

**CEQA SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S  
MESA 500-KILOVOLT SUBSTATION PROJECT**

**APPLICATION No.: A.15-03-003  
SCH No.: 2015061014**

**July 2015**

**California Public Utilities Commission**  
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# Table of Contents

| Section           | Page  |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>1</b>          | <b>Overview of CEQA Scoping Process ..... 1-1</b> |
| 1.1               | Introduction ..... 1-1                            |
| 1.2               | Purpose of Scoping Process ..... 1-1              |
| 1.3               | Summary of Scoping Activities..... 1-2            |
| 1.4               | Alternatives Scoping and Screening..... 1-3       |
| <b>2</b>          | <b>Overview of the Proposed Project ..... 2-1</b> |
| 2.1               | Background ..... 2-1                              |
| 2.2               | Project Description ..... 2-1                     |
| 2.3               | Project Location..... 2-2                         |
| 2.4               | Project Construction and Operations..... 2-4      |
| 2.5               | Project Alternatives..... 2-4                     |
| <b>3</b>          | <b>Summary of Scoping Comments ..... 3-1</b>      |
| 3.1               | Project Alternatives..... 3-2                     |
| 3.2               | Environmental Resources..... 3-2                  |
| <b>Appendices</b> |   |
| <b>A</b>          | <b>Notice of Preparation (NOP) ..... A-1</b>      |
| <b>B</b>          | <b>Scoping Meeting Materials ..... B-1</b>        |
| <b>C</b>          | <b>Comment Letters ..... C-1</b>                  |

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## List of Tables

| <b>Table</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| Table 1.0 Summary of Recipients of the NOP for the Mesa Substation Project EIR.....                                  | 1-2         |
| Table 2.0 Project Components by Local Jurisdiction .....   | 2-2         |
| Table 3.0 Summary of Written Comment Letters Received During the Mesa Substation<br>Project EIR Scoping Period ..... | 3-1         |
| Table 4.0 Summary of Oral Comments Received During EIR Scoping Meeting on June 23,<br>2015.....                      | 3-2         |

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## List of Figures

| <b>Figure</b>                  | <b>Page</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Figure 1 Project Location..... | 2-3         |

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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Caltrans         | California Department of Transportation            |
| CEQA             | California Environmental Quality Act               |
| CPUC             | California Public Utilities Commission             |
| EIR              | Environmental Impact Report                        |
| kV               | kilovolt   |
| LA               | Los Angeles  |
| MWD              | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California |
| NOP              | Notice of Preparation                              |
| proposed project | Mesa 500-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project          |
| ROW              | right-of-way                                       |
| SCAQMD           | South Coast Air Quality Management District        |
| SCE              | Southern California Edison                         |

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# 1

## Overview of CEQA Scoping Process

### 1.1 Introduction

On March 13, 2015, Southern California Edison (SCE) filed an application for a Permit to Construct (A.15-03-003) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Mesa 500-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project (Mesa Substation Project; or, proposed project) to rebuild and upgrade a portion of its transmission infrastructure in the Western Los Angeles (LA) Basin, primarily in the City of Monterey Park, with other main components located in Montebello, Rosemead, South El Monte, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Pasadena, and in portions of unincorporated LA County.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC is serving as the Lead Agency for the environmental review process and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the proposed project. The EIR will describe the nature and extent of the environmental impacts expected to result from the Mesa Substation Project and project alternatives, and will discuss mitigation measures for significant adverse impacts.

To help determine the scope of the impacts that will be assessed under CEQA, the CPUC has solicited input from the public and interested agencies on environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and any other potential concerns associated with the proposed project. On June 5, 2015, the CPUC formally began this public participation process (also known as “scoping”) by issuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a draft environmental analysis.

### 1.2 Purpose of Scoping Process

The CPUC’s environmental review process invites broad public participation through public scoping meetings and comment periods to receive input on the proposed project. The scoping process provides the public with information regarding the proposed project and the CEQA and CPUC process. The purpose of the scoping process is to gather input from agencies and communities in the project vicinity to help the CPUC identify issues and the level of detail that should be included in the EIR, and to help identify a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15083, the CPUC may consult directly with any person or organization it believes will be concerned with the environmental effects of the Mesa Substation Project.

The scoping process does not seek to resolve differences of opinion on the proposed project, nor does it anticipate an ultimate decision. Rather, the process augments the

development of a comprehensive EIR, which provides decision-makers with the information and analysis they need to thoroughly review SCE’s application.

### 1.3 Summary of Scoping Activities

This report summarizes the scoping activities that the CPUC has conducted for the proposed project. It also includes a summary of all written and oral comments received from agencies and members of the public during the scoping period in response to the NOP of an environmental analysis. The comments gathered from project stakeholders during the scoping process will be used to determine the scope and content of the environmental analysis.

#### Notice of Preparation

The CPUC circulated the NOP for the proposed project on June 5, 2015, opening a 30-day comment period on the scope and content of the environmental analysis and announcing a public scoping meeting. The comment period ended at 5:00 pm on July 5, 2015.

The NOP was sent to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2015061014) and responsible and trustee agencies, including 167 representatives of federal, state, regional, and local agencies; planning groups; and institutions. The NOP was also sent to eight tribal representatives. Additionally, the NOP was distributed to over 4,770 individuals, including property owners within 500 feet of the existing and proposed project right-of-way (ROW) and substations (satellite substations, streetlight notifications, Telecom routes, and transmission tower removals), and property owners within 1,500 feet of proposed disturbance areas associated with work at the Mesa Substation as summarized in Table 1.0. The NOP is contained in Appendix A.

**Table 1.0 Summary of Recipients of the NOP for the Mesa Substation Project EIR**

| Type   | Number of Recipients |
|--|----------------------|
| Representatives of federal, state, regional, and local agencies/jurisdictions                              | 167                  |
| Tribal representatives   | 8                    |
| Property owners within 500 feet of project ROW and substations, and within 1,500 feet of disturbance areas | 4,775                |
| <b>Total Number of NOPs Mailed</b>   | <b>4,950</b>         |

#### Newspaper Notices

The CPUC placed notices announcing the public scoping meetings and the release of the NOP in the following newspapers on June 5, 2015: the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* and the *Pasadena Star-News*.

