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SCE'S Proposed
West of Devers Upgrade
Project

CPUC/BLM
Scoping Meeting
for Preparation of a
Draft EIR/EIS
Beaumont City Hall, Beaumont, California

May 21, 2014

Job No.: 1861470-B

Pages: 1-25

1
2 Beaumont, California

3 May 21, 2014

4 7:00 p.m.

5
6 MEETING SPEAKERS:

7
8 SANDRA ALARCON-LOPEZ

9 ASPEN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

10
11 SUSAN LEE

12 EIR/EIS

13
14 BILLIE BLANCHARD

15 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES

16
17 BRIAN PAUL

18 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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The following Attached Presentation was presented in public forum at Beaumont City Hall, including Presentation of Story Boards and Maps, PowerPoint Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

A handout of the presentation was offered to all public attendees along with a Speaker Presentation card for comments. The public was also offered to speak their comments at the meeting or speak directly to the Court Reporter and were transcribed and are attached hereto as follows:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TOM HARRIS OF REDLANDS:

MR. HARRIS: For the record, Tom Harris. So hello, everybody. So I have a property San Mateo Canyon, I own property in San Mateo Canyon and so Verizon has the right of way in the rear portion of my property. It is a 10-acre parcel and towers are actually placed on the rear portion of my property, so the southern most portion of my property.

And so when I received this notice of

1 preparation, there were a couple of things, so I will
2 first ask some clarifying questions. One of the
3 things that I noticed in the notice of preparation is
4 that mitigation measures. The California Edison
5 proposed measures that could reduce or eliminate
6 potential impacts of the proposed project. So I
7 guess what I starting to understand is that those
8 mitigation measures have not yet been proposed; is
9 that correct.

10 MS. LEE: There are two kinds of mitigation
11 measures. What Edison submits its application, it
12 includes there initial measurers. Those are the
13 applicant proposed measures, but the consultant team
14 and the agencies will develop mitigation measures in
15 addition to that. And they may be modifying those
16 measures or they may be new measurers. In a normal
17 EIR/EIS, there are many, many more mitigation
18 measures presented by the agencies in addition to the
19 ones that the applicant has proposed. So it is on
20 top of those.

21 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. So I'm
22 understanding then we will have an opportunity to
23 review those mitigation measures at some point?

24 MS. LEE: Absolutely. They will be in
25 draft EIR/EIS. But if you have suggestion measurers

1 or any suggested sort of impact reduction
2 suggestions, this would be a great time. If there
3 are things you have thought of now, we love to hear
4 them during the scoping period.

5 MR. HARRIS: Great. Thank you.

6 I obviously am in Section 3 of the
7 project. So Attachment A of the Notice of
8 Preparation I received was a summary of potential
9 issues for impact. And I would say I read through
10 all of this and all of it's important to me, but some
11 of the most significant things are right at the top
12 the list, esthetics. So two things, that I like to
13 find out how much of a voice I have in the placement
14 of the towers. Currently there are three towers.
15 The northern most tower is the one that I see the
16 most. My home is down on the lower, on flat portion
17 of my property, probably the back four to five acres
18 of this 10- to 11-acre parcel is hill. So that is
19 where the three towers are placed. So when I looked
20 at diagram of the existing versus the proposed, and I
21 have realized this is just a diagram, but it shows
22 that the right of way is a 400 foot path. And I'm
23 assuming that is probably standard across the
24 corridor. But what I was trying to understand is:
25 How much of a voice do I have in the general

1 placement of these towers? If all three of these are
2 going to be removed, I would like to believe, I'm not
3 asking for those towers to be put somewhere else or
4 shipped further back to where they are no longer on
5 my property, but rather on the parcel behind me, what
6 I would like is to be able to believe, if possible,
7 where it is possible from an engineering prospective,
8 to have these towers shifted back in that 400 foot
9 right of way to where they are less prominent with
10 respect to me seeing these towers as I enter my
11 property let's say.

