

# CPUC A.24-11-005 Proceeding

## PG&E's Moraga-Oakland X (MOX) 115 kV Rebuild Project

**Webpage:** [Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Moraga-Oakland X 115 kV Rebuild Project](#)

### CEQA Scoping Meeting

California Public Utilities Commission,  
Energy Division



California Public  
Utilities Commission

March 13, 2025



\*Please note that this meeting will be recorded

# Meeting Guidelines

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

# Scoping Meeting Agenda

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





# Introductions

## State Lead Agency (CEQA):

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
  - Tharon Wright, CPUC Project Manager

## CEQA Consultant:

- Aspen Environmental Group
  - Hedy Koczwar, Aspen Project Manager
  - Grace Weeks, Aspen Deputy Project Manager

## Project Applicant:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)



# Purpose of this Meeting



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

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

**Your ideas are welcome and invited!**

# What is Scoping?

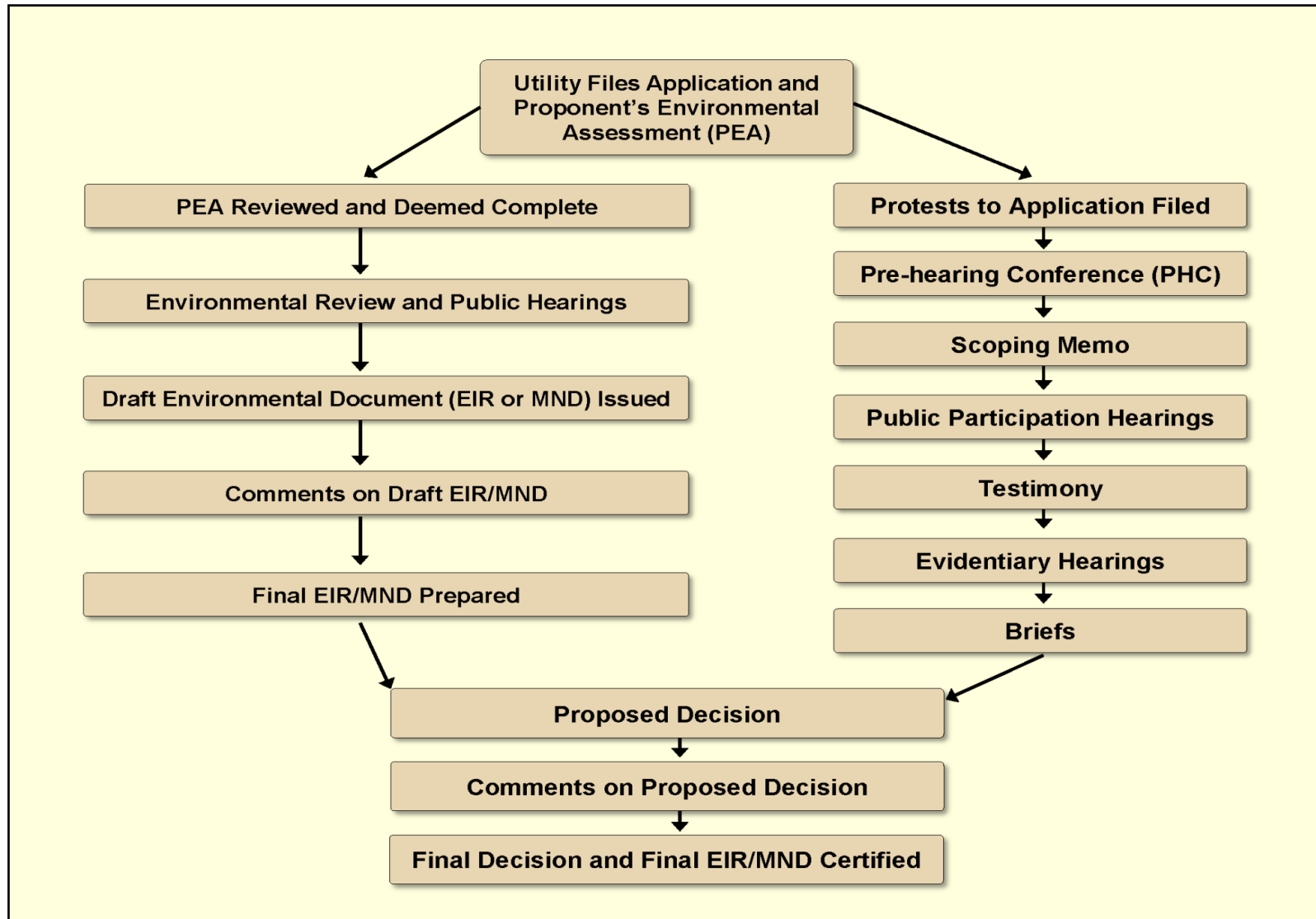
- Scoping is the process of soliciting public and agency input regarding the scope and content of an EIR, in advance of its preparation.
- CPUC is requesting comments to inform the scope and content of the EIR and help identify the project actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation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