#### Hotline, Email, and Public Website

The CPUC maintains a telephone hotline and an e-mail address through which the public can comment on the proposed project. The CPUC also maintains a website with information and documents related to the proposed project. Information regarding the hotline, e-mail, and website was included in the NOP and newspaper

notices and made available at the public scoping meeting as part of the project fact sheets. The project-specific e-mail, fax, voicemail, and website are:

- **Email:** MESA.CPUC@ene.com
- **Fax:** 415-398-5326
- **Voicemail:** (844) 538-6992 (toll free)
- **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/MesaSubstation>

### **Public Scoping Meetings**

During the scoping period, the CPUC held a public scoping meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at the Langley Senior Center, Friendship Room, located at 400 W. Emerson Avenue, Monterey Park, California. The following materials were provided at the meeting, and are included in Appendix B:

- Registration sheet;
- Example speaker card;
- Example written comment sheet;
- Project fact sheets; and
- Posters

The meeting began with a presentation from the CPUC, which provided an overview of the project as well as the CEQA process. Participants were invited to ask questions following the presentation and then invited to make a public comment. Following public comments, the CPUC invited members of the public or agency representatives to ask questions, view project maps, and read the fact sheets in an open house format.

### **Interagency Coordination**

The CPUC and representatives of the City of Monterey Park (Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director, Director of Community and Economic Development Department, City Manager and Senior Planner) met to discuss the proposed project in Monterey Park on June 24, 2015, to obtain the city's input on the scope of the environmental analysis for the proposed project.

### **Public and Agency Comments**

Oral and written comments received during the comment period are summarized in Section 3, "Summary of Scoping Comments." The scoping meeting registration sheets are included in Appendix B, and a copy of the comment letter received during the scoping meeting is included in Appendix C along with other written comments that were received during the scoping period.

Comments received will be used, as appropriate, to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the EIR.

## **1.4 Alternatives Scoping and Screening**

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15127.6, the EIR will include a focused analysis of alternatives to the proposed project or alternative locations for the proposed project. Per CEQA, "[a]n EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to the proposed project. Rather it must consider a reasonable range of

potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision making and public participation.” Each alternative must “feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.”

For each alternative identified in an EIR, CEQA requires that the EIR include sufficient information to allow for meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison. If an alternative would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the project as proposed, the significant effects of the alternatives shall be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the project as proposed. A “no project alternative” will also be evaluated, along with its impacts. The no project alternative assessment would describe what would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project was not approved. If the no project alternative is determined to be the environmentally superior alternative, CEQA requires that the EIR identify a second environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.

# 2

## Overview of the Proposed Project

### 2.1 Background

SCE's purpose for the proposed project is to improve electrical reliability in the greater LA area, considering the pending shutdown of a projected 4,000 megawatt of Once Through Cooling generation in the Western Los Angeles Basin by the year 2021. The shutdown of these generation facilities would stress the existing transmission system, resulting in voltage performance concerns and thermal overloads under abnormal system conditions.

SCE states that the proposed Mesa Substation Project would address the above mentioned concerns by reinforcing the bulk transmission system, providing additional transmission import capability, allowing greater flexibility in the siting of new generation, and reducing the total amount of new generation required to meet local reliability needs in the Western LA Basin area. If the proposed project is approved, the existing 220/66/16-kV Mesa Substation would be upgraded to a 500/220/66/16-kV substation.

### 2.2 Project Description

The following activities are major components of the Mesa Substation Project:

- Construction of the new 500/220/66/16-kV substation and decommissioning of the existing 220/66/16-kV substation, increasing the substation's footprint from 22 acres to 69 acres;
- Transmission, subtransmission, and distribution structure work in Monterey Park, Montebello, Commerce, and unincorporated LA County;
- Relocation of an onsite Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) water line;
- New telecommunications lines and modifications to an existing line within existing and new ducts and on existing distribution poles;
- Temporary modifications to 220-kV equipment at several existing substations to prevent electrical outages during construction;
- Electrical and/or telecommunications equipment upgrades at 27 existing substations;
- Undergrounding of three spans of overhead streetlight conductor in Bell Gardens.

In addition, upgrades would be made to various transmission and telecommunications equipment inside the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Rooms at 27 satellite substations.

The construction of the proposed Mesa Substation and demolition of the existing substation would occur in phases:

- **Phase 1** would consist of grading and initial site development on the western portion of the project site. The existing substation would remain operational during Phase 1;
- **Phase 2** would consist of construction of the first half of the new Mesa Substation. The existing substation would remain operational during Phase 2;
- **Phase 3** would consist of demolition of the existing substation and construction of the second half of the new substation on the eastern portion of the site.

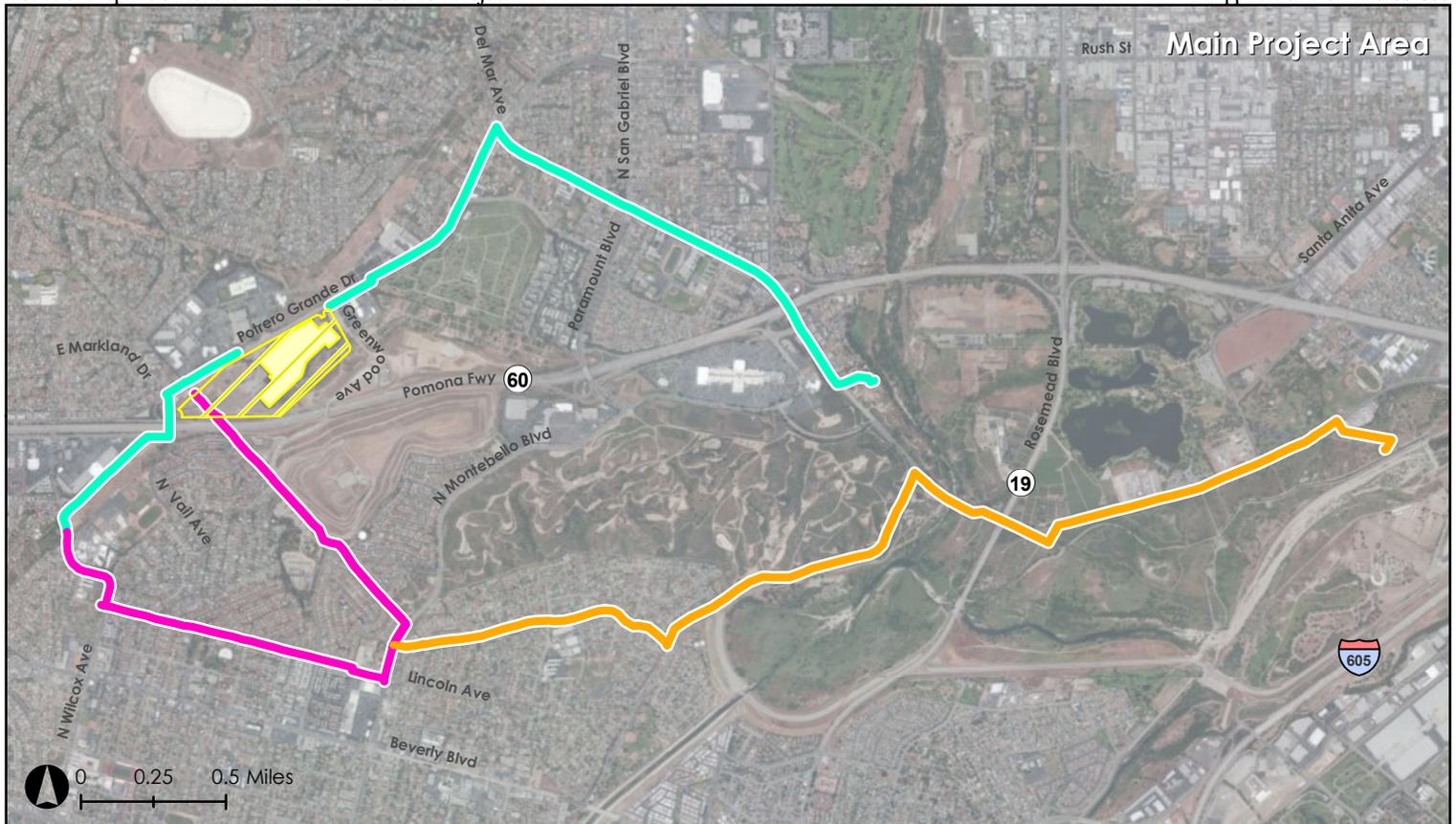
Construction of the Mesa Substation Project is anticipated to begin in June 2016 and would take approximately four and a half years.

