de monitorear las medidas.

Alternativas. A demás de medidas de mitigación, el EIR/EIS evaluará alternativas al Proyecto Propuesto que podrían reducir, eliminar, o evitar impactos del proyecto. Alternativas pueden incluir desviaciones menores y diseños diferentes de las estructuras dentro del servidumbre, rutas diferentes para las líneas

de alta tensión (en otros corredores), y nuevas líneas de alta tensión y subestaciones y/o equipo que podría alcanzar la necesidad del sistema eléctrica y los objetivos del Proyecto Propuesto. Para cumplir con CEQA y NEPA, el EIR/EIS Borrador necesita describir un alcance razonable de alternativas al proyecto o la localidad del proyecto que podrían alcanzar la necesidad, los objetivos básicos, y evitar o reducir los impactos ambientales significativos del Proyecto Propuesto. Adicionalmente la Alternativa de No Hacer el Proyecto/No Tomar una Acción será analizado en el EIR/EIS Borrador. Esta alternativa analizará lo que ocurre en la ausencia del Proyecto Propuesto. El EIR/EIS tiene que evaluar los méritos comparativos de las alternativas.

En la PEA para WOD, SCE evaluó una variedad de alternativas del proyecto que podrían lograr los mismos objetivos que el Proyecto Propuesto, incluyendo rutas alternativas, proyectos alternativas, y alternativas que no son líneas de alta tensión. Como parte del proceso de evaluación ambiental, la CPUC y el BLM evaluarán la factibilidad de las alternativas presentadas por SCE en la PEA y considerarán si son adecuados bajo CEQA y NEPA. La CPUC y el BLM probablemente desarrollarán otras alternativas para evaluar en el EIR/EIS. Alternativas nuevas desarrolladas durante el proceso de evaluación ambiental para el Proyecto Propuesto podrían ser basadas sobre información recibida durante el proceso del enfoque y los impactos identificados durante el análisis.

E. Reuniones Públicas de Enfoque

La CPUC va a tener cuatro Reuniones de Enfoque públicas en tres locales dentro del área del proyecto, identificado en Lista 1. El propósito de las reuniones es presentar información sobre el Proyecto Propuesto y el proceso de tomar la decisión de la CPUC y el BLM, y para atender a los puntos de vista del público sobre las preocupaciones relevantes al enfoque y contenido del EIR/EIS.

Lista 1. Reuniones Públicos de Enfoque

Local	**Banning, CA**	**Loma Linda, CA**	**Beaumont, CA**
Fecha	Lunes 19 de Mayo de 2014	Martes 20 de Mayo de 2014	Miércoles 21 de Mayo de 2014
Horario(s)	6:00 a 8:00 p.m.	6:00 a 8:00 p.m.	3:00 a 5:00 p.m. y 7:00 a 9:00 p.m.
Dirección	Banning City Hall Cámara de Consejo 99 E. Ramsey Street Banning, CA 92220	Loma Linda Civic Center Sala de la Comunidad 25541 Barton Road Loma Linda, CA 92354	Beaumont Civic Center Auditorio/Gimnasio 550 E. 6th Street Beaumont, CA 92223

F. Comentarios de Enfoque

CPUC Determinación del Enfoque bajo CEQA: La CPUC está solicitando información acerca de los temas y alternativas que deberían ser incluido en el EIR/EIS. Sugerencias para como someter comentarios son presentados al fin de esta sección. **Bajo el periodo de enfoque de la CPUC, comentarios necesitan ser recibidas el 12 de Junio de 2014 a lo más tarde.**

BLM Determinación del Enfoque bajo NEPA: El personal del BLM participará en las reuniones listados arriba. Sin embargo, después de la publicación de la NOI en el Registro Federal, el BLM tendrá una reunión adicional en el área del proyecto. Habrá una notificación para esta reunión en periódicos locales y sobre los sitios web del BLM y la CPUC. **La publicación del NOI comenzará un periodo de enfoque adicional de 30 días según NEPA durante la cual se puede comentar sobre el enfoque del EIR/EIS.**

Comentarios sobre el Enfoque: Uno puede someter comentarios en los siguientes métodos: (1) por correo postal, (2) por correo electrónico, (3) por fax, o (4) asistiendo a las Reuniones Públicos (vea el horario y local arriba) y haciendo un comentario verbal o entregando un comentario escrito.

Individuos quienes responden pueden solicitar confidencialidad. Si usted quiere retener su nombre o dirección del público o de ser revelado bajo el *Freedom of Information Act*, necesita decir esto claramente al comienzo de su comentario. Pedidos serán honorados tanto como permite la ley. La CPUC y BLM no considerarán comentarios anónimos. Todos los comentarios de organizaciones o negocios, y de individuos que se identifican como representantes u oficiales de organizaciones o negocios, serán disponible para inspección público en su totalidad.

Por Correo: Si quiere enviar comentarios por correo postal, por favor use el correo de primera clase e incluye su nombre y dirección. Por favor envíe comentarios escritos sobre el enfoque del EIR/EIS a:

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
Fax y Mensaje de Voz: (888) 456-0254

Por Correo Electrónico: Comunicaciones por correo electrónico son bienvenidos; pero por favor incluye su nombre y dirección en el mensaje de email. Envíe correo electrónico a westofdevers@aspeneg.com.

Por fax: Usted puede mandar su comentario a la línea de información al (888) 456-0254. Por favor incluye su nombre y dirección en el fax, escribe legiblemente, y use tinta negra o azul.

Un **Informe del Enfoque** será preparado, resumiendo todos los comentarios recibidos (incluyendo los comentarios orales hechos durante las Reuniones Públicas). Este informe será publicado en el sitio web: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm, y copias serán depositado en los repositos listados en la Lista 2, abajo. Además, una cantidad limitada de informes serán disponibles a pedido de la CPUC.

Sugerencias por Participar Efectivamente en el Enfoque

Aquí se encuentran sugerencias para preparar y proveer información útil para el proceso del EIR/EIS.

1. Revisar la descripción del proyecto (vea la Sección C de esta notificación y los mapas). Detalles adicionales sobre la descripción del proyecto se encuentran el sitio web del proyecto donde en la Evaluación Ambiental del Proponente.
2. Asistir a las reuniones públicas para acceder a más información sobre el proyecto y el proceso de revisión ambiental (ver horarios y fechas arriba).
3. Entregar comentarios escritos o atender a las reuniones públicas y comentar oralmente. Explicar los temas que el EIR/EIS debe incluir.
4. Sugerir medidas de mitigación que pueden reducir los impactos potenciales del Proyecto Propuesto.
5. Sugerir alternativas al Proyecto Propuesto que pueden evitar o reducir impactos del Proyecto Propuesto.

G. Para Información Adicional sobre el Proyecto

Sitio Web – Información sobre esta aplicación y el proceso de evaluación ambiental será publicado en el internet al http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm. Este sitio será usado para publicar todos los documentos públicos durante el proceso de evaluación ambiental y para anunciar reuniones públicas. A demás, una copia del PEA se encuentra sobre el sitio web, y el EIR/EIS Borrado será publicado en el sitio web después de ser listo.

Número para Información – Puede pedir información sobre el proyecto dejando un mensaje de voz al (888) 456-0254 o mandando un fax, usando el mismo número telefónico.

Reposito de Documento – Documentos relacionados al Proyecto WOD y el EIR/EIS serán disponibles en los sitios alistados en la Lista 2.

Lista 2. Repositorios de los Documentos del Proyecto

West of Devers – Locales de Bibliotecas		
Biblioteca City of Riverside	3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501	(951) 826-5201
Biblioteca San Bernardino County	104 W. Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415	(909) 387-5723
Biblioteca Pública Colton	656 N. Ninth Street, Colton, CA 92324	(909) 370-5083
Biblioteca Grand Terrace	22795 Barton Road, Grand Terrace, CA 92313	(909) 783-0147
Biblioteca City of Loma Linda	25581 Barton Road, Loma Linda, CA 92354	(909) 796-8621
Biblioteca A.K. Smiley Public	125 West Vine Street, Redlands, CA 92373	(909) 798-7565
Biblioteca Mentone County	1870 Mentone Boulevard, Mentone, CA 92359	(909) 794-2657
Biblioteca Yucaipa Branch	12040 5th Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399	(909) 790-3146
Biblioteca Calimesa City	974 Calimesa Boulevard, Calimesa, CA 92320	(909) 795-9807
Biblioteca Beaumont District	125 East 8th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	(951) 845-1357
Biblioteca Pública Banning	21 W Nicolet Street, Banning, CA 92220	(951) 849-3192
Biblioteca Morongo Community	11581 Potrero Road, Banning, CA 92220	(951) 849-5937
West of Devers – Oficina de U.S Bureau of Land Management		
Palm Springs/So. Coast Field Ofc	1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262	(760) 833-7100
California Desert District Office	22835 Calle San Juan Del Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553	(951) 697-5200

*Se puede obtener copias de estos materiales en estos locales al coste.

H. Emisión del NOP

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California por este medio emite esta Notificación de Preparación de un Informe de Impacto Ambiental.

Billie Blanchard

Fecha: May 5, 2014

Billie Blanchard, Project Manager
División de Energía
Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California

Documento A – Resumen de Asuntos e Impactos Potenciales: Proyecto West of Devers

Asuntos Ambientales / Asuntos o Impactos Potenciales

DISEÑO ESTÉTICO / VISUAL

- Impactos visuales pueden ocurrir en puntos de vista susceptibles donde la línea de alta tensión propuesta sería visible, incluyendo: residentes, parques y áreas de recreación, áreas abiertas, cementerios, y rutas de viaje y carreteras.
- Impactos visuales de corto plazo durante la construcción.
- Impactos visuales de largo plazo a residentes a lo largo del corredor WOD causada por la altura aumentado y las localidades de las torres propuestas comparadas a las torres actuales.
- Impactos visuales potenciales de corto plazo a personas viajando en la local donde la línea de alta tensión cruza o corre en paralelo a rutas, como la I-10 y CA 62.

RECURSOS AGRÍCOLAS

- Impactos temporarios ocurrirán durante la construcción causada por la eliminación de tierras de cultivo e interferencia con actividades agrícolas (incluyendo arar e irrigación, restricción de acceso a áreas agrícolas, y/o conflictos potenciales con aviones fumigadores).
- Proyecto podría convertir tierras de cultivo a otro uso. Impactos a largo plazo ocurrirán donde las bases de las torres eliminarían permanentemente actividades agrícolas e interferirían con las operaciones agrícolas (incluyendo arar e irrigación).
- Impactos potenciales relacionados a la zonificación para uso agrícola.

CALIDAD DE AIRE Y GASES DE EFECTO INVERNADERO

- Impactos durante la construcción podrían ocurrir a causa de polvo aerotransportado y equipo pesado, helicópteros, vehículos de apoyo, y otro equipo de motor de combustión interna que genera gases de escape que contienen: monóxido de carbón (CO), compuestos orgánicos volátiles (VOC), óxidos de nitrógeno (NOx), óxidos de azufre (SOx), material particulado (PM10 y PM2.5), y gases de efecto invernadero.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de emisiones y polvo fugitivo producido durante la operación y mantenimiento de las líneas de alta tensión propuesta.
- Impactos potenciales a la salud humana y ambiental a causa de contribuir a las condiciones existentes que no cumplen con los Estándares Ambientales Nacionales de la Calidad de Aire (NAAQS) del EPA y los estándares de California para material particulado y ozono.
- Emisiones totales generadas por las actividades de construcción excederían las recomendaciones del Distrito de Manejo de la Calidad de Aire del *South Coast* (SCAQMD).
- Implementación del proyecto puede estar en conflicto con los planes, la política o la regulación adoptada con el propósito de reducir gases de efecto invernadero.

RECURSOS BIOLÓGICOS – *VEGETACIÓN*

- Impactos potenciales temporarios y permanentes a comunidades de vegetación sensible a causa de la eliminación de las líneas existentes y la construcción de líneas nuevas.
- Impactos causados por el aumento por hierbas no nativas que se establecen en los bases de torres, áreas de grúa, depósitos de reservas de materiales, y sitios para la planta de mezcla de cemento.
- Impactos potenciales temporarios y permanentes a plantas sensibles, incluyendo el *Coachella Valley milkvetch* y *Nevin's barberry.*
- Impactos potenciales temporarios y permanentes a humedales federales o estatales o drenajes que no son humedales a causa de eliminación de vegetación, colocación de relleno, erosión, sedimentación, y degradación de la calidad de agua.

Documento A – Resumen de Asuntos e Impactos Potenciales: Proyecto West of Devers

Asuntos Ambientales / Asuntos o Impactos Potenciales

RECURSOS BIOLÓGICOS – *FAUNA*

- Impactos potenciales directos y permanentes a fauna, ya que pueden ser atropellado por vehículos durante construcción.
- Impactos directos e indirectos potenciales a reptiles listados en la Base de Datos de Diversidad Natural de California (CNDDB), incluyendo el lagarto de Coachella Valley.
- Impactos directos e indirectos, temporales y permanentes potenciales a los siguiente fauna: tortuga del desierto, los pájaros *coastal California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, y western yellow-billed cuckoo*, la rata canguro Stephens', y el zorro del desierto.
- Impactos potenciales directos y permanentes a roedores de madriguera, ya que equipo pesado puede derrumbar la madriguera y matar los roedores.
- Impactos potenciales directos e indirectos a especies de pájaros listados en el CNDDB incluyendo lechuzas, águilas reales, y halcones peregrinos.
- Impactos potenciales a pájaros y murciélagos, ya que pueden chocar con conductores eléctricos o con las líneas durante vuelo.

Pájaros Haciendo Nidos

- Impactos potenciales directos y permanentes a pájaros haciendo nidos en estructuras, equipo, cactus, arbustos, árboles, o sobre el suelo, si los nidos son perturbados o destruidos.
- Impactos potenciales a pájaros haciendo nidos a causa del viento producido por los rotores de helicópteros, ruido, polvo, y vibraciones.

RECURSOS CULTURALES

Sitios Arqueológicos

- Impactos potenciales a sitios arqueológicos conocidos y no conocidos durante construcción.

Propiedades Culturales Tradicionales

- Impactos potenciales a Propiedades Culturales Tradicionales (TCPs) o TCPs potenciales de la construcción, operaciones, y mantenimiento de la línea de alta tensión propuesta.
- Impactos potenciales etnográficos donde el corredor del Mejoramiento de WOD cruza la Reserva del *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*.

Sitios Históricos

- Impactos potenciales a sitios históricos que son elegibles potencialmente para ser listado en el NRHP.

Recursos Paleontológicos

- Impactos potenciales a recursos paleontológicos entre las Subestaciones Devers y Vista, donde el corredor de Devers cruza 26 millas de áreas con sensibilidad paleontológico alta o indeterminado incluyendo: depósitos aluviales Pleistoceno, Conglomerado *Canebrake* o la Formación *Palm Springs*, y Formación San Timoteo.

Documento A – Resumen de Asuntos e Impactos Potenciales: Proyecto West of Devers

Asuntos Ambientales / Asuntos o Impactos Potenciales

SUELOS Y LA GEOLOGÍA

- Impactos potenciales a causa de aplanar las rutas de acceso y áreas asfaltadas de las torres.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de erosión sobre pendientes y áreas aplanadas acantilados.
- Impactos potenciales por actividades sísmicos en las zonas de fallas en el área del proyecto. Las torres en el área serían sometidos a terremotos sísmicos severos a través de la vida del Proyecto Propuesto.
- Impactos potenciales de quebradura del suelo donde la línea de alta tensión potencial cruzaría zonas de fallas activas.
- Impactos posibles de derrumbes, flujo de barro, u otras quiebras relacionadas a actividades sísmicas en particular donde la línea de alta tensión cruza zonas de fallas activas.

PELIGROS Y MATERIALES PELIGROSOS

- Impactos potenciales a causa de almacenamiento incorrecto de materiales peligrosos y/o residuos peligrosos durante la construcción del proyecto, operación, o mantenimiento.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de fugas o derrames de petróleo o fluidos hidráulicos de equipos de construcción u otros vehículos durante la construcción, operación, o mantenimiento.
- Impactos potenciales si descubren materiales peligros durante actividades de excavación causando derrames tóxicos al medio ambiente.

HYDROLOGÍA Y CALIDAD DE ÁGUA

- Impactos potenciales que aumentan escorrentía de agua, erosión, y sedimentación.
- Impactos potenciales a arroyos o arroyos fluviales a causa de violaciones a los estándares de la calidad de agua o la descarga de desechos.

USO DEL SUELO

- Conflictos posibles con ordenamientos territoriales, políticas, o regulaciones adoptados para evitar o mitigar impactos ambientales.
- Efectos sobre terratenientes, negocios, e instalaciones públicos o comunitarios en las Ciudades de Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Loma Linda, Redlands, Colton, y Grand Terrace, y en las áreas del Condado de Riverside al este de la Ciudad de Banning y dentro del Cañón de San Timoteo.
- Impactos a tierras tribales bajo la jurisdicción del *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*.
- Impactos potenciales al cementerio en Banning.
- Impactos potenciales a corto plazo donde actividades de construcción del Proyecto Propuesto podrían impedir operaciones mineras en dos minas existentes; impactos a largo plazo donde operación del proyecto ocurriría en la vecindad de las dos minas.

RUIDO

- Impactos a causa del ruido de la construcción generado por el equipo maquinaria.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de ruido generado durante la operación del Proyecto Propuesto, que aumentaría los niveles ambientales de ruido cerca del corredor.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de ruido generado por el uso de helicópteros durante actividades de construcción, operación, y mantenimiento.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de ruido en áreas residenciales cerca del corredor propuesto, si las actividades de construcción violan las ordenanzas de ruido local (volumen y horas de operación) para poder aprovechar de periodos con bajo uso de electricidad.

Documento A – Resumen de Asuntos e Impactos Potenciales: Proyecto West of Devers

Asuntos Ambientales / Asuntos o Impactos Potenciales

SOCIOECONOMÍA

- Impactos positivos fiscales en las jurisdicciones que imponen impuestos, que recibirán ingresos a causa de la línea de alta tensión.
- Impactos potenciales que impactan desigualmente a personas de bajos ingresos o minorías (justicia ambiental).
- Impactos potenciales a causa del empleo de aproximadamente 300 obreros de construcción.
- Impactos potenciales a tierras del *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*.

SALUD PÚBLICA Y SEGURIDAD

- Impactos potenciales a causa de la seguridad del tráfico aéreo por la instalación de las torres altas.
- Potencial de incendios de arbustos a causa de la construcción o de fallas en las líneas de alta tensión o en las líneas de distribución.
- Riesgos potenciales a bomberos luchando contra fuegos cerca de la servidumbre.
- Impactos potenciales a la salud pública a causa de helicópteros con cargas externas.

SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS Y UTILIDADES

- Impactos posibles durante actividades de construcción a causa del aumento de uso de recursos públicos, servicios, y utilidades.
- Impactos posibles durante construcción a causa de la generación de residuos y su disposición.
- Proyectos adicionales de líneas de alta tensión potenciales relacionados a los proyectos de energía renovable en el área del proyecto.