12 Then the other thing is from an
13 engineering prospective, I know a little bit about
14 electromagnetic fields, how they fall off based on
15 distance and oftentimes the way in which these lines
16 are placed next to one another somehow, that that
17 cancels to a certain extent the emission of the
18 electromagnetic field or the distance in which it
19 travels. But I would like to get a little more
20 understanding based on placement, what is being
21 mitigated with respect to possible consequences of
22 electromagnetic radiation for a lack of a better way
23 of expressing it. Thank you.

24 MS. LEE: Two basic good questions.

25 What would be most useful to you? I know

1 you walked in just when we were starting. Before you
2 leave, if can you stop and talk to Hedy, who is
3 waving at you, she can show you the detailed
4 preliminary engineering map of what Edison is now
5 proposing in the first round of engineering in terms
6 of where towers are located. And what we would love
7 you to do is just tell us back, and we can give you a
8 copy of this map, where you think they would be
9 better placed and then we can work through that as we
10 are going through the analysis and see, you're right,
11 if there is engineering issues, for sure, but to the
12 extent there is room for modification, we will work
13 through that with our analysis.

14 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. Yes. The reason
15 that I ask the question with respect to where the
16 towers are placed, because in this 400 foot corridor,
17 at least in the diagram I'm looking at, it makes it
18 appear that these towers are shifted all the way to
19 the northern most portion, at least, again in the
20 diagram I'm looking at.

21 MS. LEE: Yeah. You'll see the in maps,
22 they are in plan view, so you can actually see where
23 the current location is. And in many places along
24 the right of way, the two towers are along one edge
25 or the other of the right of way just to allow the

1 potential future use of the rest of it for any other
2 transmission projects in the future that might come
3 up.

4 MR. HARRIS: Is this based on, the map that
5 I might see then, would that be specific to each pad
6 where the towers are occurring?

7 MS. LEE: You can see very detailed
8 locations on there. Again, the engineering is
9 preliminary at this point, so we do not know that
10 that is exactly where they will be, but getting your
11 feet back in that while the engineering is being
12 designed would be valuable.

13 The second question about the EMF, Edison
14 has submitted, and we can point to this on the
15 website, EMF Field Management Plan along with its
16 application, it includes a lot of really good
17 information showing graphs of exactly how the
18 magnetic field drops off on either side. And you are
19 right, having two towers closer together has a
20 potential impact to reducing the field. So there is
21 a good appendix to Edison's application that is on
22 the website.

23 MR. HARRIS: Southern California Edison
24 website?

25 MS. LEE: CPUC website.

1 MR. HARRIS: It's in the notice --

2 MS. LEE: Right. If you leave your name
3 with us, it will be faster for us to find the link to
4 that. There is a lot of material on the website.

5 MR. HARRIS: I will happy to have dialogue
6 with e-mail as well.

7 MS. LEE: If you give Hedy that.

8 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

9 MS. ALARCON-LOPEZ: Thomas Covey.

10

11 THOMAS COVEY OF PALM SPRINGS:

12 MR. COVEY: My name is Thomas Covey. We
13 are at Segment 6, milepost 45, right at Devers
14 Substation, 61948 Smoke Tree Road.

15 There are a couple of things.

16 I did not receive notice of the
17 preparation. I did not receive this. I just
18 happened to run across it on the Internet the other
19 day. Then I went to my neighbor and found out that
20 he got it. But it abuts my property.

21 I want to address the socioeconomic
22 situation. Because I live so close to it, I been
23 there for approximately 30 years, my property is
24 worthless. Nobody will buy it. So that has hurt me
25 considerably. I'm not going anywhere, but some day

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1 my kids might.