### 2.3 Project Location

The Mesa Substation Project would be located in Los Angeles County, California, primarily in the City of Monterey Park where the existing Mesa Substation would be demolished and the new Mesa Substation would be constructed. Other components would be located within portions of Monterey Park, Montebello, Rosemead, South El Monte, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Pasadena, Industry, and Santa Clarita, and in portions of unincorporated LA County (Figure 1). Table 2.0 shows in which jurisdiction each major project component is located.

**Table 2.0 Project Components by Local Jurisdiction**

| Jurisdiction  | Project Component / Activity   |
|---|--|
| City of Monterey Park   | Mesa 500-kV Substation   |
|   | Associated transmission, subtransmission, distribution, and telecommunication lines    |
| City of Montebello  | Associated transmission, subtransmission, distribution, and telecommunication lines    |
| City of Rosemead  | Telecommunications line installation (0.9 miles)                                       |
| City of South El Monte  | Telecommunication line installation (160 feet)   |
| City of Commerce  | Transmission tower (LST) replacement   |
| City of Bell Gardens  | Street light source conversion from overhead to underground                            |
| City of Pasadena  | Temporary 220-kV line loop-in  |
| Unincorporated Los Angeles County                             | Telecommunication line installation (1.1 miles) in the Community of South San Gabriel  |
|   | Telecommunication line installation (2 miles) within the Whittier Narrows Natural Area |
| Incorporated and Unincorporated Los Angeles and Orange County | Work within the existing perimeter fence line at 27 existing satellite substations     |



- Existing substation
  - Conversion of an existing distribution line from overhead to underground between three street lights
  - Main project area
  - Substations where ground-disturbance will occur
- Telecommunications routes:
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
- Existing substation
  - Proposed substation footprint
  - City boundary
  - County boundary

Figure 1  
**Mesa 500-kV Substation Project**  
 Overview of Main Components

## **2.4 Project Construction and Operations**

Construction of the Mesa Substation Project is anticipated to begin in June 2016 and to take approximately four and a half years. The EIR will provide specific information regarding activities associated with both the construction and operation of the proposed project.

## **2.5 Project Alternatives**

Pursuant to CEQA, a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project will be identified and analyzed in the EIR. Agencies and the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the project alternatives considered following publication of the Draft EIR during the 45-day comment period. A Notice of Availability will be issued at the time of the publication of the Draft EIR to inform the public and agencies that the 45-day comment period for the Draft EIR has been initiated.

# 3

## Summary of Scoping Comments

This section summarizes both written and oral comments received from members of the public and public agencies during the 30-day scoping period held for the Mesa Substation Project. Four members of the public signed in at the public scoping meeting held on June 23, 2015, in Monterey Park.

As shown in Table 3.0, the CPUC received four written comment letters from government agencies, one comment letter from a tribal representative, and five comment letters from members of the public. All comments were received before the end of the comment period and no extensions were requested. The CPUC also received oral comments from one member of the public during the EIR scoping meeting and oral comments from the City of Monterey Park in a meeting with the agency held on June 24, 2015, as shown in Table 4.0. Copies of all the written letters received during the comment period, as well as a summary of the oral comments, are included in Appendix C.

**Table 3.0 Summary of Written Comment Letters Received During the Mesa Substation Project EIR Scoping Period**

| Name                                 | Affiliation  | Date Received |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Local and Regional Agencies</b>   |  |               |
| Barbara Radlein                      | South Coast Air Quality Management District                        | 6/23/15       |
| Dianna Watson                        | California Department of Transport                                 | 7/1/2015      |
| Deborah Drezner                      | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California                 | 7/1/2015      |
| Joyce Kinnear                        | Silicon Valley Power   | 7/6/2015      |
| <b>Tribal Representatives</b>        |  |               |
| Andy Salas                           | Chairman of Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians/Kizh (Kit'c) Nation | 6/12/15       |
| <b>Individuals and Organizations</b> |  |               |
| Doug Ito                             | None   | 4/2/2015      |
| Samuel B. Villalobos                 | None   | 4/13/2015     |
|                                      |  | 7/4/2015      |
|                                      |  | 7/5/2015      |
| Victor Pelayo <sup>1</sup>           | None   | 4/13/2015     |
| J.P. Wolk                            | None   | 6/9/2015      |
| Saul Roe                             | None   | 6/12/2015     |

Note

<sup>1</sup> This commenter submitted three separate emails on the same date.

**Table 4.0 Summary of Oral Comments Received During EIR Scoping Meeting on June 23, 2015**

| Name   | Affiliation           |
|--|-----------------------|
| Samuel Villalobos  | None                  |
| Paul Talbot; Ron Bow;<br>Michael Huntley;<br>Samantha Tewasart | City of Monterey Park |

Concerns and requests raised during the public scoping period are summarized below.