RECUSOS DE RECREACIÓN

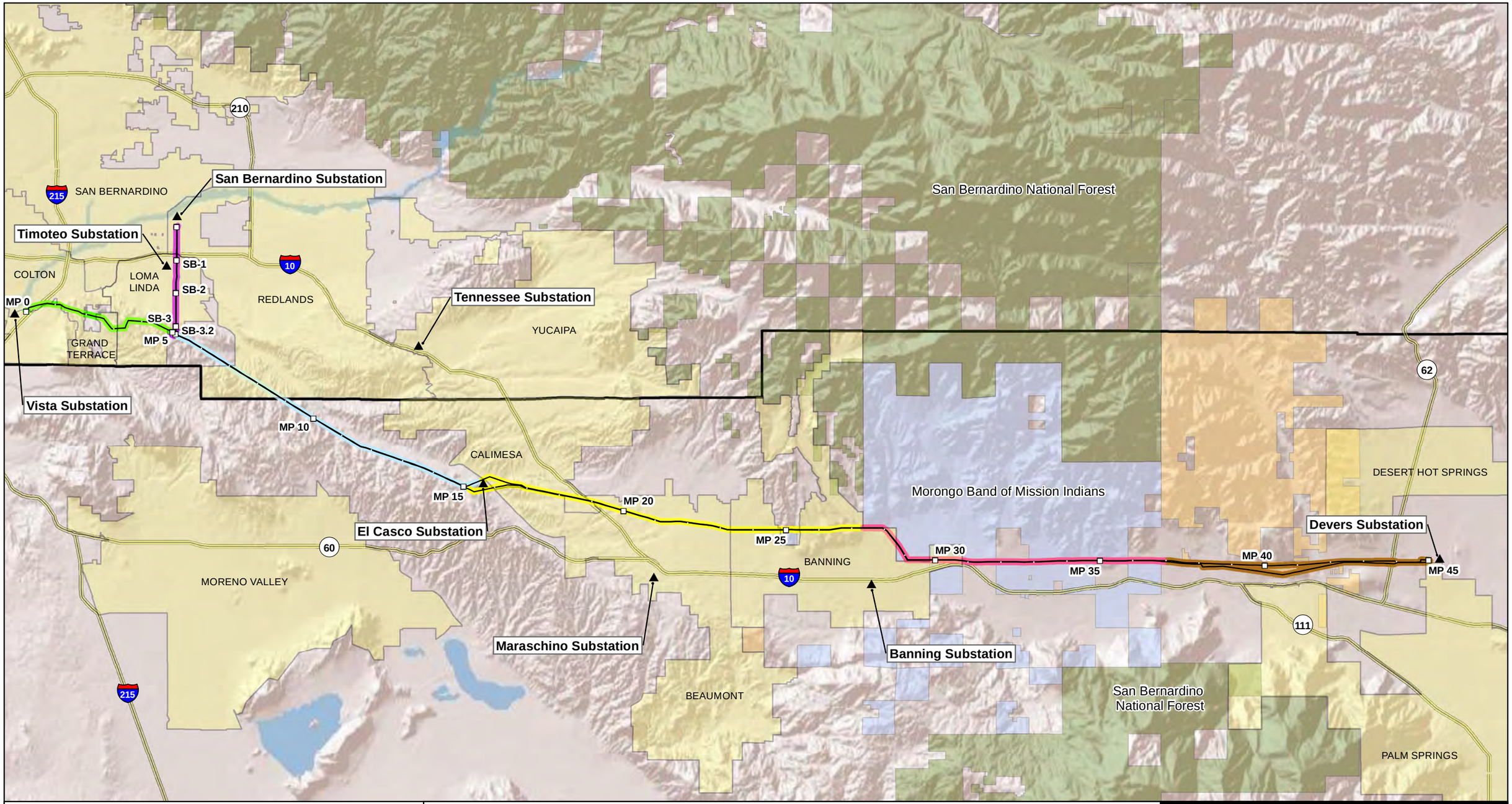
- Impactos posibles en áreas con planificación establecido o pendiente para la conservación.
- Trastorno temporal a actividades de recreación en las áreas de recreación siguientes, entre otros: Parque Noble Creek Regional y Campo de Golf Oak Valley.
- Impactos potenciales a causa de cierres de rutas y aumento de tráfico durante actividades de construcción, que podrían impedir acceso a áreas de recreación.

TRANSPORTACIÓN Y TRÁFICO

- Tráfico adicional en la vecindad de la línea de alta tensión propuesta.
- Cierre de rutas potenciales durante actividades de construcción, que podrían impedir acceso a áreas cerca del corredor de línea de alta tensión, incluyendo impedir acceso a bomberos o policía.
- Potencial de aumento de tráfico durante operación y mantenimiento de la línea de alta tensión.
- Eliminación de corto plazo de plazas de estacionamiento.
- Impactos potenciales conforme a requerimientos del FAA que limitan la altura de estructuras cerca a aeropuertos y señalamiento de peligros (por ejemplo, Aeropuerto de Banning).

OTRAS ASUNTOS

- Impactos Cumulativos, incluyendo posiblemente una línea de alta tensión futura en el corredor WOD.
- Efectos que inducen el desarrollo.
- Apropiado use de CEQA y NEPA, asegurando coordinación efectivo entre la CPUC, el BLM, y BIA.
- Consideración de un alcance razonable de alternativas.
- Medidas de mitigación efectivas y que se puede hacer cumplir.



Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Legend

- Mileposts (eg. MP 1, SB-1)
- Substation
- Transmission Line
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- City Boundary
- County Line

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 1

Project Overview

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 2a

Segments 1, 2, and 3

(Grand Terrace, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands)

San Bernardino Substation
SB-0
San Bernardino Ave
W Lugonia Ave
SAN BERNARDINO
REDLANDS
SB-1
Redlands Blvd
Timoteo Substation
COLTON
LOMA LINDA
Mountain View Ave
Vista Substation
SB-2
MP 0
MP 1
MP 2
Barton Rd
MP 3
MP 4
Beaumont Ave
SB-3
MP 5
SB-3.2
Tennessee Substation
MP 6
GRAND TERRACE
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
MP 7
San Timoteo Canyon Rd
MP 8
Live Oak Canyon Rd
MP 9
MP 10
CALIMESA
Reche Canyon Rd
MP 11
MP 12
MP 13
MP 14
MP 15
El Casco Substation

Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

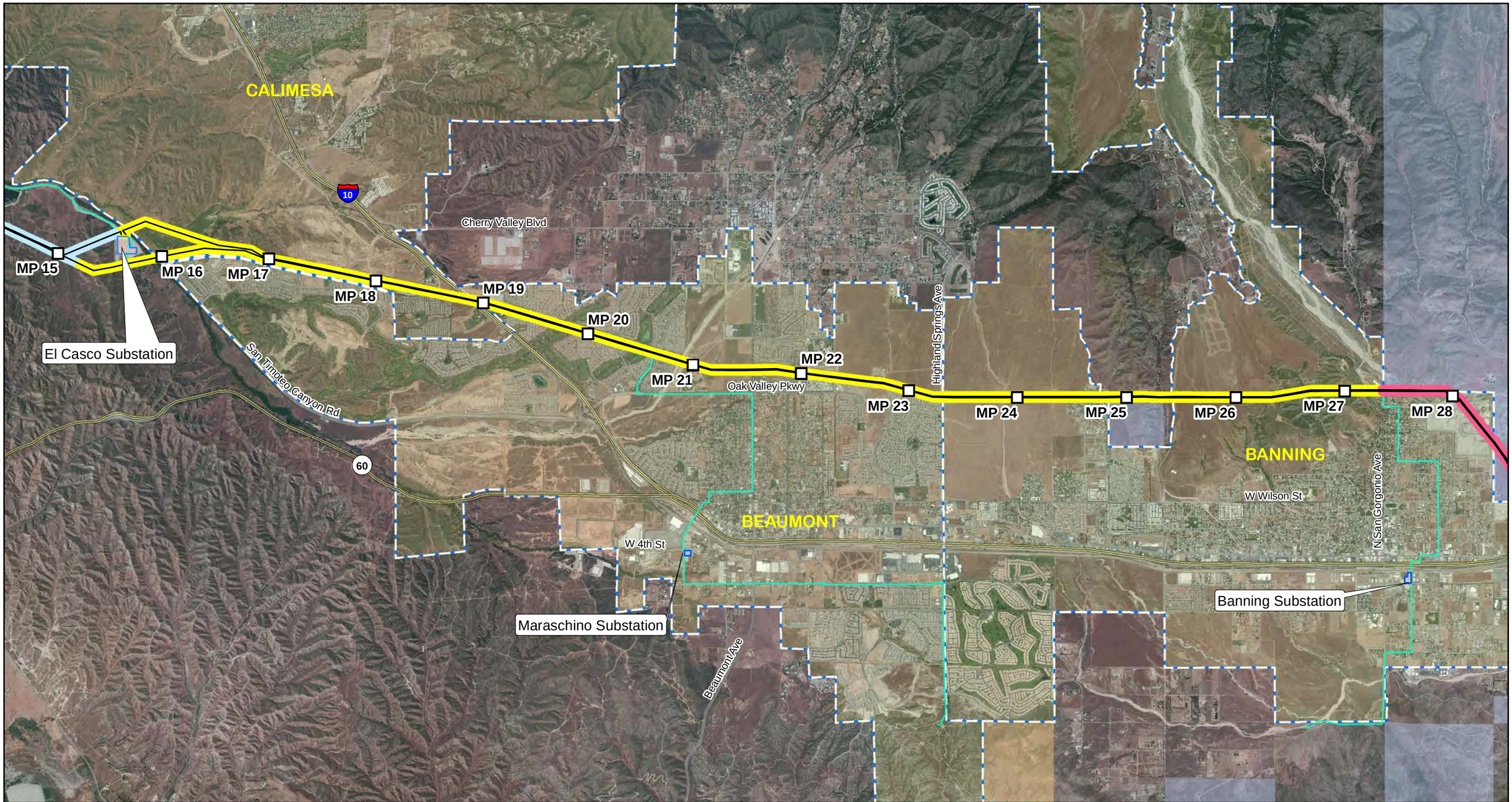
LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Substation

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management
- City Boundary
- County Line

May 2014



Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Substation
- County Line
- City Boundary

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management

West of Devers Upgrade Project

NOP Figure 2b

Segment 4

(Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning)

May 2014

Aspen Environmental Group

Source: SCE 2013

N W E S

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LEGEND

- Mileposts (e.g., MP 1)
- Transmission Line (220 kV)
- Subtransmission Line (66 kV)
- Distribution Line (12 kV)
- Telecommunications Line
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Substation
- County Line
- City Boundary

Land Jurisdiction

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management

West of Devers Upgrade Project

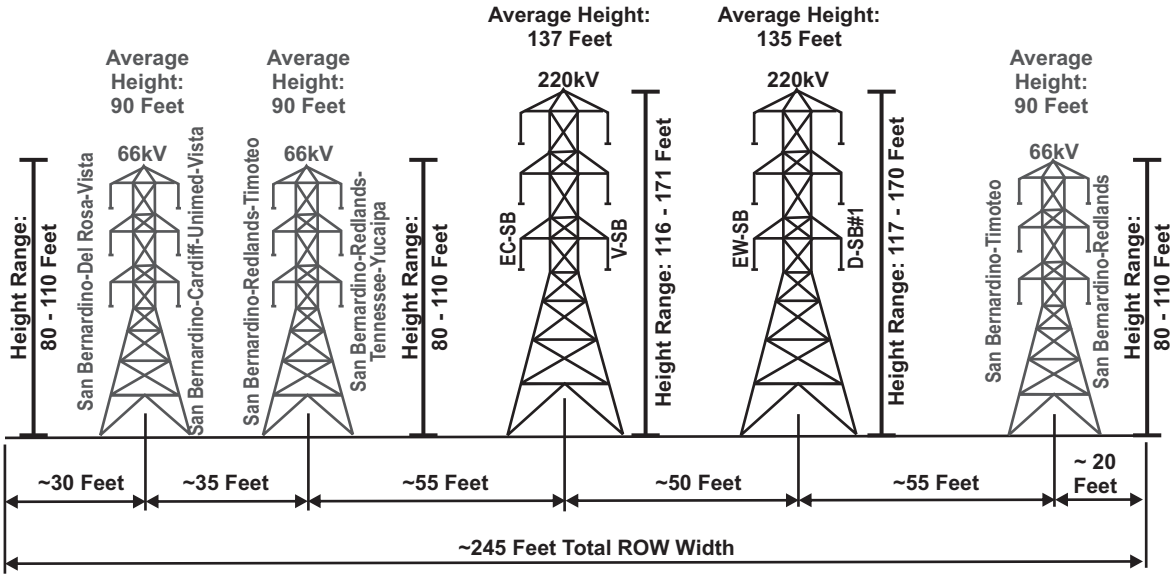
NOP Figure 2c

Segments 5 and 6

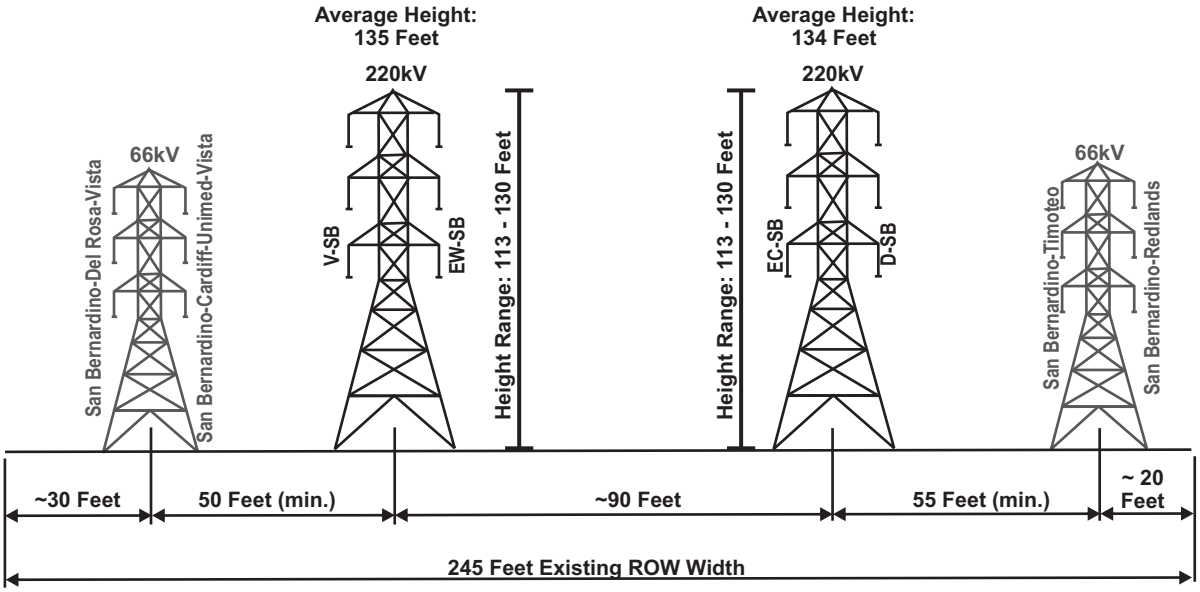
(Morongo Tribal Lands, Banning, Palm Springs)

May 2014

Existing
Segment 1



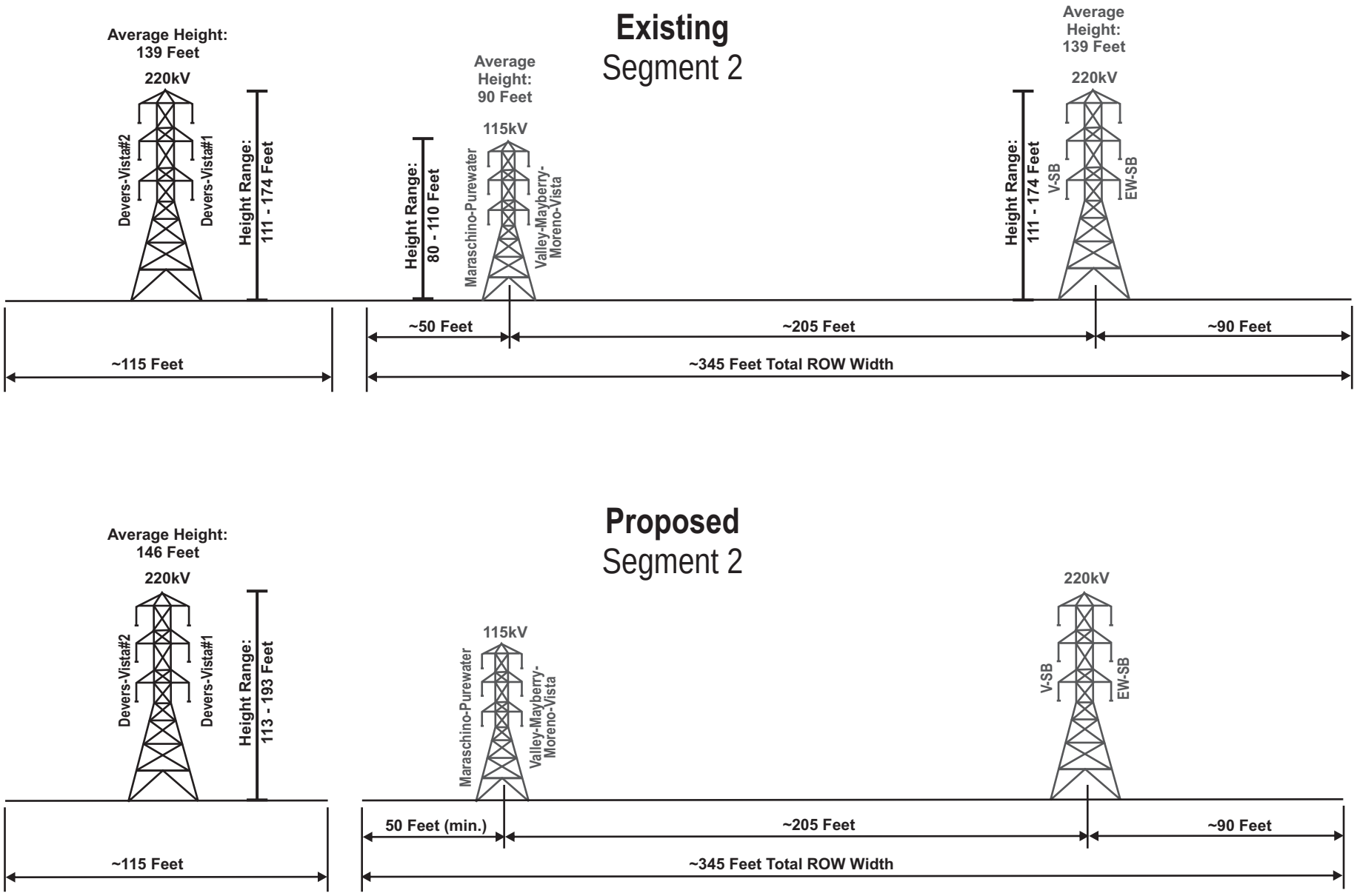
Proposed
Segment 1



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3a

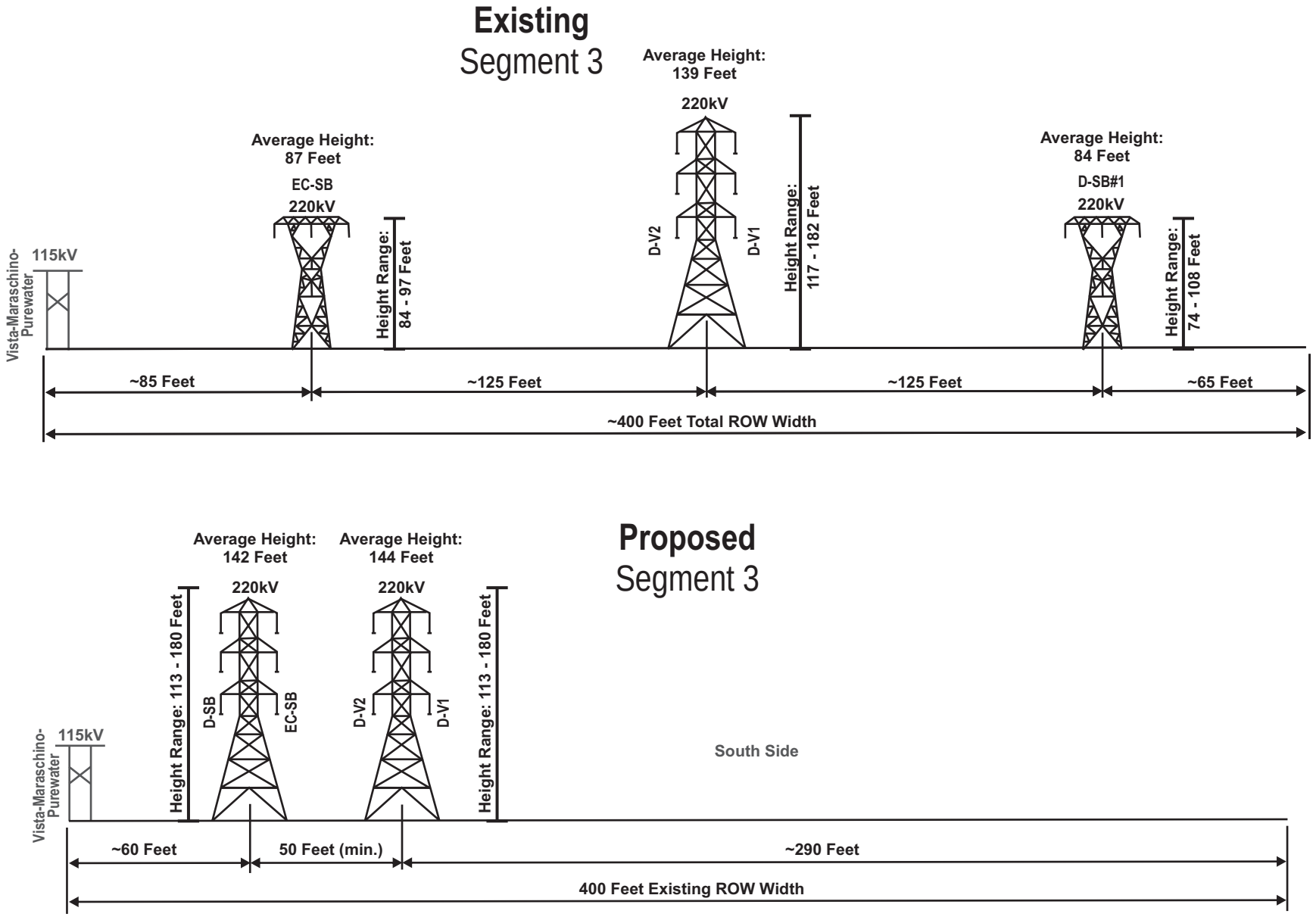
Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 1