2 Public health and safety, addressing that
3 along with his comment is the electromagnetic
4 radiation and not only radiation, but electromagnetic
5 induction. Now, I have lived directly adjacent to
6 the new line. I have electromagnetic radiation that
7 I measured 100 yards past my house. I have
8 electromagnetic direct induction on my property.
9 And I have made Edison aware of this over the last
10 few months since they fired that thing up.

11 Well, my question is -- by the way, what
12 we do there is we have a recording studio, we are a
13 record label. And our engineers are telling us that
14 we are going to be in trouble. My understanding is
15 it is not even up to speed yet, not running full
16 capacity. When it runs to full capacity, I will be
17 out of business. That is what our engineers say,
18 unless we do some crazy Faraday cage or something to
19 block this off.

20 To your project, the main point was I did
21 not get any notice.

22 No. 2, I realize it's farther away and
23 I'm concerned about the cumulative impact of this
24 stuff going on out there in the back. We have done
25 as much as we possibly can to block it off. We have

1 been working with different people at Edison. And
2 they have not -- so far they just feel sorry for us.
3 That is not quite enough. It's not like we are some
4 little farmer out there. I have million dollar rock
5 stars coming to my house all of the time. If
6 somebody gets electrocuted, it's going to be a big
7 problem. So I just want to know your feelings and
8 what you think the electromagnetic is, that going to
9 be another 500kb line down there or are you just
10 replacing the 280 that is there and what impacts that
11 will have upon our property?

12 MS. LEE: Those are great comments. And we
13 will address all of that stuff. We have a section on
14 socioeconomic, definitely public health and safety is
15 addressed.

16 The induced current issue, we understand,
17 we have had similar people with similar concerns.
18 And I encourage you to be persistent with Edison,
19 because that something that they need to help you
20 solve. But we address it in the enviromental
21 document, because as you pointed out, it is a safety
22 concern.

23 The cumulative impacts is an issue that
24 he will cover. What would be useful to us, if you
25 could leave -- well, you gave your address.

1 We'll check the mailing list, you may be
2 just outside of that range. The 220kb projects are
3 north of the two 500s.

4 MR. COVEY: Correct.

5 MS. LEE: You are probably just outside
6 that. We mailed to 600 feet on either side. Now
7 that you're here, you will be added to our list.

8 MR. COVEY: Well, I may add that they just
9 did the central power plant and I did not get
10 notification of that either. I don't know who does
11 your list --

12 MS. LEE: We go to the County Assessor.

13 MR. COVEY: Something -- they have to move
14 it out. They keep building things. And like the
15 shunt station, you are aware of the shunt station
16 that abuts my property, they just built that. They
17 did not have anything, did not have no documents
18 involved, it was a maintenance issue, I think.

19 Those are my comments. I just want to
20 keep apprized of what is going on. Now I do not know
21 what to do. I don't if I should expand my business
22 or am I going to be out of business. I don't know.

23 MS. LEE: Thank you.

24 MS. ALARCON-LOPEZ: Bill Souder.

25

1 BILL SOUDER OF BEAUMONT:

2 MR. SOUDER: My name is Bill Souder, I live
3 in Solera, 55 plus community in Segment 4.

4 Probably the biggest concern I have is
5 the movement the towers to within 50 feet of the
6 resident property lines. Looking up right now, the
7 smaller of the truss towers is closest, the taller
8 towers are 200 feet away from those properties. So
9 moving a 200 foot tower 50 foot closer to people's
10 backyards, I'm sure will be quite a concern to them.
11 So with a 300 width there, there is lots of room to
12 move them out to center or possibly even to the north
13 side of the 300 foot segment.

14 From the esthetics standpoint, I'm an
15 electrical engineer, I'm always fascinated by power
16 lines. Every place I have been around the world I
17 have looked at what other counties do. There are
18 some much nicer looking towers, the ones that are
19 more cylindrical or extreme conical actually because
20 they taper more toward the top. But they look more
21 like a pole. I think there are much nicer looking
22 towers, and going through residential areas, I don't
23 know what the cost impact is, but I think they would
24 be worth being better appearing in those areas. So
25 the type of truss could be something that could be

1 looked at.

