

Comment Set A.13: County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"
Russ Guiney, Director

October 3, 2006

John Boccio/Marian Kadota
California Public Utilities Commission/Angeles National Forest
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Boccia and Ms. Kadota:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIR/DEIS) FOR THE ANTELOPE-PARDEE 500-KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The Notice of Preparation for an EIR/EIS for the Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission project has been reviewed for potential impact on the facilities of this Department. Construction of the project as described in the Notice of Preparation may impact facilities under the jurisdiction of this Department which we offer the following comments:

- The project may impact County trails- #76 Cliffie Stone Trail, #77 Bouquet Canyon (Alt 5), #79 Pacifica Crest Trail (Alt 5), #111 Northside Trail, #112 Leona Valley Loop Trail, #116 Vasquez Loop Trail, #119 Mint Canyon Trail (Alt 5) and #130 California Poppy Trail.
- In reference to Alternative #5, although the proposed transmission lines are not scheduled to go through Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, the lines and the 220 foot towers supporting them will have the potential of destroying the scenic vista to the east of the park. This is the area where most of our visitors hike, picnic, horseback, ride and relax. One of the most popular trails in this area is the famous Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from Mexico to Canada. The towers will also create a negative impact on filming which has been conducted at Vasquez Rocks since the early 1900's. Silent movies were actually filmed here as early as 1902. We are currently host to major motion pictures, commercials, television, still photography, music videos and student filmmakers. Filming is the largest revenue-generating program for Vasquez Rocks. Since the inception of the location fee in 1997, we have generated \$657,384 in revenue from filming activities.

A.13-1

A.13-2

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Mr. Boccia/ Ms. Kadota
October 3, 2006
Page 2

- The recent fire at Placerita Canyon Nature Center was caused by a hawk landing on the transmission wires, getting electrocuted. The possibility of fire is a threat as new, more powerful lines are being implemented. What precautions have been taken to prevent this from reoccurring? | A.13-3
- The lines would also be relatively close to our two wildlife corridors which go under the I-14 freeway. | A.13-4

The EIR should analyze direct and indirect impacts to recreational facilities and trails, including those under the jurisdiction of the Department. For trail inquiries please contact Ken Slu, Trails Coordinator, at 213 351-5135. | A.13-5

Thank you for including this Department in the review of this environmental document. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at (213) 351-5133.

Sincerely,



Bryan Moscardini,
Park Project Coordinator

BM(c:response-Antelope-Pardee100306)

c: Robert Hauter, BOS, SD-5
Russ Guiney, DPR
Kathleen Ritner, DPR
Mickey Long, DPR
Ken Slu, DPR

Response to Comment Set A.13: County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation

- A.13-1 The County trails listed would be visually affected by the proposed Project and some of the alternatives, but as none would cross these trails, except the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, construction activities and operation of the Project would not conflict with trail use. Visual impacts to these trails are discussed in Section C.15 Visual Resources.
- A.13-2 Your comments are consistent with the findings of the Draft EIR/EIS. The visual impacts of Alternative 5, specific to the Vasquez Rocks County Park, are discussed in Section C.15.10.2 of the EIR/EIS under Impact V-25. Impacts were determined to be significant and unavoidable (Class I). Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- A.13-3 As discussed in Section C.3, Impact B-13, raptor contact with power lines causing electrocution can be a result of the large wing span of the birds coming in contact simultaneously with either two phases of a circuit or one phase and the structure. The majority of raptor electrocutions are caused by lines that are energized at voltage levels between 1-kV and 69-kV and “the likelihood of electrocutions occurring at voltages greater than 69-kV is extremely low” (APLIC, 1996). In addition, the project would be constructed with minimum clearances between phase conductors or between phase conductors and grounded hardware, as recommended by Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC, 1996), which are sufficient to protect even the largest birds including condors, and therefore, would present little to no risk of bird electrocution. In addition, Mitigation Measure B-13 (Raptor safety protection will be required on tower/conductor (lines) of NFS lands) would be implemented.
- A.13-4 Thank you for your input. Potential impacts to wildlife movement have been addressed in Section C.3.10.2 of the Draft EIR/EIS.
- A.13-5 Direct and indirect impacts to recreational facilities and trails are discussed in Section C.9 of the EIR/EIS.