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3b

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 2



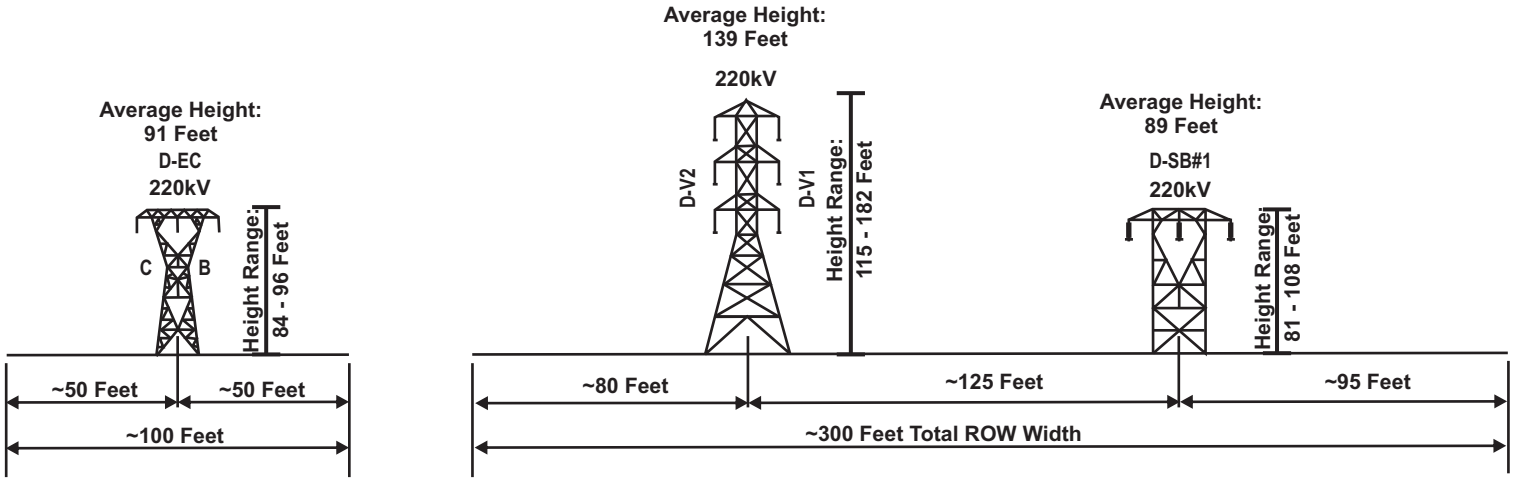
Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3c

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile Segment 3

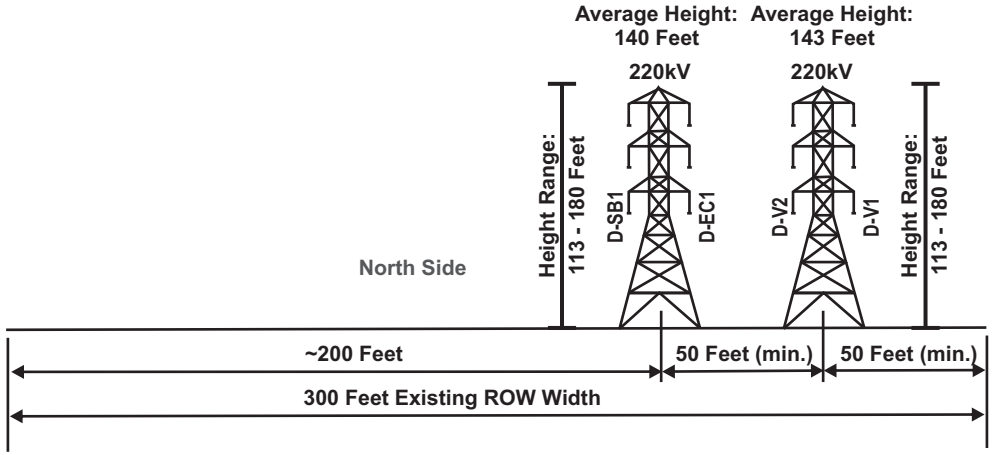
Existing

Segment 4 - East of El Casco



Proposed

Segment 4 - East of El Casco

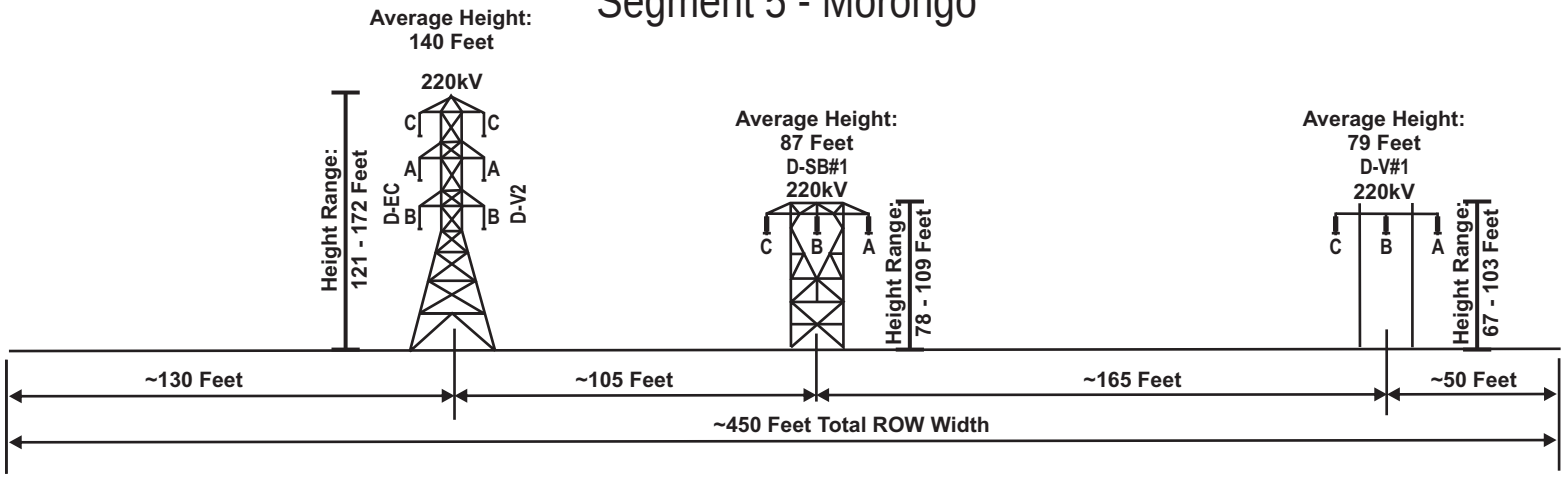


Source: SCE, 2013.

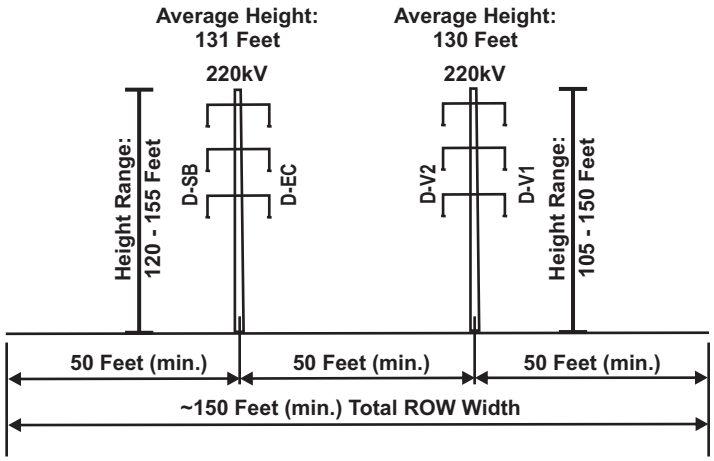
Figure 3d

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 4

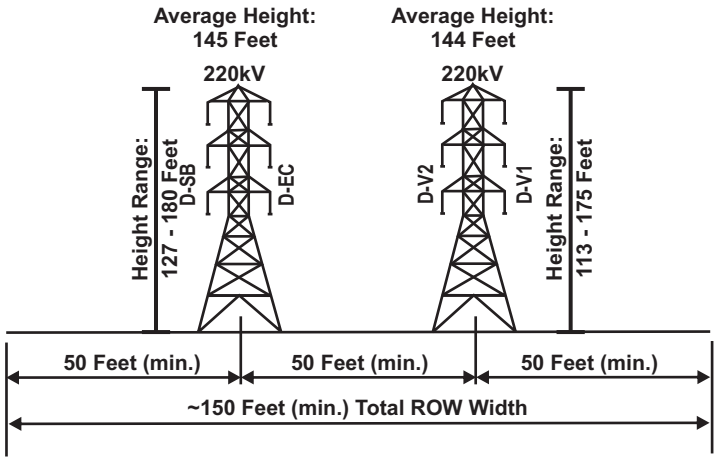
Existing
Segment 5 - Morongo



Proposed (Current Design)
Segment 5A - Morongo



Proposed (Current Design)
Segment 5B - Morongo



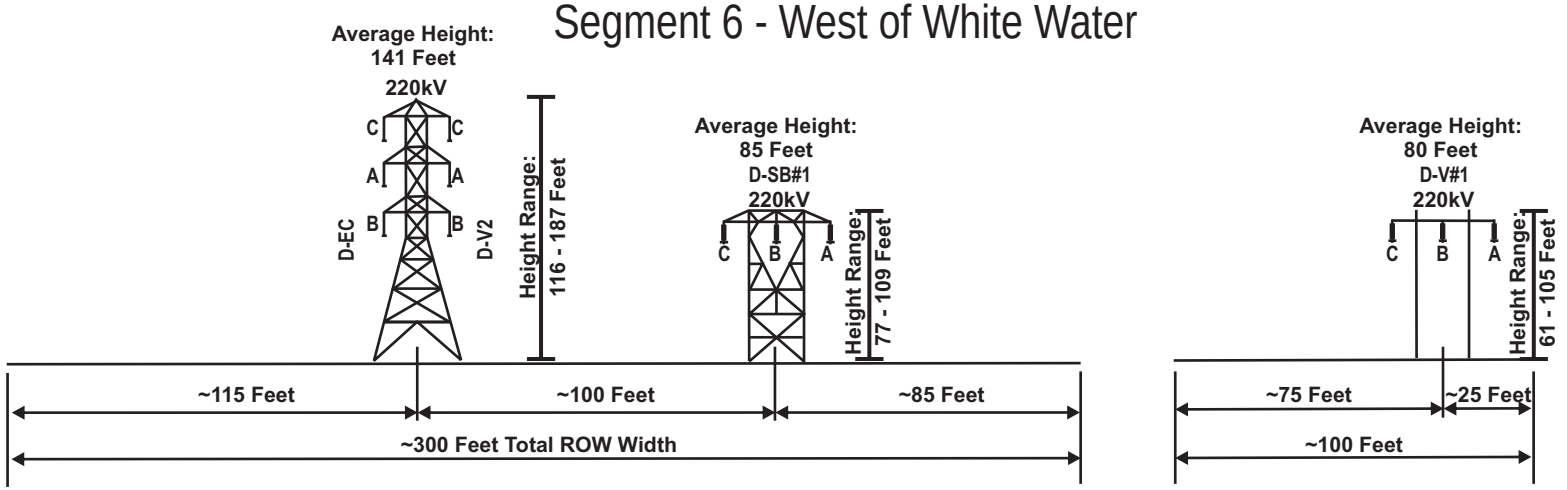
Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3e

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 5

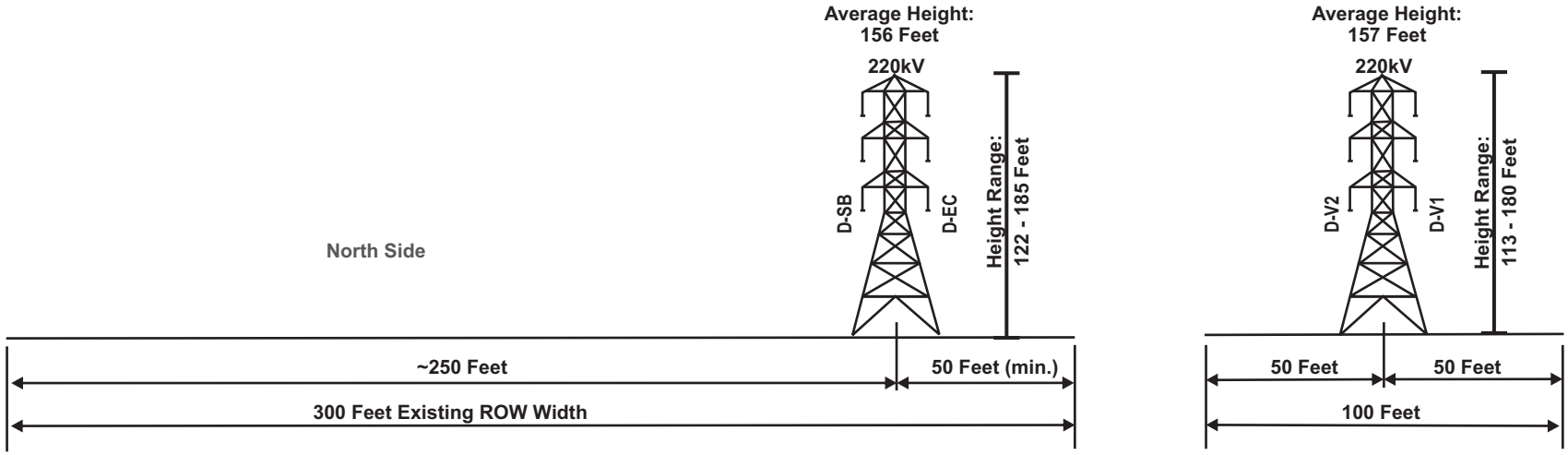
Existing

Segment 6 - West of White Water



Proposed

Segment 6 - West of White Water



Source: SCE, 2013.

Figure 3f

Existing and Proposed Corridor Profile
Segment 6

Appendix C-1.
Summary of Written Comments Received from Government Agencies and Special Districts

Date	From	Comments
State Agencies		
June 5, 2014	**CA Department of Water Resources** David M. Samson, Chief State Water Project Operations Support Office	• Project could impact lands in close proximity to the California Aqueduct Santa Ana Pipeline. • Project will cross DWR's right-a-way near Barton Road along West Devers, MP 1 in Grand Terrace. • Any improvements that encroach on DWR ROW will require review and possible permitting from DWR. • Refers future project-related documents to the SWP Encroachments Section of DWR and provides contact information and address.
June 12, 2014	**CA Department of Fish and Wildlife** Ali Aghili Senior Environmental Scientist	• EIR/EIS should include sufficient, specific, and current biological information on existing habitat and species on the project site, and mitigation measures to reduce impacts. • Department recommends contacting the Department's CA Natural Diversity Database for previously reported sensitive species and habitats. • The document should not defer impact analysis or mitigation to future regulatory discretionary action. • If state or federal endangered or threatened species have the potential to occur on the project site, species specific surveys should be conducted using methods approved by the department or assume presence throughout project site. • Also address species of special concern and federal critical habitat. • Department administers Natural Community Conservation Plan Program. The project occurs within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the Coachella Valley MSHCP areas. To be considered a covered activity, permittee must demonstrate proposed action/project is consistent with the MSHCPs. • Document should include analysis of these plans and how the project will affect reserve assembly as well as the plan goals and objectives. • CPUC is not signatory to either plan and to participate in either plan, CPUC will need to act a Participating Special Entity. • If project is not processed through the MSCHPs for covered species then the project may be subject to Federal Endangered Species Act and /or CA Endangered Species Act. • EIR/EIS should fully identify potential impacts to lake, stream, or riparian resources and address adequate avoidance/mitigation to determine need for Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. • Document should address direct and indirect cumulative impacts. • Document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the project. Analysis should include alternatives that avoid or reduce impacts to sensitive biological resources. • Document should address off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat.

Appendix C-1.
Summary of Written Comments Received from Government Agencies and Special Districts

Date	From	Comments
July 28, 2014	**CALFIRE** Henry Herrera Forester I, RPF #2936	• Project area has history of frequent wildfires, therefore, request notification during the construction phase of the project, towers should be lit and visible, and notify CALFIRE if helicopters will be used for tower placement. • Request a plan that lays out coordination with CALFIRE and US Forest Service aviation staff in the event of a wildfire in or near the project area and where firefighting aircraft may be needed. • Letter provides CALFIRE point of contact.
Special Districts		
June 11, 2014	**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** Deirdre West Manager, Environmental Planning Team	• One of MWD's major water supplies is the Colorado River conveyed via MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). • In the project area, the CRA is a 16-foot cut and cover conduit, which extends in an east-west direction and is bisected by project at MP 38 and MP 42. Letter provides map showing location of these MPs. • MWD also has a fee property in this same area. • Project has the potential to impact CRA and could interfere with ongoing operation, maintenance, and repair activities. MWD needs unrestricted and unobstructed access to CRA facilities. • EIR/EIS must evaluate impacts to MWD facilities and ensure impacts are fully mitigated. • Submit design plans to MWD's Substructures Team for review and written approval. Loading restrictions will be required in areas that cross CRA. • Letter includes "Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California " for review.