### 3.1 Project Alternatives

Comments received from Silicon Valley Power stated that, under CEQA, the CPUC must fully explore the “no project alternative.” The agency stated that several questions were raised regarding the need for the proposed project during the California Independent System Operators 2013-2014 transmission planning process. These included the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project relative to other solution alternatives (e.g., renewable energy resources) and the electrical reliability issues in the LA area that the proposed project would potentially address, among others.

The agency also reminded CPUC that California’s “energy resource loading order,” adopted in the 2003 Energy Action Plan prepared by California’s principal energy agencies, identifies decreasing electricity demand by increasing energy efficiency and demand response, and includes meeting new generation needs first with renewable and distributed generation resources, and second with clean fossil-fueled generation. Taking this into account, the agency finally specifies that, as part of the EIR process and in compliance with the above mentioned loading order, the California Energy Commission must review the location of preferred resources (energy efficiency, demand response, renewables, and distributed generation) within the LA basin, then cite effective locations for such resources and thus evaluate the need for the proposed project.

Additional comments received during the scoping period regarding alternatives included requests that additional alternative location sites away from residential communities should be explored, such as the Whittier Narrows area, in the City of South El Monte, or on property owned by SCE in Rosemead, California.

### 3.2 Environmental Resources

Many comments from members of the public, agencies, and local organizations addressed potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment, most often with regards to aesthetics, air quality and greenhouse gases, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use designations, and traffic. Comments pertaining to impacts on specific environmental resources are described below.

### **Aesthetics**

Commenters requested that the EIR discuss:

1. The visual impact of the proposed 500 kV-Mesa Substation to resident's homes in Montebello;
2. Impacts on the surrounding areas during construction;
3. The inclusion of landscaping and architecturally pleasing enhancements to the project infrastructure;
4. Visual impacts generated by the existing power lines and electrical infrastructure in the city of Montebello, as well as by their lack of maintenance.

A representative from the City of Monterey Park made an oral comment during the scoping period, expressing concern with the aesthetic appearance of the substation perimeter from Potrero Grande and potential graffiti problems on the perimeter wall facing Highway 60.

### **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases**

A commenter from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requested that the EIR:

1. Include analysis based on the California Emission Estimator Model for the air quality analysis;
2. Discuss the potential air quality impacts associated with construction and operation activities for the proposed project, as well as with all the related air pollutant sources (direct and indirect);
3. Analyze regional and local air quality impacts and compare the results with the regional/local significance thresholds developed by the SCAQMD;
4. Include dispersion modeling for local air quality impacts, if necessary, as an alternative to the use of the localized significance thresholds developed by the SCAQMD;
5. Include a mobile source health risk assessment in case the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips;
6. Include an analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants.

The SCAQMD recommended the use of specific guidance and handbooks for the air quality analysis, including the California Air Resources Board's "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective," and SCAQMD's "Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis." It further recommended that mitigation measures be enforced as conditions of approval for the proposed project, and indicated several SCAQMD's and California Air Pollution Control Officers Association resources for identifying possible mitigation measures.

### **Biological Resources**

A written comment received from a member of the public stated that the implementation of the proposed project will threaten the "coastal California

gnatcatcher” (*Polioptila Californica Californica*), a species categorized as threatened by the federal government, as well as other endangered avian species. The comment included, as an attachment, a list of 33 threatened and endangered avian species, as identified by the State of California or the federal government.

#### **Cultural Resources**

A written comment was received from the Chairman of the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians/Kizh (Kit’c) Nation requesting that an experienced and certified Native American monitor of the tribe be on site during all ground disturbances.

#### **Geology, Soils, and Minerals**

An oral comment received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period confirmed that they are aware of the proposed MWD pipeline relocation and noted that a soil report should be prepared for this proposed component.

#### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

A commenter from the public stated that the proposed project is located 200 feet from a previous landfill area, a currently hazardous waste site contaminated by methane and other toxic substances. The commenter indicated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ongoing mitigation and clean-up activities in such area, and encouraged consultation with the agency about this and any related environmental issues.

#### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

A member of the public expressed concerns about the potential drying of the Potrero Grande Creek, which drains into the Rio Hondo River, as a consequence of the proposed project development. The importance of the Potrero Grande Creek as part of the San Gabriel Valley Historical Preserve was mentioned.

An oral comment received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period explained that while SCE requested the City issue a will-serve letter to cover a 5-year water supply period, they would only issue a 1- to 2-year will-serve letter based on the current basin condition. The City also said that additional sources of water to consider could include a purple water pipeline and trucking reclaimed water to the site.

#### **Land Use**

An oral comment received during the Scoping Meeting from a member of the public, along with a written letter from the same person, expressed concerns about conflicts between the proposed construction of the 500-kV Substation (and previously built 220-kV Substation) and Monterey Park’s land use regulations. It was highlighted that the area where the Substation is proposed is designated as a Commercial Zone, according to Monterey Park’s Municipal Code (Chapter 21.10.030), which does not permit the development of public utility substations.

An oral comment received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period expressed concern regarding staging area locations. The site next to the Market Place Project area and the existing staging area located next to a residential development currently under construction are of particular concern.

The City of Monterey Park also indicated that the Mesa 500-kV project's size is considered a large construction project and would therefore exceed limitations for approval under SCE's Franchise Agreement. The City would require building permits for the operational buildings to be constructed inside the substation site, as well as grading permits, encroachment permits, and water supply agreement.

The City of Monterey Park also noted that an encroachment permit would be required for the MWD pipeline relocation work.

### **Noise**

An oral comment received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period confirmed that they are aware of the proposed MWD pipeline relocation. A key issue for that portion of the proposed project identified by the City was noise from jack-and-bore pit locations on Potrero Grande Drive.

### **Public Services and Utilities**

A comment letter received from the MWD Environmental Planning Team during the scoping period noted that a portion of a MWD Middle Feeder pipeline traverses the proposed project area, and would therefore be impacted by its construction. As indicated in the letter, the 72-inch diameter treated water pipeline was constructed in 1954 and serves the cities of Compton and Long Beach, as well as the Central Basin, Upper San Gabriel Valley and Three Valleys Municipal Water Districts.

The agency indicated that, in order to maintain reliable deliveries of treated water to its member agencies (listed above), and to facilitate SCE's expansion of the Mesa Substation, the relocation of the Middle Feeder pipeline is required. The comment letter further states that MWD and SCE have mutually agreed to relocate the portion of the Middle Feeder that would be affected by the project to an alternative alignment, and that they are both currently working on a relocation agreement. Finally, the agency highlights the importance of approving this agreement, requesting to be notified of any future information regarding the proposed project.