2 I do have some EMF concerns. Again,
3 moving to 50 feet from 100 feet does not sound good.
4 I realize the levels are supposedly low, but things
5 are not always as they are advertised. I'm in an
6 emergency preparedness team in our community and we
7 use handheld walkie-talkies and have practice drills
8 all of the time. And we get 60 cycle hum in our
9 readings, and my house is 1,000 feet away from the
10 current towers and I get 60 cycle hum in my reading.
11 So there is something radiating out there.

12 I realize the towers are not matched now
13 because there is a dual circuit in the middle and
14 single circuits on either sides, so perhaps when they
15 are put together on the two towers, maybe that gets
16 reduced, but it is a concern.

17 Also, if you would e-mail me the
18 information on the site of the EMF information, I
19 would appreciate that.

20 MS. LEE: Okay.

21 MR. SOUDER: Also, moving the towers from
22 100 feet to 50 feet, people are going to be concerned
23 about property values. I don't know myself what the
24 impact will be, but certainly less desirable to have
25 a 200 plus feet tower 50 feet from the backyard than

1 100 feet. So, you know, if they can actually move it
2 to the north side, then there is still a 100 foot
3 buffer, because there is a 300 width and 100 foot,
4 and they have another 100 buffer over there. So
5 maybe that would move it further away from the
6 houses, which would be nice.

7 Another issue is right of way easement
8 agreement. The two agreements are dated 1945 and
9 1961. We have had run-ins with Edison where we
10 wanted to do some things on that property. Just
11 recently we wanted to, we talked about a putting
12 green, which is grass, no vertical structure and they
13 told us they did not think we could do that. The
14 easements says that agricultural use is acceptable.

15 I guess what I would like know is, I
16 think the easement agreements on the both sides, 300
17 foot side and the 100 foot side should be looked at
18 and updated, and they're telling us we cannot do
19 things that are done on either sides of our property.
20 It goes over the park, it goes over RV storage areas,
21 areas where people are active all of the time and
22 they are telling us we cannot do those things. I
23 understand that is their desire, but that is not what
24 the easement agreement says.

25 I would suggest that they redo an

1 easement agreement and present that to us to agree to
2 it or not. If they want to make more strict
3 conditions, they should have it in writing, not just
4 tell us we cannot do it. They told us they would sue
5 us if we did some of the things we wanted to do. So
6 we are a little unhappy about that.

7 If they are taking the tower down on the
8 100 foot side with 300 foot and moving the towers
9 closer together, something perhaps you could suggest
10 to Edison that they might release the easement
11 agreement. We own the property, but we have the
12 easement agreement that there are certain things we
13 cannot do on. And on that 100 foot side, if they can
14 release that, that would give us a lot of flexibility
15 on things we like to do in our community in
16 landscaping and some smaller structures that we would
17 like put to out. Our clubhouse is on the small side
18 and we would like to expand it.

19 That is it. Thank you.

20 MS. LEE: Those are good comments. I do
21 not think we need any response. They are right on
22 for what we looking for.

23 MS. BLANCHARD: Are you going to give
24 something in writing also?

25 MR. SOUDER: I can fill out this other

1 thing, this form, and send it in.

2 MS. LEE: Great.

3 MS. ALARCON-LOPEZ: Phyllis Lichtenstein.

4

5 PHYLLIS LICHTENSTEIN OF BEAUMONT:

6 MS. LICHTENSTEIN: I also live in Solera.
7 I know nothing about the electricity anything, but I
8 do have four questions.

9 First one is: Assuming that everything
10 goes as it is planned, how long would the
11 construction within Segment 4 take? Months? Weeks?
12 Years?