Appendix C-2.
Summary of Written Comments Received from Organizations and Companies

Date	From	Comments
July 28, 2014	**San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society** Dave Goodward Conservation Committee	• Follow up to testimony provided at the July 16 scoping meeting. • Towers provide nesting structures for Common Ravens, Red-tailed Hawks, and Golden Eagles. All three species have been affected by nesting on transmission towers. • Document should analyze the project's affect in the project area in context of global warming and long-term increased aridity of western US, the new biological reality. • Increased urban development has also changed existing environmental conditions in the WOD project area. • Need to analyze long-term ecological effects of the transmission tower nesting of Common Raven in context of land use patterns and increased vulnerability of prey species due to population stresses from global warming. • Need to examine past and present population levels of Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks as related to relative importance of transmission towers for nesting structures, changing environmental conditions, and electrocution deaths. • Concerned with predation by Common Ravens on various species and the contribution of towers to raven nesting. • Consider use of monopoles instead of lattice towers in areas where common ravens could be impacting vulnerable species. Concerned with predation on Desert Tortoises (Segment 6) and Tricolored Blackbirds (Segments 3 and 4). • Consider how monopoles affect Golden Eagles; knows of a Golden Eagle that nests on tower in San Timoteo Canyon. • Document needs to consider impacts to sensitive reptiles and amphibians; has encountered Orange-throated Whiptail, Ring-necked Snake, Legless Lizard, and Red Diamond Rattlesnake in Segment 2, and likely to occur in San Timoteo Canyon. • Consider trapping and relocating these species during project construction. • Require detailed and effective re-vegetation for construction-related disturbance that emphasizes native vegetation.

Appendix C-3. Summary of Written Comments Received from Private Citizens

Date	From	Comments
July 7, 2014	Obed Asif	• House is next to power lines and concerned with higher voltage, higher magnetic field and increased health risks. • Attached an article that discusses the possible risk associated with high voltage power lines. • Request that the agencies study potential health risks of power lines and provide plans for precautions and interventions the CPUC will take in regards to long-term exposure to a higher magnetic field.
July 16, 2014	Karen Harnitchek	• Please consider bumping the towers southward in Segment 3 behind Fisherman's Retreat instead of northward. • Southward brings the lines closer to residences. • How much more exposure will we receive? How about protective coating on wires? How can I feel safe?
July 16, 2014	Brenda Freeman	• Banning does not have utility lines across visible hillsides. Thank you for proposing lines away from most visibility from freeway. • Do not make lines larger on open space hillsides or undeveloped mountain areas. • An area to keep lines away from future homes is at Highland Springs and Wilson in Banning.
July 17, 2014	Lois Musmann	• Questions timing of current transmission lines, were they installed prior to or after 2003 when the homes were built? • How long will each section of the project take to be build? • Minimize impacts to the environment (flora and fauna). How did the development of a solar collector get so far without knowing that it would have an effect on birds?
July 24, 2014	Nancy Honeyfield	• The project will lower the value of my property; rental properties and future renters will not want to live that close to high [voltage] power lines because of health concerns. • If you cannot guarantee that the higher and more powerful lines will not become a health concern, then you should purchase our property and all other properties that are close to power lines. • Not in agreement with changing power lines behind property.

Appendix C-3. Summary of Written Comments Received from Private Citizens

Date	From	Comments
July 24, 2014	Kenneth D. Kelley	*(Mr. Kelley also submitted a similar letter for the CPUC scoping period, but that letter was not received in time to be published in Scoping Report, Part1)* • SCE needs to consider aesthetics in building towers in the neighborhood. • Cell phones, smart meters, and more electrical lines gives one pause when considering the increase in brain tumors. • Grading of power line roads has become major sources of dust storms in this community. Use water to reduce dust. • Expansion of transmission lines has diminished the desert turtles [tortoises], horny toads, and California quail that used to be here. • Concerned with what measures will be taken to ensure survival of lines when exposed to massive solar flares and new terrorist bombs designed to wipe out electrical grids.
August 14, 2014	Todd and Corinne Slusser	• Did not receive notification regarding the project. Lives next door to a neighbor that did receive notification. • Power tower proposed in middle of property; property has easement on back of land. • Towers limit my ability to build on the property in the future or to sell for full market value. Who will buy a piece of property with a huge tower on it with health hazard power lines? • Please choose an alternate site or keep towers where they already are – you cannot have my property for your upgrade.

Appendix C-4. Summary of Oral Comments Received at July 16, 2014 Scoping Meeting in Banning

Name	Organization	Comments
David Doherty	Private individual	• Tower proposed to go next to my house; property behind my property and the one west of me are empty; my property and the one next to me are the only ones being impacted. This will destroy property values. • Easement on back of my property and one on the roadway near my house, but why do you want to move so close to homes. • Maintenance of roads is also a problem. Riverside flood control property east of Desert View Ave. does not maintain property. • Concerned with traffic and potential for blithe to the area.
Lois Musmann	Private individual	• Not sure what year the current line is near Oak Valley Parkway? Concerned with the safety of the lines. • Want to have more information on the construction of the line and what will go on with the project. • Concerned with health impacts of the line, which will be taller. • Concerned with Segment 4 of the project, will lines be closer to houses, how will they change in relation to homes?
Brenda Freeman	Private individual	• Want to know where upgrades will be, concerned with upgrades on hillsides where visible; will impact views from homes. • My community is one of the few communities with beautiful hillsides, but we need power. • Important to me and my neighbors to put towers far from 10 freeway so not visible.
Dave Goodward	San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society	• Have more questions than comments, concerned with impacts on ravens and Golden Eagles • Will new towers be less or more eagle friendly, concerned with potential for eagle mortality? • Ravens like towers; any discussion of raven nest removal?
Karen Harnitchek	Private individual	• Tower pads will come further south towards my house; are some existing pads going to be used for the project, already pretty close to my house. • Need to have a better map to show where towers will be located. • Do new lines have any better protective coating? Will old existing lines give off more EMF than new lines – will it increase or have less effect on everything?

Appendix C-4. Summary of Oral Comments Received at July 16, 2014 Scoping Meeting in Banning

Name	Organization	Comments
Terrance Emersay	Private individual	• As part of this project, realigning Vista Marichano 115 kV line and combining into same ROW; my family has property in San Timiteo Canyon in Redlands between MP 8 and 9. • At this location the Vista-Maraschino line is approximately 1,200 to 1,500 feet north of these other towers and lines that are being realigned, suggest relocating section of the Vista Marichano line put into the same ROW, north and west of our property. • Long term it would be a smaller environmental footprint, improvement from an environmental impact standpoint, and cost to maintain would be better. Separate line has separate roadways, violate private property. • I know lines are together in one ROW at other locations and would like to see if we can combine these lines.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791

June 5, 2014

Mr. Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94104

Notice of Preparation for Environmental Impact Report, West Devers Transmission Upgrade Project, California Aqueduct, Santa Ana Pipeline, Approximate Milepost 424.94, Southern Field Division, SCH2014051041

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for West Devers Upgrade Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, as requested by California Public Utilities Commission. The notice by the applicant is to solicit information and agency input related to approximately 10 miles (Segment 2) of high voltage transmission lines, situated within San Bernardino County. The Applicant's improvements include: replacement of one 220 kV line, removal of 29 existing towers, and installation of 35 new towers within their existing right of way (ROW). The primary purpose for the upgrades are to provide a reliable power transmission system from Vista Substation to Devers Substation, associated with which supports large generator agreements and solar projects.
The proposed improvements could impact lands in close proximity to the California Aqueduct Santa Ana Pipeline, part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) ROW. The proposed project will cross DWR's ROW near Barton Road along West Devers at Milepost 1located within the Community of Grand Terrace. Any improvements that encroach upon or impact DWR's ROW will require review and possible permitting from DWR prior to the start of any construction.

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent environmental documentation when it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to this project should be sent to:

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief
SWP Encroachments Section
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-2
Sacramento, California 95814

In addition, please continue to keep DWR informed of any future actions with respect to the West Devers Upgrade Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief of DWR's SWP Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Mike Anderson at (916) 653-6664.

Sincerely,

David M. Samson, Chief
State Water Project Operations Support Office
Division of Operations and Maintenance

cc: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

MWD
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

June 11, 2014

Via Federal Express

Ms. Billie Blanchard
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

Notice of Preparation for a
Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the
West of Devers Upgrade Project Proposed in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Joint EIR/EIS) for the West of Devers Upgrade Project proposed by Southern California Edison. The proposed project consists of the removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission lines in six segments, substation equipment upgrades at five substations, sub-transmission line upgrades at two substations, electric distribution line upgrades, and the installation of telecommunication lines. The project extends over 45 miles from the Vista Substation in the community of Grand Terrace to the Devers Substation near Palm Springs. The project traverses the communities of Grand Terrace, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning, Morongo Tribal Lands, and Palm Springs in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Metropolitan is a public agency and regional water wholesaler. It is comprised of 26 member public agencies serving more than 19 million people in six counties in Southern California. One of Metropolitan's major water supplies is the Colorado River conveyed via Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). The CRA consists of tunnels, open canals and buried pipelines. CRA-related facilities also include above and below ground reservoirs and aquifers, access and patrol roads, communication facilities, and residential housing sites. The CRA, which can deliver over 1.2 million acre-feet of water annually to the southern California coastal plain, extends 242 miles from the Colorado River to Lake Mathews. Metropolitan has five pumping plants located along the CRA, which consume approximately 2,400 gigawatt-hours of energy when the CRA is operating at full capacity.

In the project area, the CRA is a 16-foot cut and cover conduit. The CRA extends in a general east-west direction and is bisected by the proposed project near MP 38 and MP 42 (see attached

map). Metropolitan also has fee property of varying widths through the same area. Based on a review of the proposed project boundaries as described in the NOP, the project has the potential to impact Metropolitan's CRA. In particular, the proposed project could interfere with Metropolitan's ongoing operation, maintenance and repair activities on the CRA, which require unrestricted and unobstructed access to these facilities. Accordingly, the Joint EIR/EIS must examine the potential impacts to Metropolitan's facilities and ensure that any such impacts are fully mitigated.

In order to avoid potential conflicts with Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way, we require that any design plans for any activity in the area of Metropolitan's pipelines or facilities be submitted for our review and written approval. Loading restrictions will be necessary in areas that cross the CRA. Approval of the project is contingent on Metropolitan's approval of design plans for portions of the proposed project that could impact its facilities. Any future design plans associated with this project should be submitted to the attention of Metropolitan's Substructures Team.

Detailed prints of drawings of Metropolitan's pipelines and rights-of-way may be obtained by calling Metropolitan's Substructures Information Line at (213) 217-6564. To assist the applicant in preparing plans that are compatible with Metropolitan's facilities and easements, we have enclosed a copy of the "Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easement of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California." Please note that all submitted designs or plans must clearly identify Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving future documentation on this project. For further assistance, please contact Ms. Michelle Morrison at (213) 217-7906.

Very truly yours,

John Shamma

for Deirdre West
Manager, Environmental Planning Team

MM
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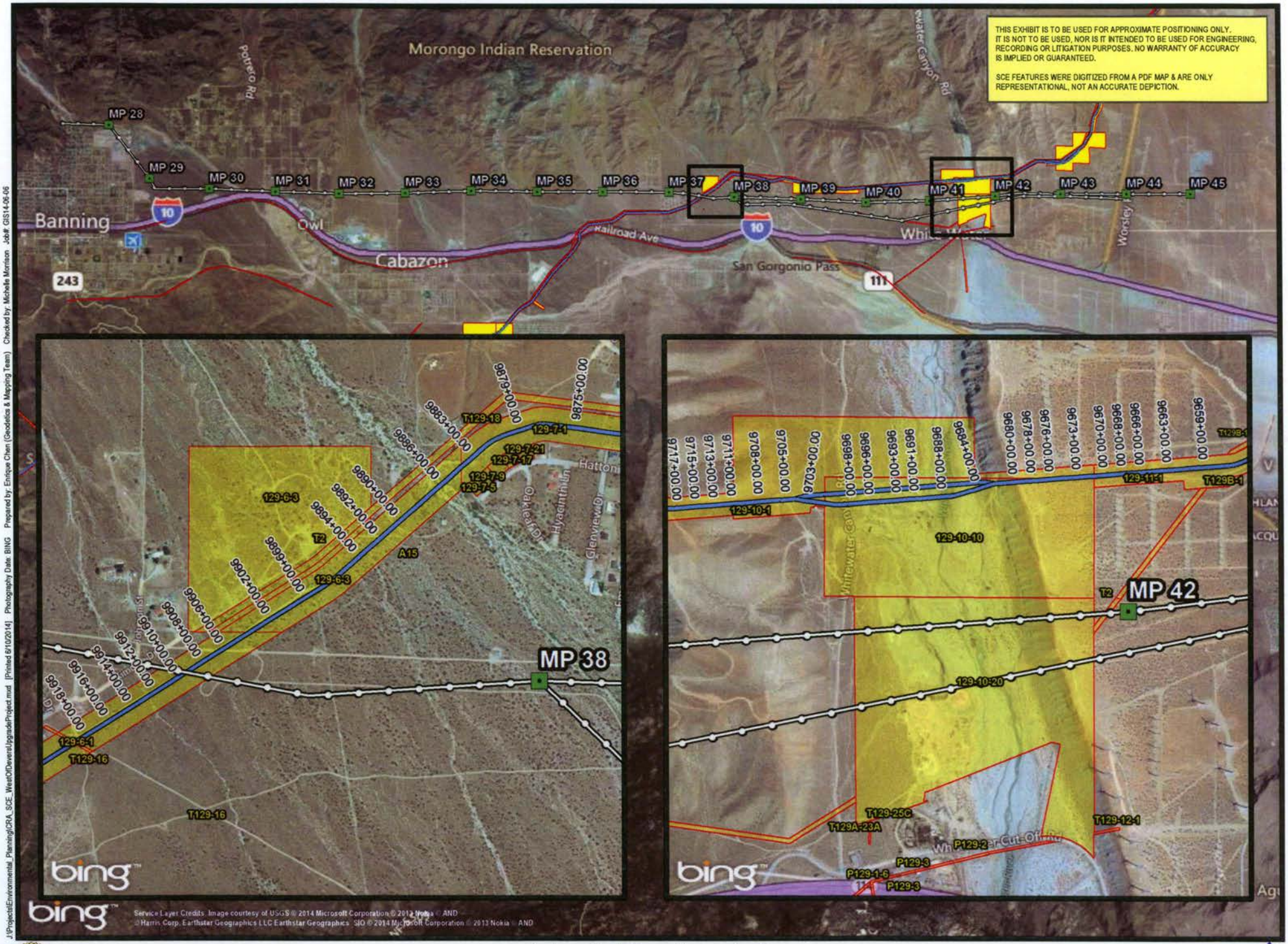
Enclosures: Planning Guidelines and Map of Metropolitan Facilities in Project Vicinity
MWD-Colorado River Aqueduct Map



J:\Projects\Environmental_Planning\CRA_SCE_WestOfDeverstUpgradeProject.mxd [Printed 6/10/2014] Photography Date: BING Prepared by: Enrique Chen (Geodetics & Mapping Team) Checked by: Michelle Morrison Job#: GIS14-06-06

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Engineering Services Group

Colorado River Aqueduct

SCE West of Devers Upgrade Project Crossing

Miles
0 0.5 1 2

Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

1. Introduction

a. The following general guidelines should be followed for the design of proposed facilities and developments in the area of Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties, and/or easements.

b. We require that 3 copies of your tentative and final record maps, grading, paving, street improvement, landscape, storm drain, and utility plans be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties and/or easements, prior to the commencement of any construction work.

2. Plans, Parcel and Tract Maps

The following are Metropolitan's requirements for the identification of its facilities, fee properties, and/or easements on your plans, parcel maps and tract maps:

a. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and its pipelines and other facilities must be fully shown and identified as Metropolitan's on all applicable plans.

b. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must be shown and identified as Metropolitan's with the official recording data on all applicable parcel and tract maps.

c. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and existing survey monuments must be dimensionally tied to the parcel or tract boundaries.

d. Metropolitan's records of surveys must be referenced on the parcel and tract maps.

3. Maintenance of Access Along Metropolitan's Rights-of-Way

a. Proposed cut or fill slopes exceeding 10 percent are normally not allowed within Metropolitan's fee properties or easements. This is required to facilitate the use of construction and maintenance equipment, and provide access to its aboveground and belowground facilities.

b. We require that 16-foot-wide commercial-type driveway approaches be constructed on both sides of all streets crossing Metropolitan's rights-of-way. Openings are required in any median island. Access ramps, if necessary, must be at least 16-feet-wide. Grades of ramps are normally not allowed to exceed 10 percent. If the slope of an access ramp must exceed 10 percent due to the topography, the ramp must be paved. We require a 40-foot-long level area on the driveway approach to access ramps where the ramp meets the street. At Metropolitan's fee properties, we may require fences and gates.

c. The terms of Metropolitan's permanent easement deeds normally preclude the building or maintenance of structures of any nature or kind within its easements, to ensure safety and avoid interference with operation and maintenance of Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities. Metropolitan must have vehicular access along the easements at all times for inspection, patrolling, and for maintenance of the pipelines and other facilities on a routine basis. We require a 20-foot-wide clear zone around all above-ground facilities for this routine access. This clear zone should slope away from our facility on a grade not to exceed 2 percent. We must also have access along the easements with construction equipment. An example of this is shown on Figure 1.

d. The footings of any proposed buildings adjacent to Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must not encroach into the fee property or easement or impose additional loading on Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities therein. A typical situation is shown on Figure 2. Prints of the detail plans of the footings for any building or structure adjacent to the fee property or easement must be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to the pipeline or other facilities therein. Also, roof eaves of buildings adjacent to the easement or fee property must not overhang into the fee property or easement area.

e. Metropolitan's pipelines and other facilities, e.g. structures, manholes, equipment, survey monuments, etc. within its fee properties and/or easements must be protected from damage by the easement holder on Metropolitan's property or the property owner where Metropolitan has an easement, at no expense to Metropolitan. If the facility is a cathodic protection station it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and way of protection shall be shown on the related plans for the easement area.

4. Easements on Metropolitan's Property

a. We encourage the use of Metropolitan's fee rights-of-way by governmental agencies for public street and utility purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with Metropolitan's use of the property, the entire width of the property is accepted into the agency's public street system and fair market value is paid for such use of the right-of-way.

b. Please contact the Director of Metropolitan's Right of Way and Land Division, telephone (213) 250-6302, concerning easements for landscaping, street, storm drain, sewer, water or other public facilities proposed within Metropolitan's fee properties. A map and legal description of the requested easements must be submitted. Also, written evidence must be submitted that shows the city or county will accept the easement for the specific purposes into its public system. The grant of the easement will be subject to Metropolitan's rights to use its land for water pipelines and related purposes to the same extent as if such grant had not been made. There will be a charge for the easement. Please note that, if entry is required on the property prior to issuance of the easement, an entry permit must be obtained. There will also be a charge for the entry permit.