An oral comment received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period confirmed that they are aware of the proposed MWD pipeline relocation. The city identified key issues for that project related to Public Services and Utilities. These included measures to avoid terrain collapse (longevity of street vs. depth of boring due to presence of other underground utilities).

### **Traffic**

A written letter received from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) during the scoping period requested a copy of a construction traffic study for their review. This study should address the following key points:

1. Construction/truck traffic impacts on State Routes 60 and 164, and on all significantly impacted streets, crossroads and controlling intersections; as well as an analysis of existing conditions and construction periods;
2. Truck/traffic construction management plan;
3. Traffic volume counts, including anticipated AM and PM peak-hour volumes;
4. Level of Service before and during construction;

5. Discussion of construction traffic showing ingress/egress, turning movements and a directional flow for construction vehicle trips;
6. Discussion of appropriate mitigation measures focused on alleviating construction/truck traffic impacts.

In its written letter, the agency also pointed out the following issues and reminders:

1. There are existing drainage systems along the State Route 60 freeway and southerly boundary of the proposed project that need to be protected in place and kept operational;
2. The width of the existing ROW needs to be preserved for future expansion of the freeway;
3. Coordination may be needed for the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project, having a proposed route on the Mesa Substation Project vicinity;
4. A Caltrans Encroachment Permit is needed for any work that will occur within State ROW.

Finally, the agency indicated it expects to receive a copy of the Draft EIR, once completed, from the State Clearinghouse. In order to expedite the process or receive earlier feedback, a copy of the document could also be sent directly to Caltrans.

Oral comments received from the City of Monterey Park during the scoping period recommended the following:

1. Landscaping and road improvements be considered as part of the Mesa Substation street improvement mitigation measures to increase mobility (including bike lanes and walking areas);
2. Due to concerns with concurrent construction of the Market Place development project, it is recommended that trucks coming out of the Mesa Substation site use off-peak hours and keep truck routes in the east direction rather than west.
3. They noted that a traffic plan will be required as part of the City's permitting process and that any road damage would have to be repaired to American Public Works Association Greenbook standards. Additionally, they noted that Potrero Grande is part of a regional bike plan.

#### **Comments Not Addressed in the CEQA Document**

Some comments received during the scoping period will not be addressed within the context of the EIR because they do not relate to a physical impact the proposed project may have on the environment. Such comments include:

1. Concerns related to the effects of the proposed project on property values, including the Montebello Hills Project homes;
2. Concerns of whether SCE's application for authority to construct the proposed project, currently filed as a Permit to Construct, is sufficient considering the project's scope and dimensions, potentially requiring the filing of an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity;

3. Several comments stating general opposition to the proposed project and requesting additional information;
4. Concerns related to electric and magnetic fields;
5. Security issues regarding potential vandalism and attacks to the project infrastructure components, requesting the construction of perimeter walls and the establishment of security monitoring and access control.

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# A

## Notice of Preparation (NOP)

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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
MESA 500-KV SUBSTATION PROJECT PROPOSED BY SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA EDISON**

**APPLICATION NO. A.15-03-003**

**To: All Interested Parties**  
**From: Lisa Orsaba, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC Energy Division**  
**Date: June 5, 2015**

*Si usted necesita más información en español, por favor, llame al (844) 538-6992.*

如果你想了解项目的信息(国语), 请打电话 (844)538-6992.

**A. INTRODUCTION**

On March 13, 2015, Southern California Edison (SCE) filed an application for a Permit to Construct (PTC) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Mesa 500-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project (Mesa Substation Project) to rebuild and upgrade a portion of its transmission infrastructure in the Western Los Angeles Basin. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC, as Lead Agency, is required to conduct an environmental review of the proposed project.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) indicates the CPUC's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with CEQA. The EIR would describe the nature and extent of the environmental impacts of the Mesa Substation Project and project alternatives, and would discuss mitigation measures for adverse impacts.

With this NOP, the CPUC provides information about the Mesa Substation Project description, location, and potential environmental impacts, and requests comments from interested persons, organizations, and agencies regarding the scope and content of the environmental information.

This NOP will be circulated for a public review and comment period beginning June 5, 2015 and ending at 5:00 pm on July 5, 2015. A scoping meeting will be held to receive comments, as described in Section D.

**B. SUMMARY OF THE MESA SUBSTATION PROJECT**

***Background***

SCE states that the Mesa Substation Project is needed to address reliability concerns resulting from the pending shutdown of a projected 6,100 MW of Once Through Cooling (OTC) generation as well as the recent retirement of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). The Mesa Substation Project would address these concerns by reinforcing the bulk transmission system, providing additional

transmission import capability, allowing greater flexibility in the siting of new generation, and reducing the total amount of new generation required to meet local reliability needs in the Western Los Angeles Basin area. If the proposed project is approved, the existing 220/66/16-kV Mesa Substation would be upgraded to a 500/220/66/16-kV substation.

### ***Project Description***

Major components of the Mesa Substation Project include the following:

- Transmission, subtransmission, and distribution structure work in Monterey Park, Montebello, Commerce, and unincorporated Los Angeles County
- Relocation of an onsite Metropolitan Water District water line
- New telecommunications lines and modifications to an existing line, mostly on existing poles and in existing ducts
- Temporary modifications to 220-kV equipment at several existing substations to prevent electrical outages during construction
- Electrical and/or telecommunications equipment upgrades at 27 existing substations
- Undergrounding of three spans of overhead streetlight conductor in Bell Gardens

In addition, upgrades would be made to various transmission and telecommunications equipment inside the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Rooms (MEERs) at 27 satellite substations.

Construction of the new 500/220/66/16-kV substation and demolition of the existing 220/66/16-kV substation would occur in phases. Phase 1 would consist of grading and initial site development on the western portion of the project site. Phase 2 would consist of construction of the first half of the new Mesa Substation. During Phase 1 and 2, the existing substation on the eastern portion of the site would remain operational in order to maintain electrical service to customers during construction. Phase 3 would consist of demolition of the existing substation and construction of the second half of the new substation on the eastern portion of the site. Construction of the Mesa Substation Project is anticipated to begin in June 2016 and would take approximately 4.5 years.

### ***Project Location***

The Proposed Project is located in Los Angeles County, California, primarily in the City of Monterey Park where the existing Mesa Substation would be demolished and the new Mesa Substation would be constructed. Other components will be located within portions of Monterey Park, Montebello, Rosemead, South El Monte, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Pasadena, Industry, Santa Clarita, and in portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. Project components are depicted in Figure 1, Overview of Main Components.

