

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor



May 22, 2015

Susan Nelson, Project Manager
Regulatory Affairs Department
Southern California Edison
8631 Rush Street, General Office 4 – G10Q (Ground Floor)
Rosemead, CA 91770

Re: Data Request No. 1 for the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (CPUC Proceeding A. 15-03-003)

Ms. Nelson:

Upon further review of Southern California Edison's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project, the Energy Division requests the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2 to this letter. We request that the responses to this item be provided to us within 14 days.

The Energy Division reserves the right to request additional information at any point in the process. Questions relating to the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project should be directed to me at (415) 703-1966 or lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

MJ Orsaba

Lisa Orsaba,
California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division

CC: Mary Jo Borak, CPUC Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA
Molly Sterkel, CPUC Infrastructure Planning and Permitting
Nicolas Sher, CPUC Legal Division
Rachel James, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

Attachment 1: Data Request #1
Attachment 2: Mesa Traffic Study Outline

SCE Mesa 500-kV Substation Project

CPUC Data Request #1

Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
1	PEA, 2.0 Purpose and Need	Power Flow Data	Provide the Power Flow Data.
2	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.4, Page 3-2	Modifications to Existing Substations	Provide a detailed explanation of the activities that would be involved during the proposed 220-kV termination equipment replacement at Laguna Bell and Lightpipe Substations. Clarify if the proposed equipment replacement activities would require additional truck and vehicle trips and their anticipated duration. In addition, describe the type of disturbance that would be associated with the proposed upgrades to protection relays and/or telecommunication equipments at other satellite substations.
3	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.4, Page 3-2	Modifications to Existing Substations	Provide the estimated duration, material excavation import/export quantities, and vehicle and truck trips required for the proposed reroute of existing telecommunication routes inside the perimeter of Vincent, Pardee, and Walnut Substations. Attachment 3-B of the PEA also mentions the installation of new conduits to adjacent transmission towers to provide diverse fiber optic routes into the Goodrich Substation. Clarify if this additional substation is part of the proposed reroutes of telecommunication lines inside existing substations listed in Page 3-22 of the PEA.
4	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.5, Page 3-2	Conversion of Street Light Source Line	Provide the estimated duration and a detailed description of the activities and structures required in the proposed conversion of the existing street light source line in the City of Bell Gardens.
5	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.7	Helicopter Use	Page 3-84 indicates that helicopters "may use the potential staging yard locations, as needed." In the event the staging yard locations described in Table 3-7 cannot optimize flight time to structure locations, clarify if additional helicopter staging yards would be used. If additional helicopter staging areas would be required, provide approximate size of such areas.

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Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
6	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.4, Page 3-6	Operation and Maintenance	Section 3.4 of the PEA indicates that the proposed Mesa 500-kV Substation would be staffed; however, Section 3.8 only refers to "Switching Center Personnel," "Substation Operations Supervisor," "System Operator," and "Maintenance Personnel." Provide a specific number of permanent staff that would be working at the proposed Mesa 500-kV Substation.
7	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.7	Removal of Existing Structures	Pages 3-91 and 3-92 of the PEA mention the potential use of imported fill to backfill the holes left from removing temporary shoo-fly structures and wood poles. Provide the estimated volume that would be imported and potential source for this material.
8	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.7	Trenchless Techniques	Page 3-100 of the PEA indicates that alternative trenchless methods would be used to install underground conduits where open-cut trenching may not be permitted, feasible, or preferred. Provide the anticipated jack-and-bore and HDD locations for the proposed project.
9	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.7, P. 3-102	Horizontal Directional Drilling	Provide a copy of the proposed 'frac-out' contingency plan to be used during HDD operations. Clarify whether the proposed HDD operations would have a drilling mud spill prevention and control plan in place.
10	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.5, P. 3-4	Wood Pole Removal	Provide estimated date or timeframe when the wind-load testing and final number of wood poles to be removed would be available.
11	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.7	Waste Management	Provide the estimated quantity of solid waste that would be generated by the proposed project to be disposed of at approved landfills. Clarify if the off-site disposal facilities listed in Table 3-10 would be used for all proposed project construction activities.
12	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Section 3.4	Substation Equipment/Greenhouse Gas	Clarify if all the proposed Mesa Substation equipment would be 100% air insulated. In the event that the proposed substation would use gas-insulated equipment, provide the estimated volume of SF6 to be stored at the Mesa Substation site and the anticipated leak rate from gas-insulated equipment during operations.

Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
13	PEA, 3.0 Project Description and 4.16 Traffic, 3.7.1.1/4.16.1.1	Construction Routes and Staging Areas	Confirm that the existing roadway network defined in 4.16.1.1 includes access to the staging areas defined in 3.7.1.1. If not, define the probable routes that will be used for access to the staging areas and material delivery from the staging areas to the construction sites.
14	PEA, 3.0 Project Description, Table 3-7	Staging Yards	Table 3-7 identifies four staging yards for the proposed project. Confirm the size and location of any additional staging or laydown yards would be needed for the proposed project. Please provide GIS data for any additional locations identified that were not included in the original GIS data request.
15	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-24	New Telecommunications Lines and Poles	The document states: "The new telecommunications lines would be installed overhead and in existing and new underground conduits and would utilize existing manholes and utility poles. Where necessary, up to 46 utility poles along these routes would be replaced." Explain whether the replacement poles would be the same type and height. If they will be different, describe the design and heights of the new poles compared to the existing poles they would replace.
16	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-24 - 4.1-39	Map of Photo Locations for Telecommunication Lines	Provide a map or maps showing the locations and directions of views of photographs 15 through 24.
17	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-40 - 4.1-41	Potentially Affected Viewer Groups	Provide sources for the determinations of sensitivity for the five potentially affected viewer groups. In addition, provide the viewer sensitivity level for the sixth group of future viewers for the planned retail shopping center.
18	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-64, footnote 2	Coloring of LSTs	The document states in footnote 2: "Coloring of LST elements prior to assembly will hamper or impede this continuous electric path because it creates an insulator between the elements. Color application to LST structures would need to be applied following assembly of the individual pieces." Clarify if this statement applies to the pre-assembly application of commercially available darkening stains for galvanized steel for LSTs.

Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
19	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-65	Vegetation Removal and Planting Areas	The document states: "The Proposed Project would require removal of some mature vegetation and would also include installation of new street trees at the site frontage along Potrero Grande Drive." Provide a plan of the site indicating the locations of mature vegetation to be removed and a concept plan showing areas where new street trees and other vegetation would be planted. Identify the approximate height(s) or height ranges of areas of mature trees that will be removed.
20	PEA, 4.1 Aesthetics, p.4.1-65 - 4.1-71	Relative Heights of Existing and New Structures	In the assessment of impacts for views with visual simulations for KOPs 1 through 13, a number of references are made to new or replacement structures being relatively (i.e., "somewhat") shorter or taller than existing structures. Where these references occur, identify the heights of the existing and new structures or the relative height differences (e.g., "three LSTs and one TSP replace five existing towers that range between 10 and 20 feet shorter than the replacement structures" or "the three new LSTs will be approximately 20 feet taller than the five existing LSTs they are replacing"). In addition to heights of LSTs and TSPs, provide approximate or relative heights of the other major elements discussed, including the switchracks, transformer racks, operations building, test and maintenance building, and perimeter wall.
21	PEA, 4.4 Biology	Agency Contacts	Provide the names and contact information for the representatives that SCE consulted with at various government agencies (e.g. wildlife agencies and county and city representatives).
22	PEA, 4.4 Biology	Consultation with USACE and RWQCB	Provide an update on the status of consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding any request for an Approved Jurisdictional Determination. In addition, provide an update on the status of consultation with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding jurisdictional Waters of the State. This information is needed to evaluate potential impacts to Waters of the U.S and Waters of the State.

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23	PEA, 4.6 Geology	Geo/Soils/Min Resources References	Electronic copies of the references cited in the Geology & Soils and Mineral Resources sections of the PEA are needed to verify information provided in the PEA and determine whether additional data are needed.
24	PEA, 4.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Hazardous Substances On Site	Provide a list of hazardous substances currently being stored or used at the Mesa Substation site, which would need to be handled, transported, or disposed of as part of the decommissioning of the existing substation.
25	PEA, 4.16 Traffic, Sec. 4.16.4	Roadway Repair	Describe measures to ensure any damage done to area roadways, including bicycle lanes, resulting from construction work would be repaired following completion of project construction.
26	PEA, 4.16 Traffic	Traffic Study	Due to the high volume of traffic during construction, a Traffic Study is required to support the conclusions in the impact analysis. Provide a Traffic Study based on the "Proposed Traffic Study Outline" provided as Attachment #2 to this Data Request (Data Request #1). The Traffic Study should be based on the proposed outline but is not limited to the data requested in the outline, should additional information be necessary to support the conclusions in the Traffic Study. The Traffic Study must be overseen or prepared approved by a Traffic Engineer prior to submittal to the CPUC.
27	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project--2015 Mesa Substation 66-kV Capacitor	Provide additional details as to what the project entails and when construction of the project is anticipated.
28	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project--New Mesa Substation Distribution Substation Plan Circuit	Provide additional details as to what the project entails and when construction of the project is anticipated to start and end.
29	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project--Harding Substation Elimination	Provide an updated schedule of when demolition is anticipated to occur and when it is expected to be complete.