# Role of California Public Utilities Commission

The CPUC is conducting two parallel review processes for this PG&E Application for a Permit to Construct (PTC):

1. **General Proceeding:** Application # A.24-11-005
  - Assigned Commissioner *Karen Douglas*
  - Administrative Law Judge *David van Dyken*
  - See flow chart on next slide
2. **Environmental Review:** State Clearinghouse #2025-02-0944
  - CPUC is Lead Agency for CEQA process
  - Application is typically deemed complete before Scoping begins
  - Schedule includes ongoing consultation with Native American Tribes

# CPUC Process (Generalized)





# CEQA Overview

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

# CEQA EIR Process



# MOX Project Location

- Alameda County
  - Cities of Oakland & Piedmont
- Contra Costa County
  - Unincorporated County
  - City of Orinda

## Legend

- Substation
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- State Route/Highway
- Arterial
- Local Street

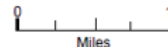
## Project Components

- Four Existing Overhead 115 kV Lines to be Rebuilt in Same Overhead Configuration
- Four New Underground 115 kV Lines
- Four Existing Overhead 115 kV Lines to be Removed

- East Bay Regional Park District
- EBMUD Property
- Other Park or Recreation Area
- County Boundary
- City of Berkeley
- City of Moraga
- City of Lafayette
- City of Oakland
- City of Orinda
- City of Piedmont

## Moraga-Oakland X 115 kV Rebuild Project

Proposed by  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company



# Proposed Project Purpose

**Purpose:** Replace existing power line equipment that has reached the end of its useful life for safe operation of the lines.

The basic objectives of the MOX Project are to:

- Provide lifecycle updates of Moraga–Oakland X 115 kV four circuit power line path by removing and replacing four circuits to avoid future reliability issues while maintaining safe operations.
- Replace four project power line circuits using a larger size conductor that will accommodate the region's reasonably foreseeable future energy demands.
- Ensure the project at completion meets power line reliability and safety requirements, and industry standards.
- Construct a safe, economical, and technically feasible project that minimizes environmental and community impacts.



# Project Summary

- Proposed upgrades to ~5-miles of two existing overhead parallel double-circuit 115 kV power lines within existing PG&E land rights between Moraga & Oakland X substations.
- Project would rebuild the four overhead lines into four hybrid lines, with both overhead (~4 miles) and underground (~1 mile) segments. Some recently replaced power line structures would be reused or reused with some modification.
- Includes installation of optical ground wire on aboveground structures with a communication cable continuing within the underground portion.
- Project would also modify the Moraga & Oakland X substations.
- Construction would start in 2028.





# CEQA: Environmental Resource Areas

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

# For Each Resource Area, the EIR will ...

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



# CEQA: Project Alternatives

- Alternatives may be considered or suggested by PG&E (see PEA Ch. 4), public/agencies, and/or developed by the CPUC EIR Team.
- Alternatives for the EIR will be determined by CEQA requirements:
  1. Consistency with most project objectives;
  2. Ability to reduce or avoid impacts of proposed project;
  3. Feasibility.
- Alternatives may include changes to structure design or location within the project right-of-way, routing, other technologies (e.g., underground lines), etc.
- No Project Alternative will also be considered.
- Scoping comments suggesting alternatives are welcome.

# To Get Involved in the CEQA Process

- You're on the right track!
  - Please stay on and provide your scoping input
- Scoping Process
  - Notice of Preparation published on February 25, 2025
  - Scoping Period closes on **March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**
  - How to comment:
    - Verbally at this scoping meeting and/or by submitting a written Scoping Letter via email to [MOX@AspenEG.com](mailto:MOX@AspenEG.com)
- Draft EIR
  - Anticipated release: 2nd quarter 2025, followed by a public comment period