13 MS. LEE: That is hard to answer right now,
14 because we're waiting for more detail construction
15 information. The overall project is three to four
16 years from one end of the 45 miles to the other. But
17 with each segment, we do not have the construction
18 time frame yet and we are hoping to get better
19 information.

20 MS. BLANCHARD: We are trying to get more
21 detailed information from Edison regarding this whole
22 construction process.

23 MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Once you know, will it
24 be on the website?

25 MS. LEE: Actually, yes. The data requests

1 in our responses that we get from Edison are on the
2 website. If you look for a section called Data
3 Request, it will be there. And it will be in the
4 draft EIR/EIS, because that is what we really need to
5 do, the kind of detailed analysis that we know a lot
6 of people are asking about.

7 MS. BLANCHARD: We have to look at the
8 construction impacts and operation and maintenance.
9 So it is the whole gamut of things. So we do have to
10 address what will happen within construction, so that
11 we need to identify impacts, identify mitigation
12 measures, how to deal with it. It will be in the
13 document.

14 MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Okay. I think what I'm
15 looking at: Are we talking about months for the one
16 segment? Are we talking about a year? Are we
17 talking about weeks?

18 MS. LEE: At least months. And it could
19 be more than a year, because there are three lines to
20 be taken out, two lines to install and the lines that
21 are there now need to remain electrified during the
22 whole process. So it's almost like two completely
23 different projects: Build two new lines, build the
24 other three. It's a complex process.

25 Sadly, we would love to be able to answer

1 the question, but we just do not have the information
2 yet. It's not weeks and it's not a few months, for
3 sure.

4 MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Okay. During the
5 construction process, how would it effect, if at all,
6 the homes and the businesses in the area as far as
7 the electrical power ability and outages?

8 MS. LEE: That is part of the reason that
9 Edison will take a long time to construct is they are
10 not going -- they will have outages segments in the
11 line itself, but I believe that that will not result
12 in any outages to the people who live along the line.

13 This transmission line is a high voltage
14 line, it is not a line that serves local
15 distribution. That power comes from a small
16 substation within the city. So there should not be
17 any direct effect on you. What construction effects
18 you will have are things like noise, dust, trucks
19 driving by. That will be addressed in the
20 environmental document for sure.

21 MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Another question as far
22 as the construction, do you normally when you're
23 doing a big construction like this work at night?

24 MS. LEE: Very rarely. The City
25 regulations will drive the working hours basically.

1 So a lot of cities have a 7:00 to 7:00 weekday
2 construction hours. If that is the case, that is
3 generally what will be requested, what will be
4 enforced.

5 There is some cases where the utility
6 might need an unusual situation to work a couple
7 hours at night, they would have to get the City to
8 okay that. It's not something that would be
9 specifically authorized. But the enviromental report
10 will be based on compliance with noise requirement of
11 the local jurisdictions, local cities and counties.

12

13 BILL SOUNDER:

14 MR. SOUDER: I have follow-up questions.

15 Listening to the comments here, we do
16 have a landscape committee and have expressed concern
17 about the damage that will be done. Unfortunately at
18 the moment, we only have lawn underneath those
19 towers, but with all of the trucks moving around, who
20 knows what kind of digging is going on, will whatever
21 is there be replaced by Edison? Or are we just going
22 to wind up with tracks everywhere, holes in things?

23 MS. LEE: Usually that is a requirement
24 that we make, that if they go in an impact an area
25 like that, they have to restore it. So that is

1 something that we'll look at and consider on the
2 environmental document.

3 MR. SOUDER: Whenever possible if there is
4 a decision made on that, we would like the feedback.
5 We're holding up other plans not know for sure where
6 towers will be, what kind of damage might occur.

7 MS. LEE: Sure. And if there are projects
8 that you think we ought to consider, anything like
9 what you are talking about, that is something you
10 might want to incorporate in your written comment to
11 us.

12 MR. SOUDER: By projects --

13 MS. LEE: What activity. You said you were
14 planning to do something in that area, that might be
15 helpful information for us to justify why you're
16 asking the questions, so to speak, because you will
17 doing initial work in that area.