5. Landscaping

Metropolitan's landscape guidelines for its fee properties and/or easements are as follows:

a. A green belt may be allowed within Metropolitan's fee property or easement.

b. All landscape plans shall show the location and size of Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement and the location and size of Metropolitan's pipeline or other facilities therein.

c. Absolutely no trees will be allowed within 15 feet of the centerline of Metropolitan's existing or future pipelines and facilities.

d. Deep-rooted trees are prohibited within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements. Shallow-rooted trees are the only trees allowed. The shallow-rooted trees will not be permitted any closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the pipeline, and such trees shall not be taller than 25 feet with a root spread no greater than 20 feet in diameter at maturity. Shrubs, bushes, vines, and ground cover are permitted, but larger shrubs and bushes should not be planted directly over our pipeline. Turf is acceptable. We require submittal of landscape plans for Metropolitan's prior review and written approval. (See Figure 3).

e. The landscape plans must contain provisions for Metropolitan's vehicular access at all times along its rights-of-way to its pipelines or facilities therein. Gates capable of accepting Metropolitan's locks are required in any fences across its rights-of-way. Also, any walks or drainage facilities across its access route must be constructed to AASHTO H-20 loading standards.

f. Rights to landscape any of Metropolitan's fee properties must be acquired from its Right of Way and Land Division. Appropriate entry permits must be obtained prior to any entry on its property. There will be a charge for any entry permit or easements required.

6. Fencing

Metropolitan requires that perimeter fencing of its fee properties and facilities be constructed of universal chain link, 6 feet in height and topped with 3 strands of barbed wire angled upward and outward at a 45 degree angle or an approved equal for a total fence height of 7 feet. Suitable substitute fencing may be considered by Metropolitan. (Please see Figure 5 for details).

7. Utilities in Metropolitan's Fee Properties and/or Easements or Adjacent to Its Pipeline in Public Streets

Metropolitan's policy for the alinement of utilities permitted within its fee properties and/or easements and street rights-of-way is as follows:

a. Permanent structures, including catch basins, manholes, power poles, telephone riser boxes, etc., shall not be located within its fee properties and/or easements.

b. We request that permanent utility structures within public streets, in which Metropolitan's facilities are constructed under the Metropolitan Water District Act, be placed as far from our pipeline as possible, but not closer than 5 feet from the outside of our pipeline.

c. The installation of utilities over or under Metropolitan's pipeline(s) must be in accordance with the requirements shown on the enclosed prints of Drawings Nos. C-11632 and C-9547. Whenever possible we request a minimum of one foot clearance between Metropolitan's pipe and your facility. Temporary support of Metropolitan's pipe may also be required at undercrossings of its pipe in an open trench. The temporary support plans must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan.

d. Lateral utility crossings of Metropolitan's pipelines must be as perpendicular to its pipeline alinement as practical. Prior to any excavation our pipeline shall be located manually and any excavation within two feet of our pipaline must be done by hand. This shall be noted on the appropriate drawings.

e. Utilities constructed longitudinally within Metropolitan's rights-of-way must be located outside the theoretical trench prism for uncovering its pipeline and must be located parallel to and as close to its rights-of-way lines as practical.

f. When piping is jacked or installed in jacked casing or tunnel under Metropolitan's pipe, there must be at least two feet of vertical clearance between the bottom of Metropolitan's pipe and the top of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. We also require that detail drawings of the shoring for the jacking or tunneling pits be submitted for our review and approval. Provisions must be made to grout any voids around the exterior of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. If the piping is installed in a jacked casing or tunnel the annular space between the piping and the jacked casing or tunnel must be filled with grout.

g. Overhead electrical and telephone line requirements:

1) Conductor clearances are to conform to the California State Public Utilities Commission, General Order 95, for Overhead Electrical Line Construction or at a greater clearance if required by Metropolitan. Under no circumstances shall clearance be less than 35 feet.

2) A marker must be attached to the power pole showing the ground clearance and line voltage, to help prevent damage to your facilities during maintenance or other work being done in the area.

3) Line clearance over Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be shown on the drawing to indicate the lowest point of the line under the most adverse conditions including consideration of sag, wind load, temperature change, and support type. We require that overhead lines be located at least 30 feet laterally away from all above-ground structures on the pipelines.

4) When underground electrical conduits, 120 volts or greater, are installed within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement, the conduits must be incased in a minimum of three inches of red concrete. Where possible, above ground warning signs must also be placed at the right-of-way lines where the conduits enter and exit the right-of-way.

h. The construction of sewerlines in Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must conform to the California Department of Health Services Criteria for the Separation of Water Mains and Sanitary Services and the local City or County Health Code Ordinance as it relates to installation of sewers in the vicinity of pressure waterlines. The construction of sewerlines should also conform to these standards in street rights-of- way.

i. Cross sections shall be provided for all pipeline crossings showing Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement limits and the location of our pipeline(s). The exact locations of the crossing pipelines and their elevations shall be marked on as-built drawings for our information.

j. Potholing of Metropolitan's pipeline is required if the vertical clearance between a utility and Metropolitan's pipeline is indicated on the plan to be one foot or less. If the indicated clearance is between one and two feet, potholing is suggested. Metropolitan will provide a representative to assists others in locating and identifying its pipeline. Two-working days notice is requested.

k. Adequate shoring and bracing is required for the full depth of the trench when the excavation encroaches within the zone shown on Figure 4.

l. The location of utilities within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement shall be plainly marked to help prevent damage during maintenance or other work done in the area. Detectable tape over buried utilities should be placed a minimum of 12 inches above the utility and shall conform to the following requirements:

1) Water pipeline: A two-inch blue warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED WATER PIPELINE"

2) Gas, oil, or chemical pipeline: A two-inch yellow warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

3) Sewer or storm drain pipeline: A two-inch green warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

4) Electric, street lighting, or traffic signals conduit: A two-inch red warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

5) Telephone, or television conduit: A two-inch orange warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

m. Cathodic Protection requirements:

1) If there is a cathodic protection station for Metropolitan's pipeline in the area of the proposed work, it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and manner of protection shall be shown on all applicable plans. Please contact Metropolitan's Corrosion Engineering Section, located at Metropolitan's F. E. Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, 700 North Moreno Avenue, La Verne, California 91750, telephone (714) 593-7474, for the locations of Metropolitan's cathodic protection stations.

2) If an induced-current cathodic protection system is to be installed on any pipeline crossing Metropolitan's pipeline, please contact Mr. Wayne E. Risner at (714) 593-7474 or (213) 250-5085. He will review the proposed system and determine if any conflicts will arise with the existing cathodic protection systems installed by Metropolitan.

3) Within Metropolitan's rights-of-way, pipelines and carrier pipes (casings) shall be coated with an approved protective coating to conform to Metropolitan's requirements, and shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition as directed by Metropolitan. The application and monitoring of cathodic protection on the pipeline and casing shall conform to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 195.

4) If a steel carrier pipe (casing) is used:

(a) Cathodic protection shall be provided by use of a sacrificial magnesium anode (a sketch showing the cathodic protection details can be provided for the designers information).

(b) The steel carrier pipe shall be protected with a coal tar enamel coating inside and out in accordance with AWWA C203 specification.

n. All trenches shall be excavated to comply with the CAL/OSHA Construction Safety Orders, Article 6, beginning with Sections 1539 through 1547. Trench backfill shall be placed in 8-inch lifts and shall be compacted to 95 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698) across roadways and through protective dikes. Trench backfill elsewhere will be compacted to 90 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698).

o. Control cables connected with the operation of Metropolitan's system are buried within streets, its fee properties and/or easements. The locations and elevations of these cables shall be shown on the drawings. The drawings shall note that prior to any excavation in the area, the control cables shall be located and measures shall be taken by the contractor to protect the cables in place.

p. Metropolitan is a member of Underground Service Alert (USA). The contractor (excavator) shall contact USA at 1-800-422-4133 (Southern California) at least 48 hours prior to starting any excavation work. The contractor will be liable for any damage to Metropolitan's facilities as a result of the construction.

8. Paramount Right

Facilities constructed within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be subject to the paramount right of Metropolitan to use its fee properties and/or easements for the purpose for which they were acquired. If at any time Metropolitan or its assigns should, in the exercise of their rights, find it necessary to remove any of the facilities from the fee properties and/or easements, such removal and replacement shall be at the expense of the owner of the facility.

9. Modification of Metropolitan's Facilities

When a manhole or other of Metropolitan's facilities must be modified to accommodate your construction or reconstruction, Metropolitan will modify the facilities with its forces. This should be noted on the construction plans. The estimated cost to perform this modification will be given to you and we will require a deposit for this amount before the work is performed. Once the deposit is received, we will schedule the work. Our forces will coordinate the work with your contractor. Our final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include materials, construction, engineering plan review, inspection, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount.

10. Drainage

a. Residential or commercial development typically increases and concentrates the peak storm water runoff as well as the total yearly storm runoff from an area, thereby increasing the requirements for storm drain facilities downstream of the development. Also, throughout the year water from landscape irrigation, car washing, and other outdoor domestic water uses flows into the storm drainage system resulting in weed abatement, insect infestation, obstructed access and other problems. Therefore, it is Metropolitan's usual practice not to approve plans that show discharge of drainage from developments onto its fee properties and/or easements.

b. If water must be carried across or discharged onto Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements, Metropolitan will insist that plans for development provide that it be carried by closed conduit or lined open channel approved in writing by Metropolitan. Also the drainage facilities must be maintained by others, e.g., city, county, homeowners association, etc. If the development proposes changes to existing drainage features, then the developer shall make provisions to provide for replacement and these changes must be approved by Metropolitan in writing.

11. Construction Coordination

During construction, Metropolitan's field representative will make periodic inspections. We request that a stipulation be added to the plans or specifications for notification of Mr. _____ of Metropolitan's Operations Services Branch, telephone (213) 250-____, at least two working days prior to any work in the vicinity of our facilities.

12. Pipeline Loading Restrictions

a. Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits vary in structural strength, and some are not adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading. Therefore, specific loads over the specific sections of pipe or conduit must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan. However, Metropolitan's pipelines are typically adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading provided that the cover over the pipeline is not less than four feet or the cover is not substantially increased. If the temporary cover over the pipeline during construction is between three and four feet, equipment must restricted to that which

imposes loads no greater than AASHTO H-10. If the cover is between two and three feet, equipment must be restricted to that of a Caterpillar D-4 tract-type tractor. If the cover is less than two feet, only hand equipment may be used. Also, if the contractor plans to use any equipment over Metropolitan's pipeline which will impose loads greater than AASHTO H-20, it will be necessary to submit the specifications of such equipment for our review and approval at least one week prior to its use. More restrictive requirements may apply to the loading guideline over the San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2, portions of the Orange County Feeder, and the Colorado River Aqueduct. Please contact us for loading restrictions on all of Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits.

b. The existing cover over the pipeline shall be maintained unless Metropolitan determines that proposed changes do not pose a hazard to the integrity of the pipeline or an impediment to its maintenance.

13. Blasting

a. At least 20 days prior to the start of any drilling for rock excavation blasting, or any blasting, in the vicinity of Metropolitan's facilities, a two-part preliminary conceptual plan shall be submitted to Metropolitan as follows:

b. Part 1 of the conceptual plan shall include a complete summary of proposed transportation, handling, storage, and use of explosions.

c. Part 2 shall include the proposed general concept for blasting, including controlled blasting techniques and controls of noise, fly rock, airblast, and ground vibration.

14. CEQA Requirements

a. When Environmental Documents Have Not Been Prepared

1) Regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require that Metropolitan have an opportunity to consult with the agency or consultants preparing any environmental documentation. We are required to review and consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for your project before committing Metropolitan to approve your request.

2) In order to ensure compliance with the regulations implementing CEQA where Metropolitan is not the Lead Agency, the following minimum procedures to ensure compliance with the Act have been established:

a) Metropolitan shall be timely advised of any determination that a Categorical Exemption applies to the project. The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

b) Metropolitan is to be consulted during the preparation of the Negative Declaration or EIR.

c) Metropolitan is to review and submit any necessary comments on the Negative Declaration or draft EIR.

d) Metropolitan is to be indemnified for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

b. When Environmental Documents Have Been Prepared

If environmental documents have been prepared for your project, please furnish us a copy for our review and files in a timely manner so that we may have sufficient time to review and comment. The following steps must also be accomplished:

1) The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

2) You must agree to indemnify Metropolitan, its officers, engineers, and agents for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

15. Metropolitan's Plan-Review Cost

a. An engineering review of your proposed facilities and developments and the preparation of a letter response

giving Metropolitan's comments, requirements and/or approval that will require 8 man-hours or less of effort is typically performed at no cost to the developer, unless a facility must be modified where Metropolitan has superior rights. If an engineering review and letter response requires more than 8 man-hours of effort by Metropolitan to determine if the proposed facility or development is compatible with its facilities, or if modifications to Metropolitan's manhole(s) or other facilities will be required, then all of Metropolitan's costs associated with the project must be paid by the developer, unless the developer has superior rights.

b. A deposit of funds will be required from the developer before Metropolitan can begin its detailed engineering plan review that will exceed 8 hours. The amount of the required deposit will be determined after a cursory review of the plans for the proposed development.

c. Metropolitan's final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include engineering plan review, inspection, materials, construction, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount. Additional deposits may be required if the cost of Metropolitan's review exceeds the amount of the initial deposit.

16. Caution

We advise you that Metropolitan's plan reviews and responses are based upon information available to Metropolitan which was prepared by or on behalf of Metropolitan for general record purposes only. Such information may not be sufficiently detailed or accurate for your purposes. No warranty of any kind, either express or implied, is attached to the information therein conveyed as to its accuracy, and no inference should be drawn from Metropolitan's failure to comment on any aspect of your project. You are therefore cautioned to make such surveys and other field investigations as you may deem prudent to assure yourself that any plans for your project are correct.

17. Additional Information

Should you require additional information, please contact:

Civil Engineering Substructures Section
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
(213) 217-6000

JEH/MRW/lk

Rev. January 22, 1989

Encl.

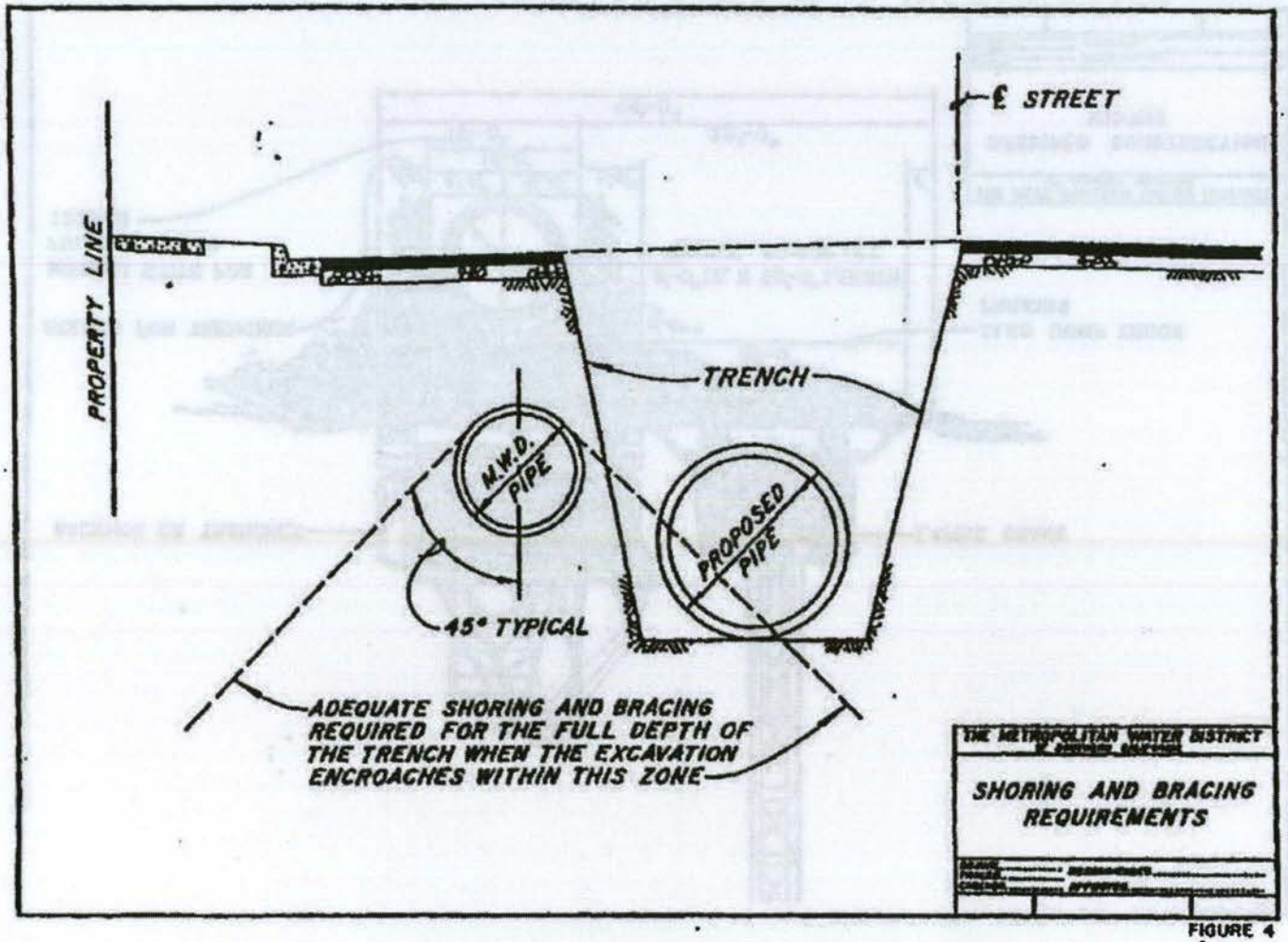

℄ STREET
PROPERTY LINE
TRENCH
M.W.D. PIPE
PROPOSED PIPE
45° TYPICAL
ADEQUATE SHORING AND BRACING REQUIRED FOR THE FULL DEPTH OF THE TRENCH WHEN THE EXCAVATION ENCROACHES WITHIN THIS ZONE
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
SHORING AND BRACING REQUIREMENTS