**CPUC Project Webpage:** [PG&E Moraga-Oakland X 115 kV Rebuild Project: Home](#)

# How to Submit a Scoping Comment

**E-mail:** [MOX@aspeneg.com](mailto:MOX@aspeneg.com)

**Address to:** Tharon Wright, CPUC

**Subject line:** Moraga-Oakland X Project

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

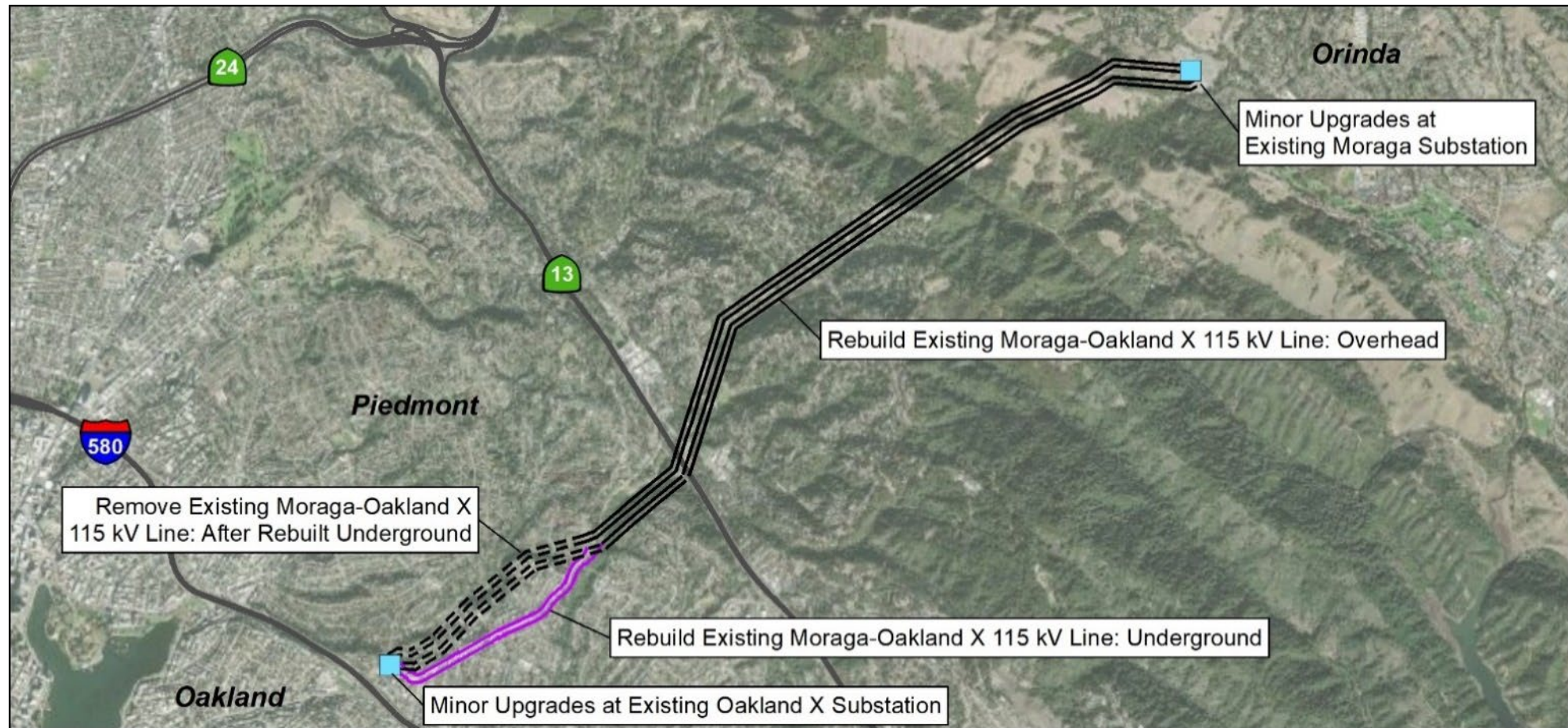
**Scoping Comment Deadline:** (5 p.m.) March 27, 2025

**Project Webpage:**

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/moraga-oakland/moraga-oakland.htm>



# Public Comments



# Discussion Guidelines

- Please state your name & affiliation
- Be concise
- Stay on topic
- Respect others' opinions
- Comments will be recorded
- Written comments are encouraged



# Public Comments

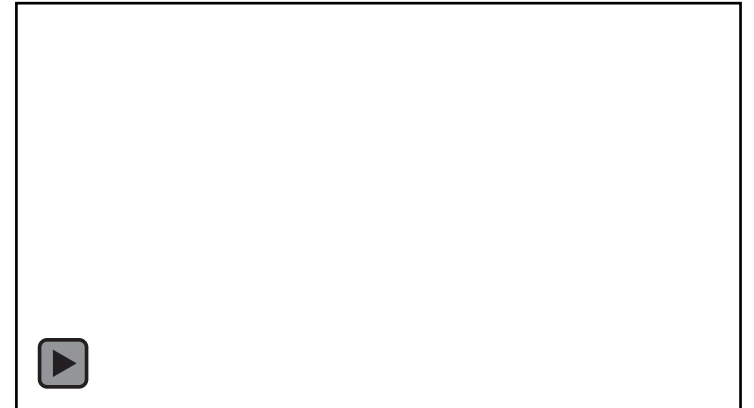
## Via the Zoom Platform

- Click the **RAISE HAND** icon to be called on



## By Telephone

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



# Thank you for joining!

**E-mail:** [MOX@aspeneg.com](mailto:MOX@aspeneg.com)

**Address to:** Tharon Wright, CPUC

**Subject line:** Moraga-Oakland X Project



**Scoping comments will be accepted through March 27, 2025**

**Webpage:** [PG&E Moraga-Oakland X 115 kV Rebuild Project: Home](#)



# PG&E PEA Alternatives (PEA Chapters 4 & 6)

- **Alternative A:** Moraga–Oakland X 3-Circuit Replacement with Moraga–Claremont Reconductoring and Park Boulevard/Lincoln Avenue Underground
- **Alternative B:** Manzanita Drive-Colton Boulevard-Estates Drive Underground
- **Alternative C:** Shepherd Canyon Road Underground
- **Alternative E:** Proposed Project with Campground Overhead Option
- No Project Alternative