18 MR. SOUDER: What we are trying to do is
19 remove the lawn and put in drought tolerant plants
20 because our water bill is \$250,000 a year.

21 MS. LEE: Any other comments?

22

23 THOMAS COVEY:

24 MR. COVEY: I just wonder if you prefer
25 mailing the comment or e-mail?

1 MS. LEE: Whatever you prefer.

2 We did give you this comment form. So if
3 there other comments that you think of, please either
4 mail it in, drop it off in the box or send an e-mail.
5 And we have provided all of that information in the
6 materials that you have.

7 Are there any other questions?

8

9 TOM HARRIS:

10 MR. HARRIS: So as Southern California
11 Edison continues on through this preparation project
12 or process I should say, how will be advised, other
13 than us going out and taking a look at the website,
14 how will we be advised of the project so that we
15 learn well in advance of the final decision being
16 made in the event that we wish to have further
17 discussion?

18 MS. LEE: We did present earlier a diagram
19 where we showed kind of the process that we go
20 through. We're right at the beginning, which is the
21 scoping process. We're taking input, trying to get
22 your comments, ideas. That is going to go into what
23 we call a draft document. And when that draft
24 document is prepared, we send out additional notices
25 to those people on our mailing list, we send out

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1 notices to agencies, also resource agencies, like the
2 Fish and Game, the National Heritage Association, all
3 of that stuff. We send out notices to everyone. We
4 put it in the newspaper. We let people know also
5 that we are planning on having additional workshops
6 at that time where we present the draft DIR and take
7 comments. But we do have periodic information that
8 we're going to be giving you so that you have
9 information throughout the process, notices.

10 MS. BLANCHARD: Just to be clear, when we
11 notice the draft DIR/EIS is ready for public comment
12 review, we send notices to the entire mailing list,
13 including anybody else that has said they are
14 interested, then we say it's ready for review. And
15 then you can review it in a variety of ways, CD,
16 Online, if you need a summary or whether you need
17 hard copy of draft EIR/EIS, whichever way you choose
18 to comment. That will be next real big step in terms
19 of reading those, if you like it, do not like it, you
20 will be able to comment on the draft EIR/EIS and give
21 us feedback.

22 MS. LEE: That is another scoping period.
23 This was a 30 day scoping period, now we'll have an
24 additional. That will be additional public review
25 period on the draft document.

1 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

2 MS. LEE: One other thing I wanted to
3 remind you about is we spoke earlier about the BLM,
4 they will issue a notice of intent so that is when
5 the Federal process starts. And at that time, there
6 is going to be an additional 30 day scoping period on
7 that. So for this project, we are going to have two
8 30 day scoping points. There will be another 45 day
9 minimum.

10 MS. BLANCHARD: We have a 30 day scoping
11 period right now for PUC. There will be another 30
12 day scoping period or Bureau of Land Management,
13 where you again get to go to a scoping meeting and
14 provide any additional scoping comments. That is in
15 June or July, depending on the BLM process. Then at
16 a later time there will be a draft EIR/EIS released
17 to the public where you can review it in any way you
18 need review to, hard copy or e-mail, whatever,
19 website. Then that is the time period where you get
20 to review the document and see whether we have
21 addressed all of the issues properly, we have all the
22 mitigations or not, covered the alternatives, or if
23 you feel we have not, you can comment on that. But
24 what is really helpful right now is we really need
25 people's feedback, and that it is good to comment,

1 but also it is good to get a follow-up from you in
2 writing so we can have all of those issues and can
3 make sure that we do not miss anything in terms of
4 analysis.

5 So I just want to emphasize that. So
6 there is more to come, more periods for comments. So
7 it's a long process.

8 MS. LEE: With that, we appreciate your
9 time. We are going to stick around if you have any
10 additional questions.

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