### ***Operations and Maintenance***

#### ***Mesa Substation***

The Mesa Substation would be a manned substation and would function as a switching center. Maintenance personnel are responsible for substation equipment, routine scheduled maintenance, and repairs. A separate group of Testmen performs testing, setting, and maintenance of protective relays and control wirings including test procedures for new or relocated equipment. A utility person would handle non-operations activities within the switching center.

*Transmission, Subtransmission, and Distribution Lines*

Maintenance for the transmission, subtransmission, distribution, and telecommunications lines and associated infrastructure would occur as needed to comply with applicable regulations to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the lines. Maintenance could include repairing conductors, washing or replacing insulators, repairing or replacing other hardware, replacing poles and towers, tree trimming, brush and weed control, and access road maintenance. Additionally, SCE conducts a wide variety of emergency repairs in response to emergency situations, such as damage resulting from high winds, storms, fires, and other natural disasters, and accidents. Such repairs could include replacement of downed poles, transmission towers, or lines or re-stringing conductors. Emergency repairs could be needed at any time.

**Project Alternatives**

The Environmental Impact Report for the project will identify and analyze reasonable project alternatives for the proposed project. Agencies and the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the project alternatives considered following publication of the Draft EIR during the 45-day comment period. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be issued at the time of the publication of the Draft EIR to inform the public and agencies that the 45-day comment period for the Draft EIR has been initiated.

**C. SCOPE OF THE EIR AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

CEQA requires agencies to consider environmental impacts that may result from a proposed project, to inform the public of potential impacts and alternatives, and to facilitate public involvement in the assessment process. The Environmental Impact Report prepared for the project will describe in detail the nature and extent of the environmental impacts of the project, and will discuss appropriate mitigation measures for any adverse impacts. The EIR will include discussions of the project objectives, a description of the affected environment, an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed project, and proposed mitigation to reduce environmental impacts to a less-than-significant level.

An initial review of the Proponent’s Environmental Assessment (PEA), prepared by SCE for the project, identified the following potential environmental impacts.

**Table 1: Potential Project Issues or Impacts**

| <b>Environmental Issue Area</b>             | <b>Potential Issues or Impact</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b><i>Air Quality</i></b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction is anticipated to result in an exceedance of criteria air pollutants above established thresholds.</li> </ul> |
| <b><i>Biological Resources</i></b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of the project could result in impacts on biological resources.</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b><i>Traffic</i></b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of some project elements could result in traffic-related impacts.</li> </ul>                                  |
| <b><i>Public Services and Utilities</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of the project could result in impacts on public services and utilities.</li> </ul>                           |

**D. PROJECT SCOPING PROCESS AND MEETINGS**

Circulation of this NOP opens a public review and comment period on the scope of the CEQA document that begins on June 5, 2015 and ends on July 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. All interested parties, including the

public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies, are invited to learn more about the project, ask questions, and present comments about the Mesa Substation Project at the public scoping meeting:

June 23, 2015

**Langley Center – Friendship Room**  
400 W. Emerson Ave  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
Open House: 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Public Comment Session: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Written scoping comments may also be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the CPUC during the NOP comment period specified above. Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a person who can receive future correspondence regarding the EIR. Please send your comments to:

Lisa Orsaba  
California Public Utilities Commission  
RE: Mesa 500-kV Substation Project  
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
505 Sansome Street, Suite #300  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Emailed comments may be sent to: [Mesa.CPUC@ene.com](mailto:Mesa.CPUC@ene.com). Faxed comments may be sent to (415) 398-5326. Voice messages may be left at: (844) 538-6992. For mailed, faxed, and emailed comments, please include your name and mailing address in your comment, and include the words “Mesa Substation Project.” Comments received during the scoping period will be considered during preparation of the Mesa Substation Project EIR.

### ***Agency Comments***

This NOP was sent to responsible and trustee agencies, cooperating federal agencies, and the State Clearinghouse. Each responsible agency receiving this NOP is invited to respond by providing the CPUC with specific details about the scope, environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures related to each responsible agency’s area of statutory responsibility that must be explored in the environmental analysis. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)(1)(B), responsible and trustee agencies should also indicate their respective level of responsibility for the Mesa Substation Project in their response. Please send responses to the address noted above.