FIGURE 4

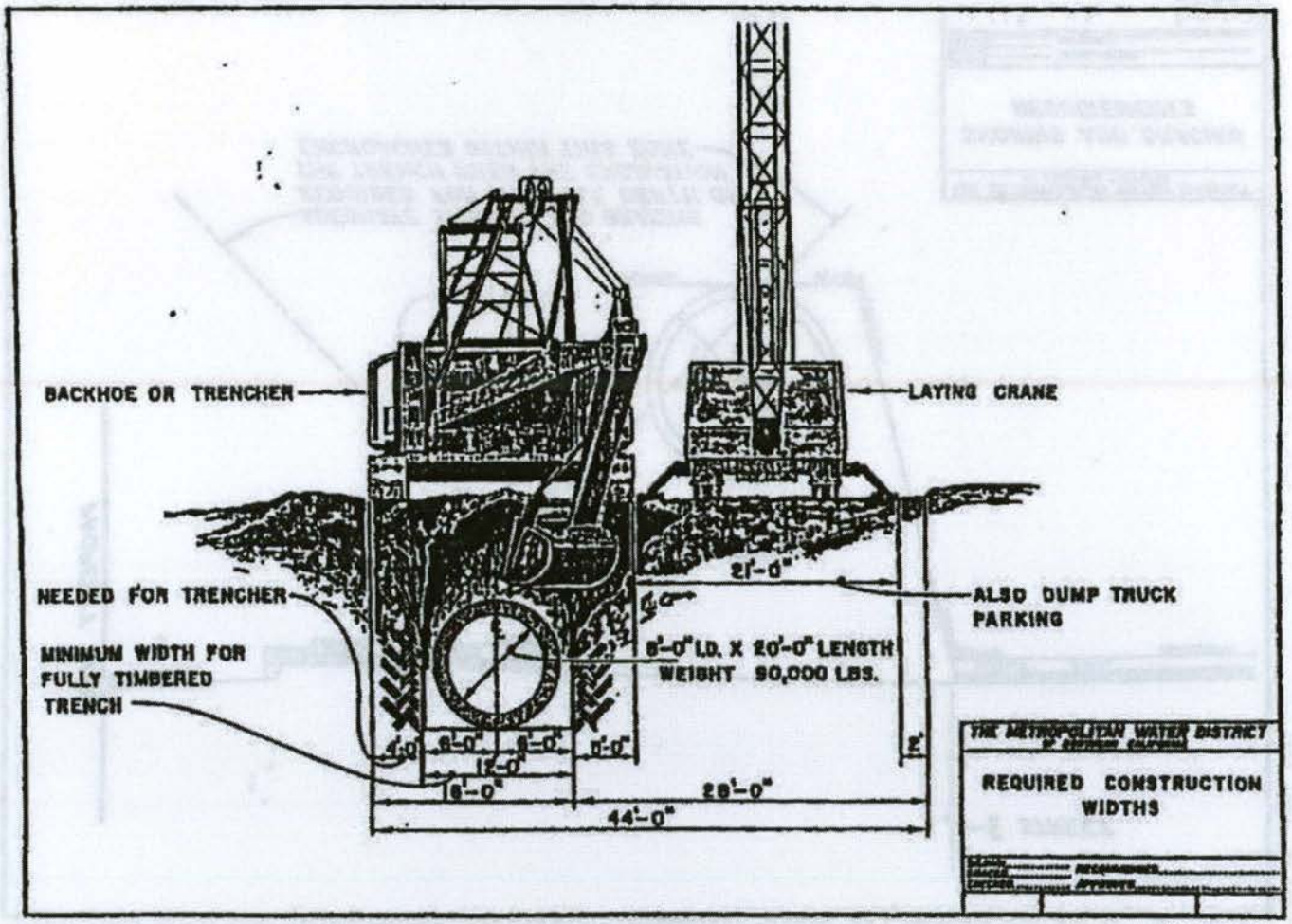
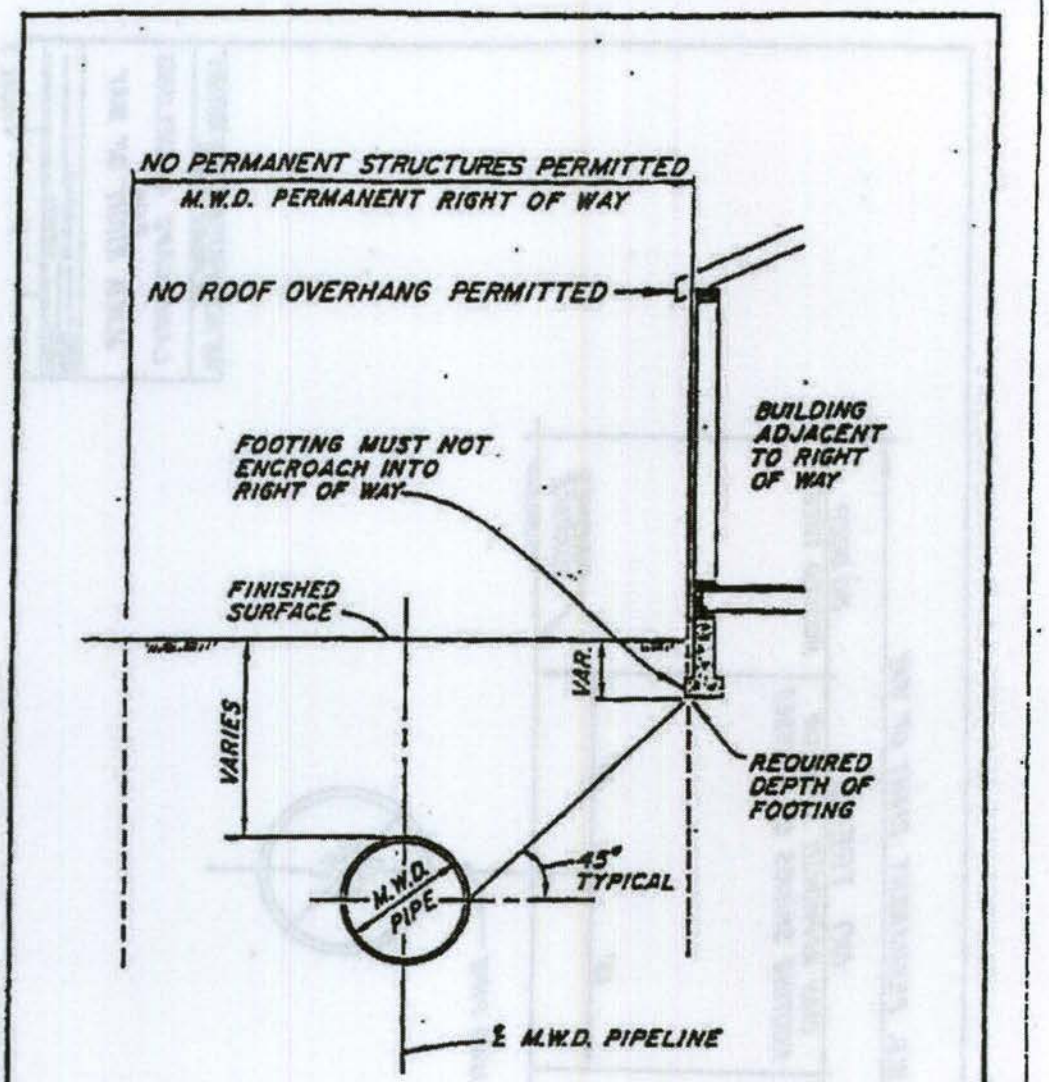

BACKHOE OR TRENCHER
LAYING CRANE
NEEDED FOR TRENCHER
MINIMUM WIDTH FOR FULLY TIMBERED TRENCH
21'-0"
ALSO DUMP TRUCK PARKING
8'-0" I.D. X 20'-0" LENGTH
WEIGHT 90,000 LBS.
4'-0"
6'-0"
6'-0"
5'-0"
12'-0"
16'-0"
28'-0"
44'-0"
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION WIDTHS

FIGURE 1



NOTE: M.W.D. PIPELINE SIZE, DEPTH, LOCATION AND WIDTH OF PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY VARIES.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS AND FOOTINGS ADJACENT TO M.W.D. RIGHT OF WAY

FIGURE 2

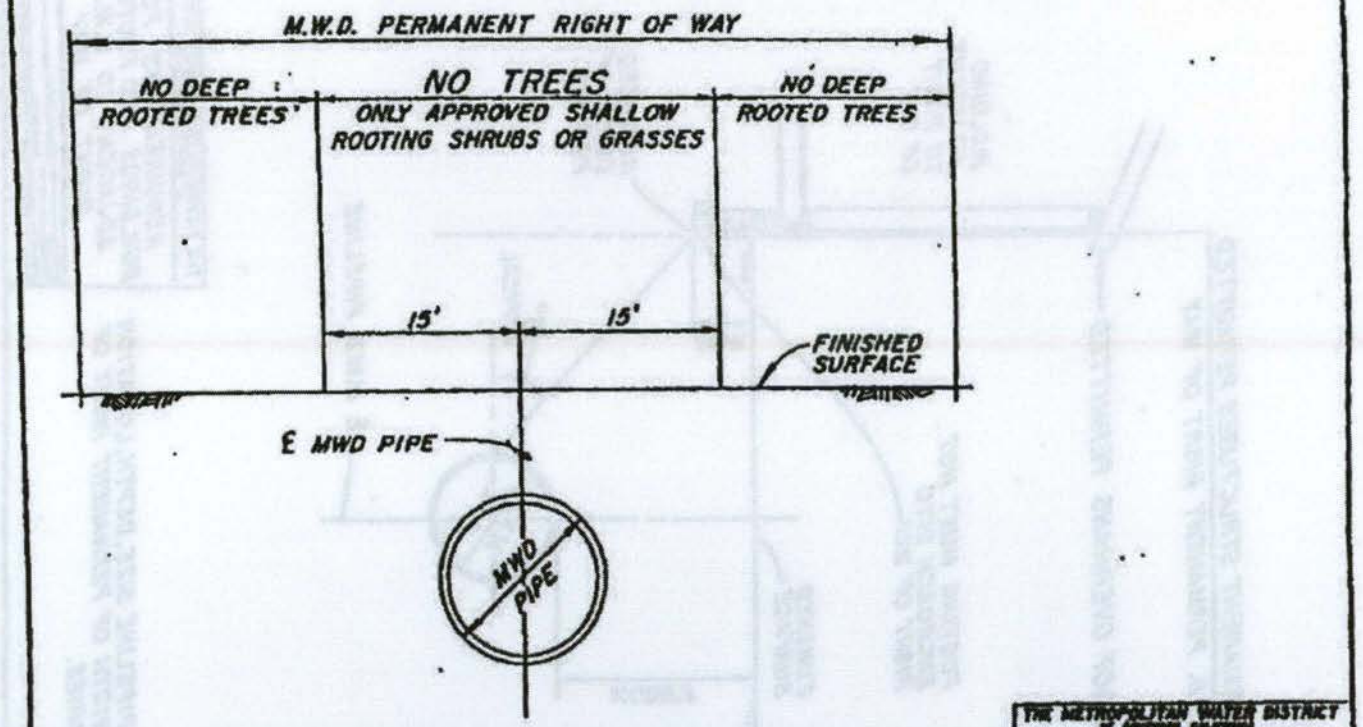

M.W.D. PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY
NO DEEP ROOTED TREES
NO TREES
ONLY APPROVED SHALLOW ROOTING SHRUBS OR GRASSES
NO DEEP ROOTED TREES
15'
15'
FINISHED SURFACE
℄ MWD PIPE
MWD PIPE
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES FOR M.W.D. RIGHT OF WAY

FIGURE 3

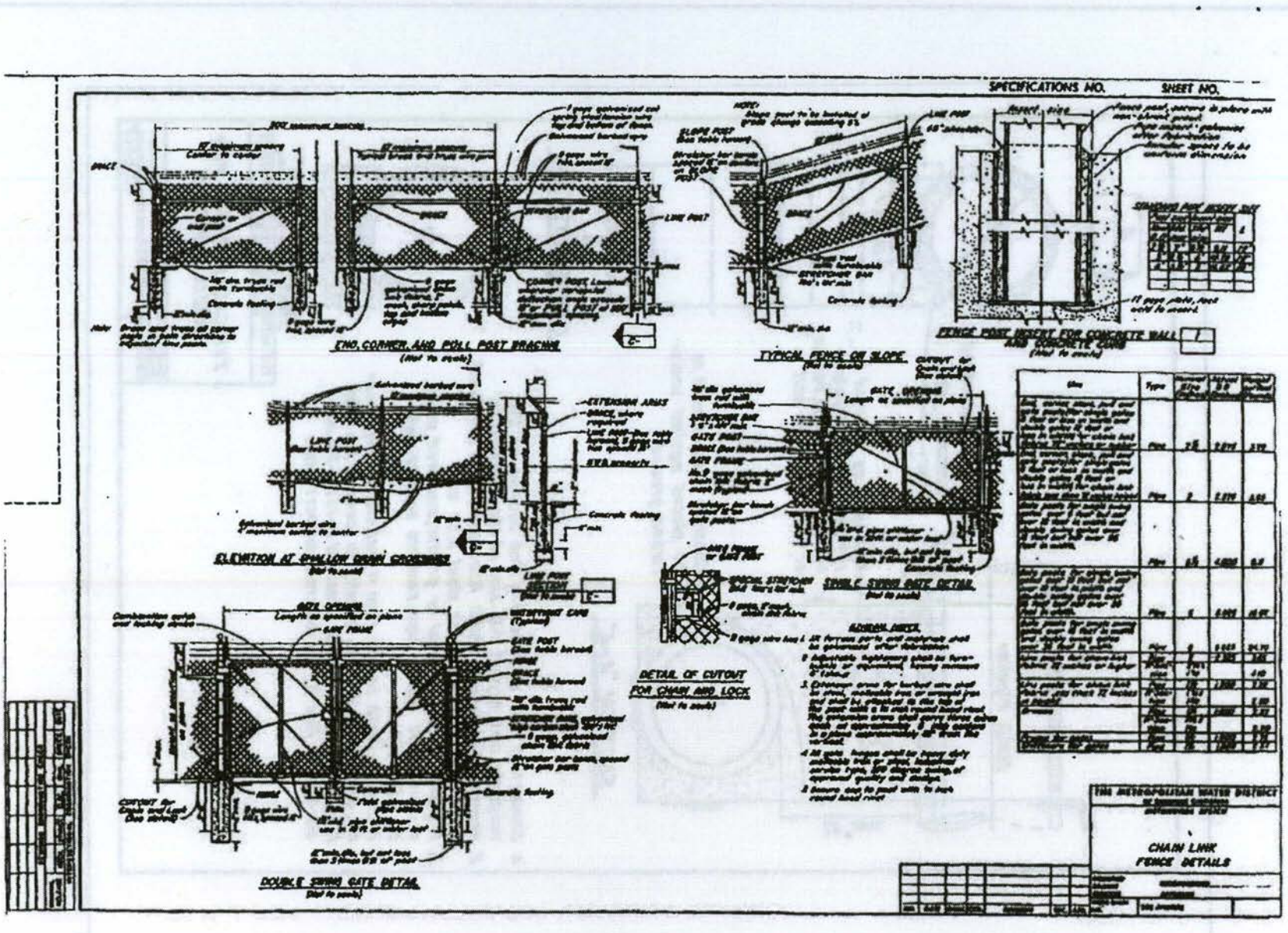
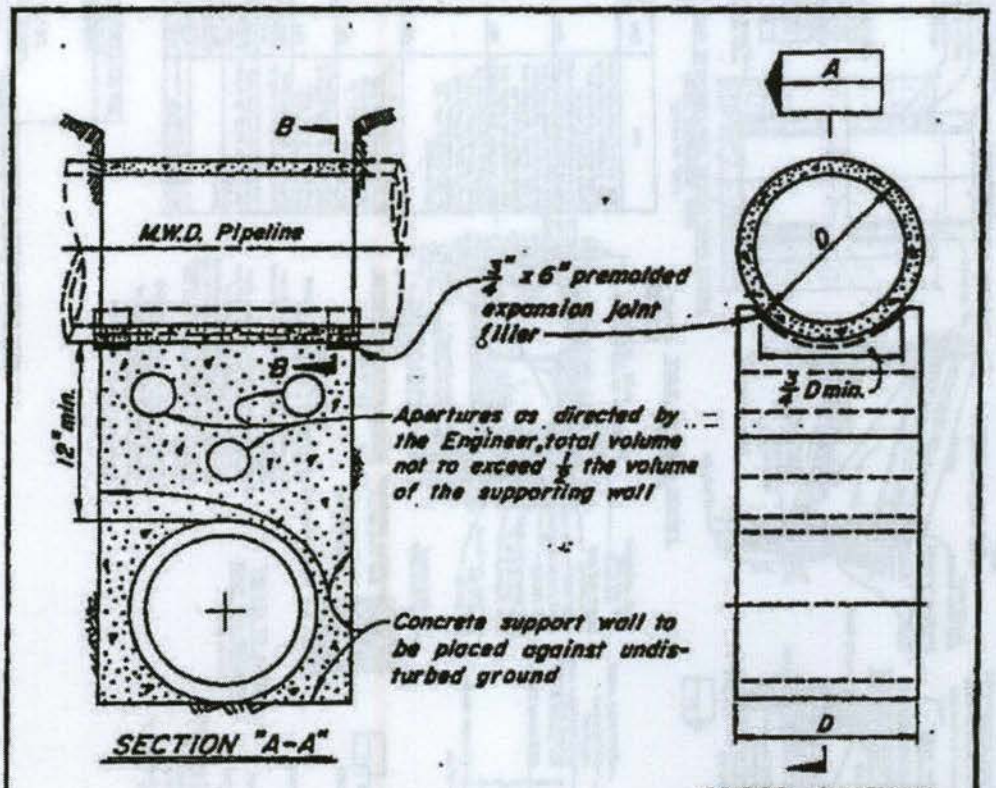
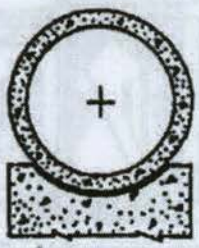

SPECIFICATIONS NO.
SHEET NO.
END, CORNER, AND PULL POST BRACING
TYPICAL FENCE ON SLOPE
FENCE POST INSERT FOR CONCRETE WALL AND CONCRETE CURB
ELEVATION AT SWALLOW BARN CROSSING
DETAIL OF CUTOUT FOR CHAIN AND LOCK
SINGLE SWING GATE DETAIL
DOUBLE SWING GATE DETAIL
CHAIN LINK FENCE DETAILS

FIGURE 5



1. Supporting wall shall have a firm bearing on the subgrade and against the side of the excavation.
2. Premolded expansion joint filler per ASTM D-1751-73 to be used in support for steel pipe only.
3. If trench width is 4 feet or greater, measured along centerline of M.W.D. pipe, concrete support must be constructed.
4. If trench width is less than 4 feet, clean sand backfill, compacted to 90% density in accordance with the provisions of ASTM Standard D-1557-70 may be used in lieu of the concrete support wall.

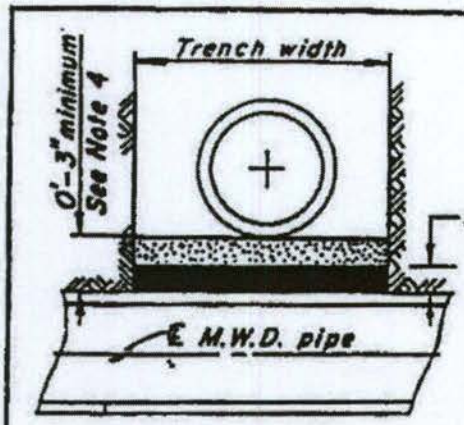


SECTION "B-B"

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

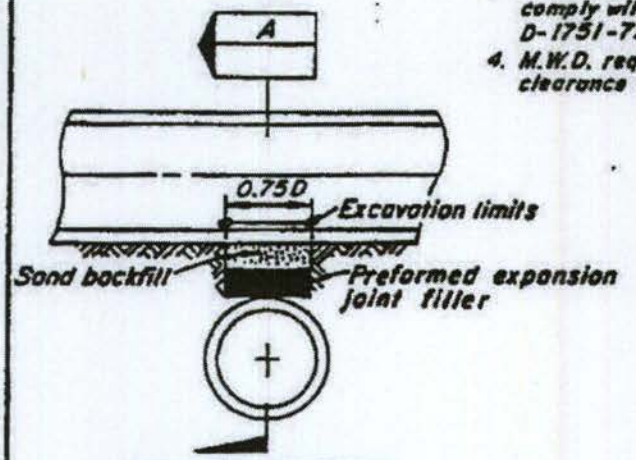
TYPICAL SUPPORT FOR M.W.D. PIPELINE

C-9547



NOTES

1. This method to be used where the utility line is 24" or greater in diameter and the clearance between the utility line and M.W.D. pipe is 12" or less.
2. Special protection may be required if the utility line diameter is greater than M.W.D. pipe or if the cover over the utility line to the street surface is minimal and there is 12" or less clearance between M.W.D. pipe and the utility line.
3. Preformed expansion joint filler to comply with ASTM designation D-1751-73.
4. M.W.D. requests 12" minimum clearance whenever possible.



CROSS SECTION

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TYPICAL EXPANSION JOINT FILLER PROTECTION FOR OVERCROSSING OF M.W.D. PIPELINE

C-11632

State of California - Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
(909) 484-0459
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

June 12, 2014

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94104

Subject: Notice of Preparation for the West Devers Upgrade Project
Draft Environmental Impact Report
State Clearinghouse No. 2014051041

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the West Devers Upgrade Project (Project) [State Clearinghouse No. 2014051041]. The Department is responding to the NOP as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (California Fish and Game Code Sections 711.7 and 1802, and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15386), and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381), such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

Project Description

The Project is located within the existing West Devers transmission corridor in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, including Tribal Lands of the Morongo Band of Indians and the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and Redlands. The proposed Project will include the removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission lines in six different segments. The segments were determined by location. The Project segments are described as follows:

Segment 1: San Bernardino. Two existing 220 kV double-circuit lines including 45 double-circuit towers will be removed and 61 towers will be installed within the existing right-of-way (ROW).

Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda. One existing 220 kV line will be removed and rebuilt, involving the removal of 29 double-circuit towers and the installation of 353 towers.

Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon: Removal of three existing sets of 220 kV towers and construction of two sets of towers, requiring the removal of 116 individual towers and installation of 133 towers.

Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning. Removal of approximately 175 structures and the installation of approximately 136 towers.

Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Vicinity. Six miles of this 9.5-miles segment are on Morongo Tribal Lands. In this segment, approximately 137 structures will be removed and approximately 108 structures will be installed. Three miles of the existing ROW on Morongo Tribal Lands will be abandoned and relocated to the south, near the I-15 Freeway.

Segment 6: Whitewater Devers Substation. Removal of approximately 116 structures, installation of 93 towers.

Substation Upgrades: The Project will also involve substation equipment upgrades at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, and Vista Substations to accommodate increased power transfers on 220 kV lines.

Biological Resources and Impacts

The CEQA document should contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site; measures to minimize and avoid sensitive biological resources; and mitigation measures to offset the loss of native flora and fauna and State waters. The CEQA document should not defer impact analysis and mitigation measures to future regulatory discretionary actions, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

If state or federal endangered or threatened species have the potential to occur on the Project site, species specific surveys should be conducted using methods approved by the Department or assume the presence of the species throughout the project site. The CEQA document should include recent survey data (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)). The CEQA document should also address species of special concern and federal critical habitat. To assist with review, an accompanying map showing the areas of impact should be included in the subsequent CEQA document. Additional maps detailing the location of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern should also be included in the subsequent CEQA document.

Natural Community Conservation Program (NCCP) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

The Department is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including threatened, endangered, and/or candidate plant and animal species, pursuant to the CESA, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Plan Program (NCCP Program). Within the Inland Deserts Region, the Department issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WR MSHCP) and the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP) per Section 2800, *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code. The WR MSHCP and CV MSHCP establish multiple species conservation programs to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and provide for the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permits.

Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCPs, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the impacts to the MSHCPs as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements. To obtain additional information regarding the WR MSHCP please visit: http://rctlma.org/epd/WR-MSHCP and for the CV MSHCP please visit: http://www.cvmshcp.org.

The proposed Project occurs within the WR MSHCP and CV MSHCP areas and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCPs. In order to be considered a covered activity, Permittees must demonstrate that proposed actions are consistent with the MSHCPs and their associated Implementing Agreements. The California Public Utilities Commission is the lead agency but is not signatory to either the WR MSHCP or the CV MSHCP, therefore, in order to participate in either MSHCP they would need to act as a Participating Special Entity (PSE).

If the California Public Utilities Commission (i.e., the Lead Agency) chooses to act as a PSE and obtain take through the WR MSHCP then the following MSHCP policies and procedures will apply to this project: Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (MSHCP Section 6.1.2), Protection of the Narrow Endemic Plant Species (WR MSHCP Section 6.1.3), Additional Survey Needs and procedures (WR MSHCP section 6.3.2), and Urban/Wildland Interface Guidelines (WR MSHCP section 6.1.4).

If the California Public Utilities Commission chooses to act as a PSE and obtain take through the CV MSHCP then the project activities must comply with all of the terms and requirements of the Permit and Implementing Agreement. A PSE must submit a complete application for the proposed activity to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission containing a detailed description of the proposed activity, a map indicating

the location of the proposed activity, and an analysis of its potential impacts to Covered Species and their Habitats and to the MSHCPs Reserve System. In addition, to minimize the impacts of development in the Conservation Areas and adjacent to the Reserve System the following measures will apply to the project: Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (CV MSCHP Section 4.4) and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (CV MSHCP Section 4.5)

If the Project is not processed through the MSHCPs for covered species, then the Project may be subject to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or CESA for threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species. The Department recommends that a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) be obtained if the project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the Project. The Department's CESA ITP states that a project fully minimize and mitigate impacts to State-listed resources.

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

The Department has regulatory authority with regard to activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect any fish or wildlife resource. For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream or use material from a streambed, the project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, the Department then determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement is required. The Department's issuance of an LSA Agreement is a "project" subject to CEQA (see Pub. Resources Code 21065). To facilitate issuance of an LSA Agreement, if necessary, the environmental document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring and reporting commitments. Early consultation with the Department is recommended, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration notification package, please go to http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html.

Although the portions of the proposed Project are within MSHCP boundaries, a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration may be required by the Department, should the site contain jurisdictional areas, and the Project proposes impacts to these areas. Additionally, the Department's criteria for determining the presence of jurisdictional waters are more comprehensive than the WR MSHCP criteria in Section 6.1.2 (Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools).

The following information will be required for the processing of a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration and the Department recommends incorporating this information

into the CEQA document to avoid subsequent documentation and project delays. Please note that failure to include this analysis in the project's environmental document could preclude the Department from relying on the Lead Agency's analysis to issue an LSA Agreement without the Department first conducting its own, separate Lead Agency subsequent or supplemental analysis for the project:

1) Delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be temporarily and/or permanently impacted by the proposed project (include an estimate of impact to each habitat type);
2) Discussion of avoidance and minimization measures to reduce project impacts; and,
3) Discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance. Please refer to section 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines for the definition of mitigation.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project extends through populated areas of southern California. The regional scarcity of biological resources may increase the cumulative significance of Project activities. Cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines Section 15130. Please include all potential direct and indirect project related impacts to riparian areas, wetlands, vernal pools, alluvial fan habitats, wildlife corridors or wildlife movement areas, aquatic habitats, sensitive species and other sensitive habitats, open lands, open space, and adjacent natural habitats in the cumulative effects analysis.

Alternatives Analysis

The CEQA document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6). The analysis should include a range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats, having both local and regional significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from Project-related impacts. The CEQA document should include an evaluation of specific alternative locations with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat should be addressed.

Please note that the Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

Department Recommendations

The Department has the following concerns about the Project, and requests that these concerns be addressed in the CEQA document:

1. The CEQA document should quantify impacts to habitats and species as per the informational requirements of CEQA. An accompanying map showing the areas of impact should also be included.

2. The CEQA document should include recent biological surveys for fauna and flora (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)). The Department recommends that the Lead Agency contact the Department's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) in Sacramento, (916) 327-5960, to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the California Fish and Game Code. If state or federal threatened or endangered species may occur within the project area, species specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day, should be included with the CEQA document. Acceptable species specific surveys have been developed by the Department, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and are accessible through each agencies websites. Assessments for rare plants and rare plant natural communities should follow the Department's 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. If the Department's 2009 guidelines were not used, surveys conducted after the issuance of the 2009 guidance should be updated following the 2009 guidelines. The guidance document is available here:http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/protocols_for_surveying_and_evaluating_impacts.pdf

3. The CEQA document should provide an analysis of habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans, including the WR MSHCP and the CV MSHCP. The CEQA document should include a discussion of how the project will affect reserve assembly; how the Project will affect the goals and objectives of each NCCP; the applicable policies and procedures that pertain to the Project; a discussion of survey requirements; and a list of proposed mitigation measures pursuant to each NCCP. A copy of any documents discussing the Project's consistency with the NCCP (e.g., Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation for the WR MSHCP) should be included with the CEQA document.

4. The analysis in the CEQA document should satisfy the requirements of the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and CESA (if deemed necessary).

5. The Department recommends that a CESA ITP be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of State-listed CESA species, either through construction or over the life of the Project, and the applicant chooses not to process the Project through an NCCP. CESA ITPs are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed CESA species and their habitats. The Department encourages early consultation, as significant modification to the proposed project and mitigation measures may be recommended in order to obtain a CESA ITP. Revisions to the California Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a CESA ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA permit.

6. The CEQA document should provide a thorough analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and identify specific measures to offset such impacts.

7. The CEQA document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6).

In summary, the Department requests that the CEQA document include current information regarding biological resources, adequately address whether the project will be processed thorough the MSHCPs, provide a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts, and provide an alternatives analysis. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Heather Weiche at Heather.weiche@wildlife.ca.gov and 909-980-8607.

Sincerely,

Ali Aghili
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

cc: State Clearinghouse
CHRON

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: Herrera, Henry@CALFIRE <Henry.Herrera@fire.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 11:30 AM
To: West Of Devers Project
Cc: Stock, Mary@CALFIRE; Bywater, Rod@CALFIRE
Subject: West of Devers Upgrade Project - CAL FIRE Comment

Frank Mc Menimen and Brian Paul:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Because of the frequent history of wildfires in and near the proposed project area, we would like to request that you consider the following for the safety of personnel and firefighting aircraft:

- Include us in your notification process during your construction phase.
- The towers be lit and maintained visible.
- Notify us whether helicopters will be used for the replacement of the towers and if so we would like to have a plan in place to coordinate with CALFIRE and U.S. Forest Service aviation staff in the event of a wildfire in or near the project area where we need to use firefighting aircraft.

Travis Alexander, Battalion Chief of Tactical Air Operations, will be your point of contact for these concerns. Travis can be reached at (951)575-5513, travis.alexander@fire.ca.gov. Please include Travis in your mailing/contacts list for this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Henry Herrera
Forester I, RPF #2936
CAL FIRE
San Bernardino Unit
Resource Management
3800 N. Sierra Way
San Bernardino, CA 92405
Cell (909) 253-6632
Fax (909) 881-6969
Desk (909) 475-8091
Henry.Herrera@fire.ca.gov

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

P. O. Box 10973, San Bernardino, California 92423-0973

Frank McMenimen, BLM Project Manager
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262.

By email to fmcmenimen@blm.gov and blm_ca_west_of_devers@blm.gov

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report for the West of Devers Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, CA

Dear Mr. McMenimen,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the SCE West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD) on behalf of the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society (SBVAS). This letter is a follow-up to the oral testimony I gave at the July 16, 2014 scoping meeting in Banning and conversations after the meeting with Frank McMenimen of BLM and Susan Lee of Aspen Environmental Group.

It is our understanding that because the upgrade will follow the existing right-of-ways and will be replacing existing towers, environmental impacts are likely to be construction-related rather than long-term. While the power line has existed for some years, it has likely had some impacts, both positive and negative, in the form of providing nesting structures for Common Ravens, Red-tailed Hawks, and Golden Eagles. All three species as well as their prey species have been locally affected by the nesting on the transmission towers.

The current drought, especially in the context of global warming and the long- term increased aridity of the western United States, have changed the ecological status quo enough that the WOD Upgrade Project should analyze the effects of the transmission lines in the context of this new biological reality. Increased urban development since the original transmission lines were constructed has also changed the existing environmental conditions in the vicinity of the WOD Upgrade Project. We therefore believe that the BLM must require NEPA and CEQA environmental reviews to analyze the long-term ecological effects of the transmission tower nesting of Common Raven in the context of changing land use patterns and an increased vulnerability of prey species due to population stresses from global warming. The environmental review must also examine past and present population levels of Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, as related to the relative importance of transmission towers for nesting structures, changing environmental conditions, and electrocution deaths from transmission lines.

Our context for this request is our concern for predation by Common Ravens on various species, and the contribution of transmission lines such as WOD to raven nesting. The environmental analysis should look at the potential impacts of utilizing monopoles instead of lattice towers in areas where Common Ravens could be impacting vulnerable species.

Ravens are known predators of hatchling Desert Tortoises, which are found in Segment 6 of WOD. While many other lattice structures exist here in the form of the older wind turbines, SCE conversion to monopoles might still have a beneficial effect by reducing raven populations. The analysis should also discuss the feasibility of removing raven nests from lattice-type towers as a way to keep raven populations low.

We are also concerned about potential raven predation on Tricolored Blackbirds (TRBL) in San Timoteo Canyon, Segments 3 and 4. Robert Meese, the manager of the Tricolored Blackbird Portal and Statewide TRBL surveys, has informed us that there are documented cases of ravens decimating Tricolored Blackbird nesting colonies on an opportunistic basis. There is an existing TRBL colony at Fisherman's Retreat, a private fishing and camping retreat in San Timoteo Canyon in Segment 3 of the WOD Upgrade Project. We (SBVAS) in conjunction with the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) are planning to construct a pond and other TRBL habitat enhancements just north of the El Casco substation inside the "split" section of the WOD project, between the north and south branches of Segment 4. Tricolored Blackbird populations are at an historic low, attributed to drought and climate change reducing insect prey availability, avian predation of nesting sites, an increase in urban development and other factors. Populations of TRBL are so low that the California Fish and Game Commission is considering an emergency listing of it as an Endangered Species at their August 6, 2014 meeting. SBVAS is undertaking the habitat enhancement at the RLC Reserve because of our deep concern over the future of this species.

Several questions need to be addressed in the environmental reports: If conversion to monopoles could reduce overall raven numbers in San Timoteo Canyon, which specific towers should be monopole? Only those directly next to the RLC Reserve and Fisherman's Retreat, or should monopoles be used further away as well? Will the use of monopoles negatively affect Golden Eagle nesting in San Timoteo Canyon? It is our understanding that there is, or was, a Golden Eagle nest on a transmission tower in San Timoteo Canyon.

We also look forward to environmental analysis of subtransmission and distribution lines that connect to the WOD lines that may need to be upgraded. Are subtransmission towers of the lattice type, and could they foster raven nesting? Do subtransmission and distribution poles pose an electrocution risk to raptors, particularly Golden Eagles, and if so, can this impact be ameliorated by the installation of perch protectors? How much has the Golden Eagle population been reduced in the last several decades due to electrocutions, loss of habitat, loss of prey from drought and climate change and other factors?

We trust that the Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report will fully analyze the environmental impacts of the construction of the WOD Upgrade Project. We have noticed however, that other private development projects have ignored or minimized impacts to sensitive species, particularly reptiles and amphibians. For this reason, we urge SCE, BLM and Aspen Environmental to do an exemplary job of analyzing impact to sensitive species, in particular, Orange-throated Whiptail, Ring-necked Snake, Legless Lizard, and Red Diamond Rattlesnake. As a long-time resident of Grand Terrace, I have encountered all four species over the years along and near Segment 2, and they probably occur in San Timoteo Canyon as well.

Populations of all these species are probably low due to the effects of climate change, making any incidental mortality from construction less likely, but if it occurs, more devastating. Please consider the feasibility of trapping and relocating these species prior to construction. Standard clearing efforts may not be effective, given that these species are either fossorial or quickly retreat to shelter when threatened and may not be detected.

We also trust that there will be detailed and effective re-vegetation plans for construction-related disturbance that emphasize using native vegetation. Soil disturbance has been a major factor in the widespread conversion of sage scrub to non-native grassland and weed-dominated ruderal habitat.

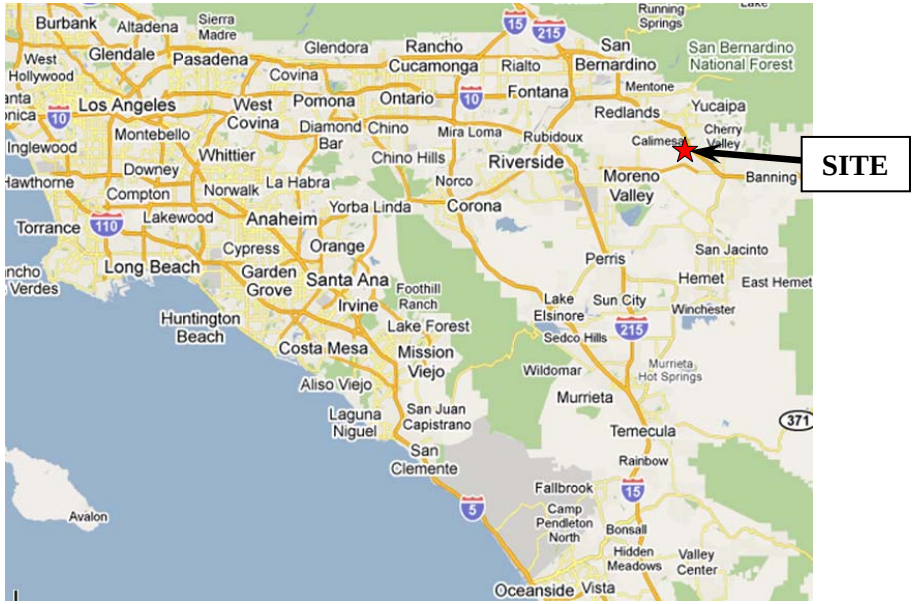
Thank you for addressing our questions and requests,

Dave Goodward
Conservation Committee
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
davegoodward@earthlink.net

Cc: Jack Easton, Riverside Land Conservancy
Susan Lee, westofdevers@aspeneg.com

Riverside Land Conservancy
Cienega Canyon Property

Vicinity & Location Maps



Riverside Land Conservancy
Cienega Canyon Property

Imagery source: Google Earth
Imagery date: 12Nov2013

July 7, 2014

To California Public Utilities Commission
Banning City Hall, Council Members

Subject: Possible Health risks to residents living in higher magnetic field due to higher power lines. How much is too much magnetic field?

To Whom It May Concern,

We are residents of Loma Linda city. Address 25896 Kellogg Street. We will be out of town during this meeting but our concern is mailed in writing so we can represent ourselves.

There are several homes near the power lines. Our house is right by the power lines and our main concern is **Higher voltage=Higher magnetic field=Increased Health risks.**

We have attached a study showing possible risk, and then there are many more studies substantiating possible health risks caused by higher magnetic field.

We would like the city to evaluate the potential health risks and provide is with plans for **precaution**s and **interventions** that will be exercised by the State Power and Health department and or City during the long term exposure to the higher magnetic field.

Please respond us back with your findings on the following address and also let us know when the next meeting is scheduled.

Sincerely

Asifs

25896 Kellogg st, Loma Linda, CA 92354

BMJ

Paper

Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study

BMJ 2005; 330 doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.330.7503.1290 (Published 2 June 2005)
Cite this as: BMJ 2005;330:1290

Gerald Draper, honorary senior research fellow (gerald.draper@ccrg.ox.ac.uk)1,
Tim Vincent, research officer1,
Mary E Kroll, statistician1,
John Swanson, scientific adviser2

Author Affiliations

1 Childhood Cancer Research Group, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6HJ
2 National Grid Transco plc, London WC2N 5EH

Correspondence to: G J Draper

Accepted 6 April 2005

Abstract

Objective To determine whether there is an association between distance of home address at birth from high voltage power lines and the incidence of leukaemia and other cancers in children in England and Wales.

Design Case-control study.

Setting Cancer registry and National Grid records.

Subjects Records of 29 081 children with cancer, including 9700 with leukaemia. Children were aged 0-14 years and born in England and Wales, 1962-95. Controls were individually matched for sex, approximate date of birth, and birth registration district. No active participation was required.

Main outcome measures Distance from home address at birth to the nearest high voltage overhead power line in existence at the time.

Results Compared with those who lived > 600 m from a line at birth, children who lived within 200 m had a relative risk of leukaemia of 1.69 (95% confidence interval 1.13 to 2.53); those born between 200 and 600 m had a relative risk of 1.23 (1.02 to 1.49). There was a significant ($P < 0.01$) trend in risk in relation to the reciprocal of distance from the line. No excess risk in relation to proximity to lines was found for other childhood cancers.