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Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
30	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project--Mesa - Laguna Bell Narrows 66-kV Reconductoring	Provide an updated schedule of when reconductoring is anticipated to occur and when it is expected to be complete.
31	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project-- Distribution Circuit at Walnut Grove Avenue and Landis Lane	Provide additional details as to what the project entails and when construction of the project is anticipated to start and end.
32	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project-- Distribution Circuit at Paramount Boulevard and Elba Street	Provide additional details as to what the project entails and when construction of the project is anticipated to start and end.
33	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project-- Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project	Provide additional details as to whether portions of TRTP near Mesa Substation will be complete and, if they are not, when they will be completed. Provide details about TRTP activities occurring near (i.e., within 1 mile) of the Mesa Substation or any other project components.
34	PEA, 4.18 Cumulative	Cumulative Project--Mesa - Rush No. 3 Line Subtransmission Reconductoring	Provide additional details as to what the project entails, the project alignment, and when construction of the project is anticipated to start and end.
35	PEA, 5.0 Alternatives	No Project Alternative	If the Mesa Substation Project is not approved, would TRTP be connected to the Mesa Substation (i.e., would the substation be upgraded) as part of the No Project Alternative? What upgrades would be required under the No Project Alternative to connect the 500-kV line?
36	PEA, Appendix Water Study	Water Study	The water study specifies the general water use for the project. Provide details for the water use during both construction and operation so that their separate impacts can be determined.

Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
37	Deficiency Response PD-01	Equipment Removal	Phase 1 would involve the removal of "some equipment stored on site." Clarify the type and quantity of the equipment that would be removed and the intended use of this removed equipment (i.e., if reused, recycled, or disposed of at an off-site location).
38	Deficiency Response PD-01	Land Disturbance per Phase	Provide the anticipated land disturbance per construction phase within the Mesa Substation site.
39	Deficiency Response PD-01	Stockpile	Provide the potential location of the Stockpile for Phase 3 indicated in Table 1 and the proposed measures to control fugitive dust from this stockpile during Phase 2 of construction.
40	Deficiency Response PD-01	Structures to be Constructed per Phase	Provide the anticipated number of overhead and underground structures that would be installed within the Mesa Substation site during each phase of construction.
41	Deficiency Response PD-01	Retaining Walls	Provide locations and associated temporary disturbance areas for the retaining walls that would be constructed or demolished during the proposed substation construction phases.
42	Deficiency Response NOI-01	Construction Noise Exposure	Deficiency Response NOI-01 documents changes in the anticipated noise for specific activities in the worst case scenario (Phase 1, 4th quarter of 2016) to evaluate construction noise. The western boundary of the proposed Phase 1 area (as depicted in Response to Deficiency Question PD-01) would be adjacent to the Best Western Markland Hotel (located at 434 Potrero Grande Drive, Monterey Park, CA). Although hotels are not commonly defined as sensitive receptors, workers and guests at this hotel could be exposed to noise and air emissions in excess of ambient levels during daytime hours. Provide the estimated duration and scope of activities proposed in the western boundary of the Phase 1 construction area adjacent to the Best Western Markland Hotel. In addition, provide the anticipated distance from the substation site boundary where most of the proposed Phase 1 construction would occur.

Item #	Reference/ Page #	Title	Request
43	Deficiency Response AIR-01	Sensitive Receptors	The updated Localized Significance Threshold (LST) analysis results assume presence of receptors located at a distance of 280 feet from the Mesa Substation site and 100 feet from the transmission and subtransmission. Justify these assumptions and provide the location of these receptors.