## **G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

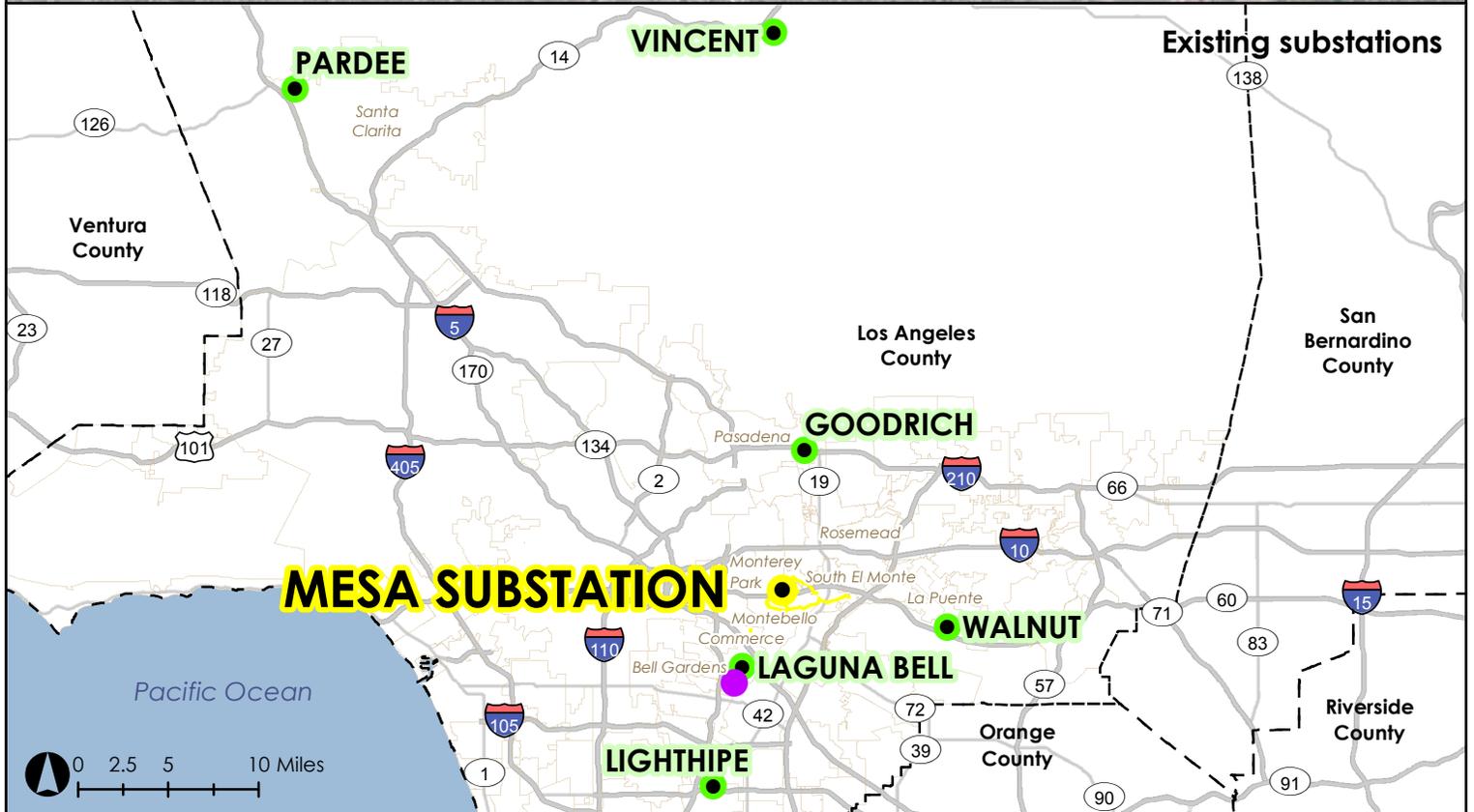
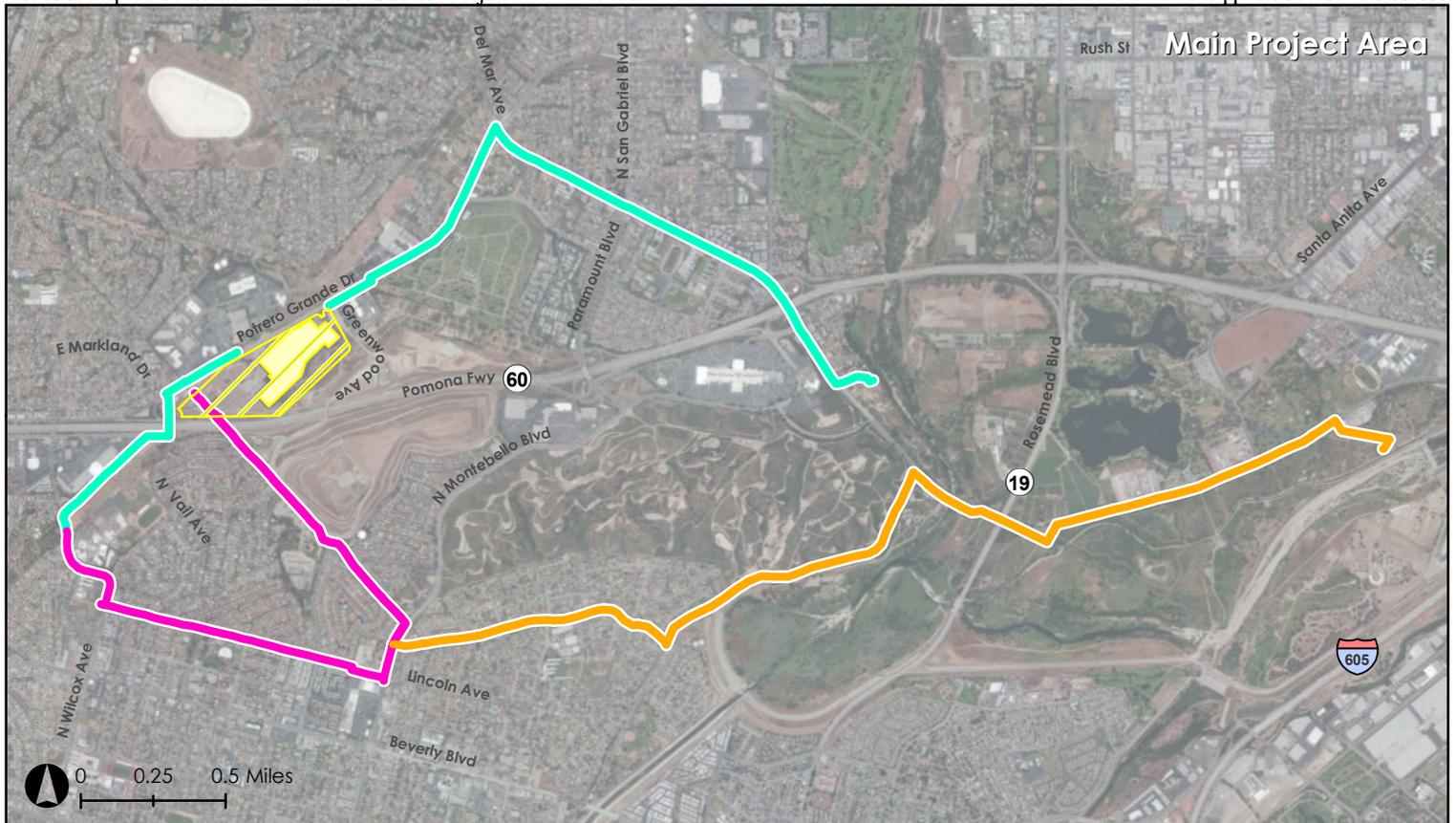
Information about the Mesa Substation Project and the CEQA process is available on the CPUC’s project website: <http://tinyurl.com/mesasubstation>

The website will be used to post all public documents related to the CEQA document. No public comments will be accepted on this website; however, the website will provide a sign-up option for interested parties to be placed on the project mailing list and a printable comment form.