Conclusions There is an association between childhood leukaemia and proximity of home address at birth to high voltage power lines, and the apparent risk extends to a greater distance than would have been expected from previous studies. About 4% of children in England and Wales live within 600 m of high voltage lines at birth. If the association is causal, about 1% of childhood leukaemia in England and Wales would be attributable to these lines, though this estimate has considerable statistical uncertainty. There is no accepted biological mechanism to explain the epidemiological results; indeed, the relation may be due to chance or confounding.

Introduction

The electric power system produces extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields. Since 1979 there has been concern that these fields may be associated with cancer.1 Concern has concentrated on magnetic rather than electric fields and on childhood leukaemia in particular. A pooled analysis of nine studies that met specified quality criteria found that children living in homes with 24 hour average fields of ≥0.4 μT have twice the risk of leukaemia.2 In 2001 the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified extremely low frequency magnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic" on the basis of "limited" epidemiological evidence and "inadequate" evidence from animals.

Magnetic fields in homes arise mainly from low voltage distribution wiring, house wiring, and domestic appliances. Only a small fraction of homes are close to high voltage overhead power lines (transmission lines), but in these homes the power line is likely to be the main source of magnetic field.

We investigated whether proximity of home address at birth to transmission lines in England and Wales is associated with increased risks of childhood cancer. It is not known which period of life, if any, is relevant to induction of cancer by magnetic fields. Previous research has considered address at diagnosis or throughout some specified period. Over half (55%) of cases of childhood leukaemia and 43% of other cancers in childhood occur by the age of 5 years.

Methods

Cases and controls

Children aged 0-14 years with cancer (malignant neoplasms and tumours of the central nervous system and brain) in England, Scotland, and Wales, ascertained through several sources including the National Cancer Registration System and the UK Children's Cancer Study Group, are included in the National Registry of Childhood Tumours at the Childhood Cancer Research Group.

We identified nearly 33 000 cases of childhood cancer in children born in England and Wales, 1962-95, and diagnosed in England, Wales, or Scotland over the same period. We obtained birth information for just over 31 000 cases, 1700 having been excluded because the child was adopted or the birth record could not be traced. For each case we selected from birth registers a control matched for sex, date of birth (within six months), and birth registration district. Registration districts vary greatly in size and are frequently redefined; there are currently about 400. We attempted to find the postcode and approximate grid reference of the address at birth for all cases and controls, but this was not always possible. The final dataset comprised 29 081 matched case-control pairs (9700 for leukaemia) that we could map with respect to transmission lines.

Calculation of distance from power lines

We looked at overhead power lines forming the National Grid in England and Wales—that is, all 275 and 400 kV overhead lines (the highest voltages used) plus a small fraction of 132 kV lines, about 7000 km altogether. We obtained the grid references of all 21 800 pylons concerned from the records of National Grid Transco. Using the postcode at birth we identified subjects living within 1 km of a transmission line. For 93% of these addresses we obtained, from the Ordnance Survey product AddressPoint, a 0.1 m grid reference and hence calculated the shortest distance to any of the transmission lines that had existed in the year of birth, re-creating previous locations of lines when necessary and possible. For calculated distances less than 50 m, we took the average of the nearest and furthest points of the building from the line, using large scale maps. We aimed to obtain a

complete set of accurate distances for all subjects within 600 m of a line, a distance chosen to be well beyond that at which the magnetic field from the line is thought to be important.

Statistical analysis

We used conditional logistic regression on the matched case-control pairs to calculate relative risks and χ^2 values.

Results

Table 1 shows the distribution of distances from the nearest line for cases, subdivided into leukaemia, central nervous system/brain, and "other," and for matched controls. Most (97%) of these distances were ≥600 m. The relative risk is an estimate of the incidence compared with that at distances ≥ 600 m. For leukaemia, at each distance category < 600 m the relative risks are greater than 1.0; there is some evidence that the risk varies according to distance from the line, though there is no smooth trend. For the other diagnoses, our data suggest no increased risk.

View this table:

- View Popup
- View Inline

Table 1
Distance of address at birth from nearest National Grid line for cases and controls in each diagnostic group, and estimated relative risk (RR)

In general, emanations from a line source are expected to reduce in strength as the reciprocal of distance, but the magnetic field from a power line generally falls as the inverse square of distance, or sometimes the inverse cube.3 For each diagnostic group, we tested whether the risk is some function of distance (d) from the nearest line (table 2), using three models: that the risk depends on the rank of the distance band, the reciprocal of the distance ($1/d$), or the inverse square ($1/d^2$). There were no significant results for central nervous system/brain tumours or for "other tumours." For leukaemia, the results of two of the trend analyses were significant ($P < 0.01$); these analyses suggest the risk might depend either on the rank of the distance category or on the reciprocal of distance. The latter seems more plausible. We therefore retabulated the results for leukaemia at intervals corresponding to roughly equal intervals of $1/d$ (table 3). This change in the grouping of the data does not change the pattern of relative risk estimates shown in table 1 or the significance of the test for trend with $1/d$. For simplicity we also analysed risk of leukaemia in bands 0-199 m and 200-599 m. The risks relative to ≥ 600 m were 1.69 and 1.23; the trend with $1/d$ was significant ($P < 0.01$).

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Table 2
Tests of hypotheses relating trends in relative risks to alternative measures of proximity to nearest line (based on the eight distance categories* in table 1). Figures are χ^2 for trend (with 1 df) and P value

View this table:

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Table 3
Relative risk (RR) estimates for leukaemia using revised distance categories (see text)

We examined the possibility that the relation between distance and risk of leukaemia is a consequence of a relation between distance and socioeconomic status. We used the Carstairs deprivation index to allocate a measure of socioeconomic status to the census ward in which each child was living at birth.4 The results in table 4 confirm the previously reported association between affluence and risk of childhood leukaemia (P for trend < 0.01).5 Adjustment for socioeconomic status had no effect on the relative risks for distance (table 3).

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- View Inline

Table 4
Relative risks for categories of socioeconomic status

Power lines produce small air ions through a process known as "corona." Fews et al suggest that this could lead to health effects when winds blow the ions away from the line.6 We have made an initial test of this hypothesis using a simple model suggested by Preece et al (personal communication), assuming the prevailing wind is from the south west. The case-control ratio was no greater downwind than upwind of power lines, so, using this admittedly oversimplified approach, we have no evidence to support this hypothesis.

Discussion

To date this is the largest study of childhood cancer and power lines, with roughly twice the number of children living close to power lines than in the next largest study.7 We found that the relative risk of leukaemia was 1.69 (95% confidence interval 1.13 to 2.53) for children whose home address at birth was within 200 m of a high voltage power line compared with those more than 600 m from the nearest line. For 200-600 m the relative risk was 1.23 (1.02 to 1.49). The finding that the increased leukaemia risk apparently extends so far from the line is surprising in view of the very low level of magnetic field that could be produced by power lines at these distances.

Possible explanations for findings

There is no obvious source of bias in the choice of cases or controls. The study is based on records of childhood cancer in England and Wales over most of the period that the National Grid has existed. Registration for childhood cancer is nearly complete, and it seems improbable that the likelihood of registration is related to proximity of birth address to transmission lines. Controls were selected from registers compiled through the legally required process of birth registration. No participation by cases or controls was required. We calculated distances without knowing case-control status, and we were able to include 88% of the eligible cases, each with a matched control.

Populations near power lines may have different characteristics from the rest of the population. In our control data there is a slight tendency in urban areas for greater affluence (measured by the Carstairs index) closer to lines, though in rural areas there is no clear trend. There is known to be a positive association between affluence and rates of childhood leukaemia. However, adjustment for socioeconomic status of the census ward of birth address did not explain our finding. Population mixing has been associated with childhood leukaemia,8 but in our cases individual mobility, measured by changes of postcode between birth and diagnosis, was no more common for those whose home at birth was closer to the lines. Other characteristics of the population (for instance parity, which has sometimes been found to be associated with childhood leukaemia9) may vary with proximity to power lines, but we do not have the data to determine whether these explain our result.

The results are highly significant but could nevertheless be due to chance—for example, if the leukaemia controls are not sufficiently representative of the relevant population. Some support for this explanation can be derived from the different distance distributions observed for the leukaemia and non-leukaemia controls in table 1. Comparison of the leukaemia cases with the latter still suggests that there is an increased risk for leukaemia but it is much lower than that found using the matched controls. We emphasise, however, that the use of the matched controls is the most appropriate approach.

Six of the studies included in the pooled analysis referred to above2 contain, or have been extended to include, analyses of proximity to power lines.7 10–14 Of these, one, a previous UK study,10 with 1582 cases of leukaemia diagnosed during 1992-6 (most of which will be contained within our 9700), found a relative risk of 1.42 (0.85 to 2.37) for acute lymphocytic leukaemia within 400 m for 275 and 400 kV lines; this supports our results. Studies in Canada11 and Sweden7 also found increased risks for childhood leukaemia (Canada: relative risk 1.8 (0.7 to 4.7) for residence within 100 m of transmission lines of 50 kV or more, and 1.3 within 50 m; Sweden: 2.9 (1.0 to 7.3) for residence £ 50 m versus 101-300 m from 220 and 400 kV power lines, with no increase for other childhood cancers). Studies from Denmark,12 Norway,13 and the United States14 found relative risks below 1.0 but were based on smaller numbers. None of these estimates relates to distances as great as ours; some used a reference category that is within the distance where we found an increased risk.

Our study concerned home address at birth, whereas much previous magnetic field epidemiology has concerned address at other times. Half of the children with leukaemia in this study had the same address at diagnosis as at birth; we have no corresponding information for the control group.

The most obvious explanation of the association with distance from a line is that it is indeed a consequence of exposure to magnetic fields. For magnetic fields in the home the pooled analysis by Ahlbom et al found a relative risk of 2.00 (1.27 to 3.13) for exposures ≥0.4 μT versus < 0.1 μT; the risks for fields < 0.4 μT were near the no effect level.2 Another pooled analysis, including additional studies, found a similar result with a threshold of 0.3 μT.15 For the power lines we investigated, the magnetic field falls to 0.4 μT at an average of about 60 m from the line (based on calculations using one year of recorded loads for a sample of 42 lines). Our increased risk seems to extend to at least 200 m, and at that distance typical calculated fields from power lines are < 0.1 μT, and often < 0.01 μT—that is, less than the average fields in homes from other sources. Thus our results do not seem to be compatible with the existing data on the relation between magnetic fields and risk. The estimated relative risk was more closely related to the reciprocal of the distance from the line than to the square of the reciprocal of the distance.

Conclusions

While few children in England and Wales live close to high voltage power lines at birth, there is a slight tendency for the birth addresses of children with leukaemia to be closer to these lines than those of matched controls. An association between childhood leukaemia and power lines has been reported in several studies, but it is nevertheless surprising to find the effect extending so far from the lines. We have no satisfactory explanation for our results in terms of causation by magnetic fields or association with other factors. Neither the association reported here nor previous findings relating to level of exposure to magnetic fields are supported by convincing laboratory data or any accepted biological mechanism.

Assuming that the higher risk in the vicinity of high voltage lines is indeed a consequence of proximity to the lines we can estimate the attributable annual number of cases of childhood leukaemia in England and Wales. The annual incidence of childhood leukaemia in England and Wales is about 42 per million; the excess relative risks at distances of 0-199 m and 200-599 m are about 0.69 and 0.23, respectively, giving excess rates of 28 and 10 per million. (These two estimates allow for the fact that the incidence for England and Wales is itself partly based on cases occurring in the vicinity of power lines.) We estimate that of the 9.7 million children in the population (2003 estimate), at birth about 80 000 would have lived within 199 m of a line and 320 000 between 200 and 599 m. Thus, of the 400-420 cases of childhood leukaemia occurring annually, about five would be associated with high voltage power lines, though this estimate is imprecise. We emphasise again the uncertainty about whether this statistical association represents a causal relation.

What is already known on this topic

Power frequency magnetic fields, produced by the electric power system, are "possibly carcinogenic"

A pooled analysis of case-control studies found that children living in homes with high magnetic fields (> 0.4 μT) had twice the risk of childhood leukaemia

High voltage power lines are one source of these fields

What this study adds

A UK study of 29 000 cases of childhood cancer, including 9700 cases of leukaemia, found a raised risk of childhood leukaemia in children who lived within 200 m of high voltage lines at birth compared with those who lived beyond 600m (relative risk 1.7)

There was also a slightly increased risk for those living 200-600 m from the lines at birth (relative risk 1.2, P for trend < 0.01); as this is further than can readily be explained by magnetic fields it may be due to other aetiological factors associated with power lines

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to colleagues at the Childhood Cancer Research Group and at National Grid Transco for help with this study and to cancer registries and the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group for notifications of cases of childhood cancer.

Footnotes

- Contributors GD was responsible for overall direction of the study and publication. GD and JS had the initial idea and designed the study. TV and MEK collected information on cases and controls and carried out the statistical analysis. JS assessed exposures. GD and JS are guarantors

- Funding This study was undertaken as part of a project funded by the United Kingdom Department of Health Radiation Protection Programme. The Childhood Cancer Research Group also receives funding from the Department of Health and the Scottish Ministers. The views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Department of Health and the Scottish Ministers. National Grid Transco provided staff time but no other funding.

- Competing interests JS is employed by National Grid Transco and worked on this project with their permission. A written contract exists between the Childhood Cancer Research Group and National Grid Transco specifying that the Childhood Cancer Research Group has complete control over the conduct, interpretation, and publication of this study; this paper has not been approved by anyone in National Grid Transco other than JS in his capacity as author and does not necessarily represent National Grid Transco's views

- Ethical approval The Childhood Cancer Research Group has local ethics committee approval and, through membership of the UK Association of Cancer Registries, has approval from the Patient Information Advisory Group with respect to cancer registration function.

References

1. 1.↵

    1. Wertheimer N,
    2. Leeper E

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: Lois Musmann [mailto:loismusmann@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Hedy Koczwara
Subject: Re: West of Devers Upgrade Project - Mapbook Sheet 36

Thank you for your speedy response with the appropriate map sections!

As mentioned yesterday, I wondered when the current or existing system was installed; was it prior to or after 2003 when the homes in this section were built?

I wonder if there is any harmful emission from the lines, as now I hear a buzzing sound coming from all the lines that pass overhead when I walk. A number of people use the park over which the lines pass.

Another question is whether we know how long each individual section will take to complete (thinking of noise, dust, etc.)

I do have a concern that the impact to the environment (flora and fauna) be kept to a minimum. I read of the solar collectors in the desert with their high heat intensities and the loss of bird life (burned, singed, or otherwise maimed) and wonder how the development of this system of collecting got so far without understanding how the heat intensity would be such a detriment to the birds.

I appreciated the explanations yesterday from Susan as to the overall picture of the project, and I very much appreciated having the packet of information provided well in advance so we could study the materials.

With sincere appreciation,
Lois

Nancy Honeyfield
9249 Oak Creek Rd.
Cherry Valley, CA 92223

Billie Blanchard (CPUC)/Brian Paul (BLM)
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104

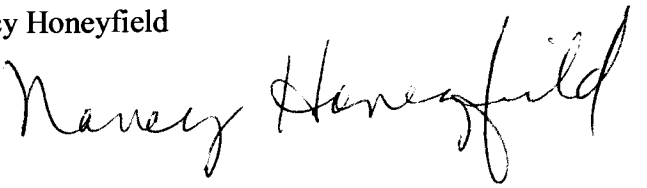
July 21, 2014

Dear Sir,

I have attended one of your meetings concerning the West of Devers upgrade where they all claimed that this project would be safe and not affect the people living near by. I disagree because I know that higher towers will lower the value of my property and since these are rental properties future renters will not want to live that close to high power lines because of health concerns. Can you guarantee me that adding these higher and more powerful lines will not become a health concern? If not, I feel you should purchase our property on Cedarview and all the other properties that are with-in a close distance to the power lines you are proposing. So, I would not be in agreement to have these power lines changed behind our property.

I will await your reply.

Nancy Honeyfield



07-24-2014

To: U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

14 JUL 25 AM 11:23

Re: West of Devers Upgrade Project
Proposed by Southern California Edison
Application No. A.13-10-020 with
California Public Utilities Commission

From: Kenneth D. Kelly
13210 Joshua Road
Whitewater, CA 92282

Edison Account No.
2-14-429-2844

I would hope that one day, Southern California Edison would discover and implement the aesthetics associated with building transmission lines in our area.

Cell phones, Smart Meters and more electrical lines guess one pause when considering the increase in brain tumors in evidence in the general population.

The grading of power line roads has become a major source of dust storms in this community. Why don't they water the earth down so that the air quality is not so adversely affected.

The expansion of the transmission lines has diminished the desert turtles, horny toads and California Quail that used to be here.

Sincerely,
Kenneth D. Kelly

con't.
overleaf

Lastly, I am greatly concerned about what measures are being taken to insure the survival of these lines when exposed to massive solar flares and new terrorist bombs designed to wipe out our electrical grids

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: Todd & Corinne Slusser <slusser@pmt.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:52 PM
To: West Of Devers Project
Subject: Power Tower on my land - I have not been informed

To whom this may concern,

I own the land next door to David Doherty in Whitewater. I have just learned that you are planning on placing a power tower smack in the middle of my property. Hmmm, why have I received NO notification of this? I have not been contacted by you or by Edison about my property being involved. Yes, there is an easement on the back of my land but this tower will not be solely located on that easement. This peace of property was given to me by my grandfather over 30 years ago. I have not built on it but I sure would like the ability to do so if I would like, or to sell it at full market value if warranted. Who is going to buy a piece of property with a huge tower on it with health hazard power lines? Talk about no value, for me or my children.

Please choose an alternate site, or keep the towers where they already are - you cannot have my property for your upgrade.

Thank you,
Corinne Slusser

Comment Form

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Please print legibly. For more information, visit the project web site:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm *Thank you for your comments.*

Date: 7-16-14

Name*: Karen Harnitchek

Affiliation (*if any*):*

Address:* PO Box 252

City, State, Zip Code:* Beaumont CA 92223

Telephone Number:*

Email:* Residence 39335 Circle Terrace Redlands 92373

Comment:* Please consider bumping the towers southward in Segment 3 behind Fisherman's Retreat instead of northward. Southward brings the power closer to many houses mobilehomes and trailers.

How much more exposure will we receive? How about protective coatings on the wires. How can I feel safe?

Please send me notifications by: ☐ email ☑ mail ☐ I do not want to be on the project mailing list

**This information may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.*

Your comments will help determine the scope and content of the environmental document and identify alternatives and measures to reduce impacts. Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); attach additional sheets if needed. Please submit comments by July 31, 2014. You may also submit comments by email to westofdevers@aspeneg.com or by phone (888) 456-0254.

Comment Form

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Please print legibly. For more information, visit the project web site:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm *Thank you for your comments.*

Date: July 16, 2014

Name*: Brenda Freeman

Affiliation (*if any*):* Resident / Retired mayor

Address:* 4256 Hillside Dr. Banning CA 92520

City, State, Zip Code:* Banning

Telephone Number:* 951 2297597

Email:* brendafreeman777@hotmail.com

Comment:* Banning is one of the few cities in California that does not have utility lines across our visible hillsides, our mountain ranges need to be preserved. Thank you for proposing the lines going away from most visibility to the farthest point away from freeway visibility. Please do not make lines larger where it is a open space hillside or mountain that is not developed. An area to keep the lines far away from future homes and development is at Highland Springs and Wilson ~~Ave~~ Banning.

Please send me notifications by: ☑ email ☑ mail ☐ I do not want to be on the project mailing list

**This information may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.*

Your comments will help determine the scope and content of the environmental document and identify alternatives and measures to reduce impacts. Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); attach additional sheets if needed. Please submit comments by July 31, 2014. You may also submit comments by email to westofdevers@aspeneg.com or by phone (888) 456-0254.