Mesa 500-kV Substation Project Proposed Traffic Study Outline

1: Executive Summary

- Brief Project Overview
- Short Discussion of Project Traffic Generation Potential
- Expected Project Impacts
- Summary of Mitigation Measures

2: Introduction

- Detailed Study Methodology
- Regional Map
- General Overview of Project Site and Study Area Boundary
 - Site Layout Map
 - Existing Roadways and Intersections in the Study Area
 - Construction Routes

3: Area Development

- Description of Existing Land Uses Near Project Site
- Description of Proposed Land Uses Near Project Site

4: Existing Street System (Baseline/2015)

- Roadways Used for Project Activities (Anticipated impacted roadways included below; Transportation Engineer to verify)
 - Study Area Intersections
 - East Markland Drive and Potrero Grande Drive
 - Greenwood Avenue and Potrero Grande Drive
 - Potrero Grande Drive and Hill Drive
 - San Gabriel Boulevard and Paramount Boulevard
 - Study Area Links
 - Potrero Grande Drive (between East Markland Drive and Greenwood Avenue) (to capture impacts from substation driveway use)
 - Study Area Ramps
 - SR 60 (west) off-ramp at East Markland Drive
 - SR 60 (west and east) off-ramp at Paramount Boulevard
- Roadway Classification (per Monterey Park)

- Peak Hour Traffic Count
 - Traffic counts can be derived from the Monterey Park Marketplace 2015 Traffic Impact Assessment (without project) projections if such projections reflect actual conditions (i.e., actual growth since 2010 and projects constructed nearby since 2010). If they do not reflect actual conditions, revise 2015 numbers to reflect actual conditions and provide the methodology for the revision.
- Daily Traffic Volumes
 - Traffic counts for 2015 can be derived from the Monterey Park Marketplace 2015 Traffic Impact Assessment (without project) projections if such projections reflect actual conditions (i.e., actual growth since 2010 and projects constructed nearby since 2010). If they do not reflect actual conditions, revise 2015 numbers to reflect actual conditions and provide the methodology for the revision.
- Existing SCE Traffic Volumes to the proposed substation site

5: Traffic Generation Forecast

- Projected Trip Generation Based on Construction Activity Data
 - AM peak, by construction phase
 - PM peak, by construction phase
 - Daily, by construction phase
- Mitigation Measures, if proposed
 - Projected reduction in trips at AM peak, PM peak, and daily

6: Traffic Distribution and Assignment

- Utilization of Roadways by Project Traffic
- Projected Daily Link Volumes
 - For three phases of project, using worst-case scenario
- Morning and Afternoon Peak Hour Turning Movement Volumes
 - For three phases of project, using worst-case scenario
- Projected Freeway Ramp Volumes
 - For three phases of project, using worst-case scenario

7: Traffic Impact Study/Project Impacts

- Study Area
 - Selected intersections, links, on- and off-ramps as listed in section 4
- Intersection Analysis (using ICU procedure)
 - Forecasted LOS for studied intersections during three phases of project, using worst-case scenario (project plus baseline)
- Midblock Analysis (Links) (using HCM method)

- Forecasted LOS for links during three phases of project, using worst-case scenario (project plus baseline)
- Ramp Analysis
 - Forecasted impacts to on- and off-ramps for three phases of project, using worst-case scenario (project plus baseline)
- Cumulative Analysis
 - For three phases of project, using worst-case scenario
 - Cumulative projects may include, but not necessarily be limited to:
 - Monterey Park Market Place
 - TRTP
 - New Mesa Substation Distribution Substation Plan Circuit
 - Mesa Substation 66-kV Capacitor
 - 200 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
 - 2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
 - Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs
 - Montebello Hills Specific Plan
 - Garfield Village Specific Plan

8: Parking Impacts

- Parking During Construction
 - Location of staging yards and other parking areas for vehicles associated with substation construction
 - Parking quantity
- Parking During Operation
 - Location and quantity

9: Other Construction Impacts

- Unusual Circumstances (e.g., truck turn radius issues, use of oversize/overweight vehicles and any resultant safety issues, potential damage to pavement surfaces and measures for repairing damage)
- Impacts at non-substation construction areas (e.g., telecom, other substations)
 - Lane closures
 - Duration of construction activities
 - Number and type of vehicles involved
- Proposed Traffic Control
 - Lane Closures
 - Construction Signage
 - Safety Features
 - Detours

11: Mitigation Measures

- Mitigation Measures to Reduce Significant Impacts to LOS, per standards in the Monterey Park Traffic Impact Study Guidelines

Appendices

- Intersection Impacts Analysis Calculations
- HCM Link Analysis Calculations