The CEQA Guidelines are available at the following website:

[http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/guidelines](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines)

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which serves as an environmental checklist for all CPUC CEQA documents, is available at: [http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/pdf/appendix\\_g-3.pdf](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/pdf/appendix_g-3.pdf)



- Existing substation
  - Conversion of an existing distribution line from overhead to underground between three street lights
  - Main project area
  - Substations where ground-disturbance will occur
- Telecommunications routes:
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
- Existing substation
  - Proposed substation footprint
  - City boundary
  - County boundary

Figure 1  
**Mesa 500-kV Substation Project**  
 Overview of Main Components

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# B

## Scoping Meeting Materials

- B.1 Registration Sheets**
- B.2 Example Speaker Card**
- B.3 Example Written Comment Sheet**
- B.4 Project Fact Sheets**

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## **B.1 Registration Sheets**

# California Public Utilities Commission

Public Scoping Meeting on the  
Mesa 500-kV Substation Project  
June 23, 2015 in Monterey Park, California

| Name               | Address            | City, State    | Zip          | Email                                    | Request CD of Draft EIR (Y/N) |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>Roy Alfonso</i> | <i>City of MPK</i> | <i>MPK, CA</i> | <i>91754</i> | <i>ralfonso@montereypark.<br/>ca.gov</i> |                               |
|                    |                    |                |              |  |                               |
|                    |                    |                |              |  |                               |
|                    |                    |                |              |  |                               |
|                    |                    |                |              |  |                               |
|                    |                    |                |              |  |                               |

## California Public Utilities Commission

Public Scoping Meeting on the  
Mesa 500-kV Substation Project  
June 23, 2015 in Monterey Park, California

| Name                | Address                           | City, State      | Zip   | Email                     | Request CD of Draft EIR (Y/N) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Key Gonzales        | SCE                               | MONTROVIA, CA    |       | KEY.GONZALES@SCE.COM      |                               |
| Sam Villalobos      | 1428 Via Blenno<br>Montebello, CA | Montebello<br>CA | 90640 | none.                     | Yes                           |
| Julie Leticia Curid | 1743 Milano<br>Montebello         | Ca               | 9064  | villalobosjulie@yahoo.com | yes                           |
|                     |                                   |                  |       |                           |                               |
|                     |                                   |                  |       |                           |                               |
|                     |                                   |                  |       |                           |                               |

## **B.2 Example Speaker Card**

**REQUEST TO SPEAK/SOLICITUD PARA PARTICIPAR**

Public Meeting for the Mesa 500-kV Substation Draft EIR

California Public Utilities Commission  
Langley Center—Friendship Room, June 23, 2015

**NAME/NOMBRE:**

**AFFILIATION (if applicable)/AFILIACIÓN (si aplica):**

**REQUEST TO SPEAK/SOLICITUD PARA PARTICIPAR**

Public Meeting for the Mesa 500-kV Substation Draft EIR

California Public Utilities Commission  
Langley Center—Friendship Room, June 23, 2015

**NAME/NOMBRE:**

**AFFILIATION (if applicable)/AFILIACIÓN (si aplica):**

## **B.3 Example Written Comment Sheet**

**California Public Utilities Commission  
Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California**

Public Meeting on the Draft EIR for the Proposed Mesa 500-kV Substation Project  
6:00 p.m., June 23, 2015  
Reunión Pública del Proyecto Propuesto Mesa Substation, 6:00 p.m., 23 de junio de 2015.

Thank you for participating in tonight's public meeting. We would like to hear your comments.  
Gracias por su participación en la reunión pública esta noche. Queremos oír sus comentarios.

**Note:** Before including your address, telephone 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 may 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. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Nota:** Antes de añadir su dirección de postal, número de teléfono, dirección del correo electrónico, u otra información personal en su comentario, usted debe tomar en cuenta que su comentario entero, incluyendo identificación personal, pudiera estar disponible al público en cualquier momento. Aun cuando usted puede solicitarnos en su comentario que se mantenga su información de identificación personal como confidencial para la revisión pública, no podemos garantizar que estaremos en capacidad de hacerlo. Todos los comentarios de individuos que se identifiquen como representantes o funcionarios de organizaciones o empresas estarán completamente disponibles para inspección del público.

Name/Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Organización: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Correo electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS**

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**Comments must be postmarked or received by July 5, 2015  
Los comentarios serán recibidos hasta el 5 de julio de 2015**

Send comments to/ Envíe sus comentarios a: Lisa Orsaba, California Public Utilities Commission  
Re: Mesa Substation Project, c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.,  
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111  
Fax: (415) 398-5326 Project Voicemail/Línea de atención al usuario: 855-520-6799 (English) /844-538-6992 (Español)  
email/ Correo electrónico: MESA.CPUC@ene.com



## **B.4 Project Fact Sheets**



(photo simulations)



State of California  
Public Utilities Commission

## Mesa 500-kV Substation Project

**FACT SHEET**  
**No. 1** June 2015

### Project Overview

On March 13, 2015 Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted an application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a permit to construct the Mesa 500-kV (kilovolt) Substation Project. SCE states that the Mesa Substation Project is needed to address reliability concerns resulting from the pending shutdown of Once Through Cooling (OTC) generation as well as the recent retirement of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). Major components of the project include the following:

- Construction of the 500/220/66/16-kV Mesa Substation and demolition of the existing 220/66/16-kV Mesa Substation in the City of Monterey Park. The substation would be located at the existing Mesa Substation site but would result in a 69.4-acre footprint expanded from the current 21.6-acre footprint.
- Removal, relocation, modification, and/or construction of transmission, subtransmission, and distribution structures within SCE-owned properties, rights-of-way (ROWs), and franchise areas in the cities of Monterey Park, Montebello, and Commerce and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County to accommodate the new substation configuration.
- Installation of two new telecommunications lines and reroute of one existing telecommunications line within the cities of Monterey Park, Montebello, and Rosemead, and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County.
- Reroute of existing telecommunications lines inside the perimeter fence lines of Vincent, Pardee, and Walnut Substations.
- Conversion of an existing distribution line from overhead to underground between three street lights within the City of Bell Gardens.
- Replacement of a section of a Metropolitan Water District 72-inch-diameter water line within the Mesa Substation property and adjacent northern transmission ROW with an 84-inch-diameter water line.

- Installation of a temporary 220-kV circuit loop-in at Goodrich Substation in Pasadena to allow for continued service to Pasadena during required outages for the 220-kV line.
- Replacement of 220-kV line termination equipment at the existing Laguna Bell and Lighthouse Substations.
- Upgrades to various 66-kV and 220-kV line protection relays and/or telecommunications equipment inside the existing Mechanical Electrical Equipment Rooms (MEERs) at 27 satellite substations across the Electrical Needs Area (ENA).

If the project is approved, construction is anticipated to begin in June 2016 and would take approximately 4 years and 6 months.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in order to evaluate the project's potential impacts to the environment. The EIR will describe the nature and extent of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives and will discuss mitigation measures for significant impacts.

### Public Participation

The CPUC would like to hear your comments on the project, and invites you to submit comments about what might need to be included in the environmental analysis. Comments may be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or communicated verbally on the CPUC's hotline for the project (information provided below). All comments must be received or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on July 5, 2015. The CPUC will review all comments received during the scoping process and prepare the Draft EIR, which will be circulated for review and comment.

### For More Information:

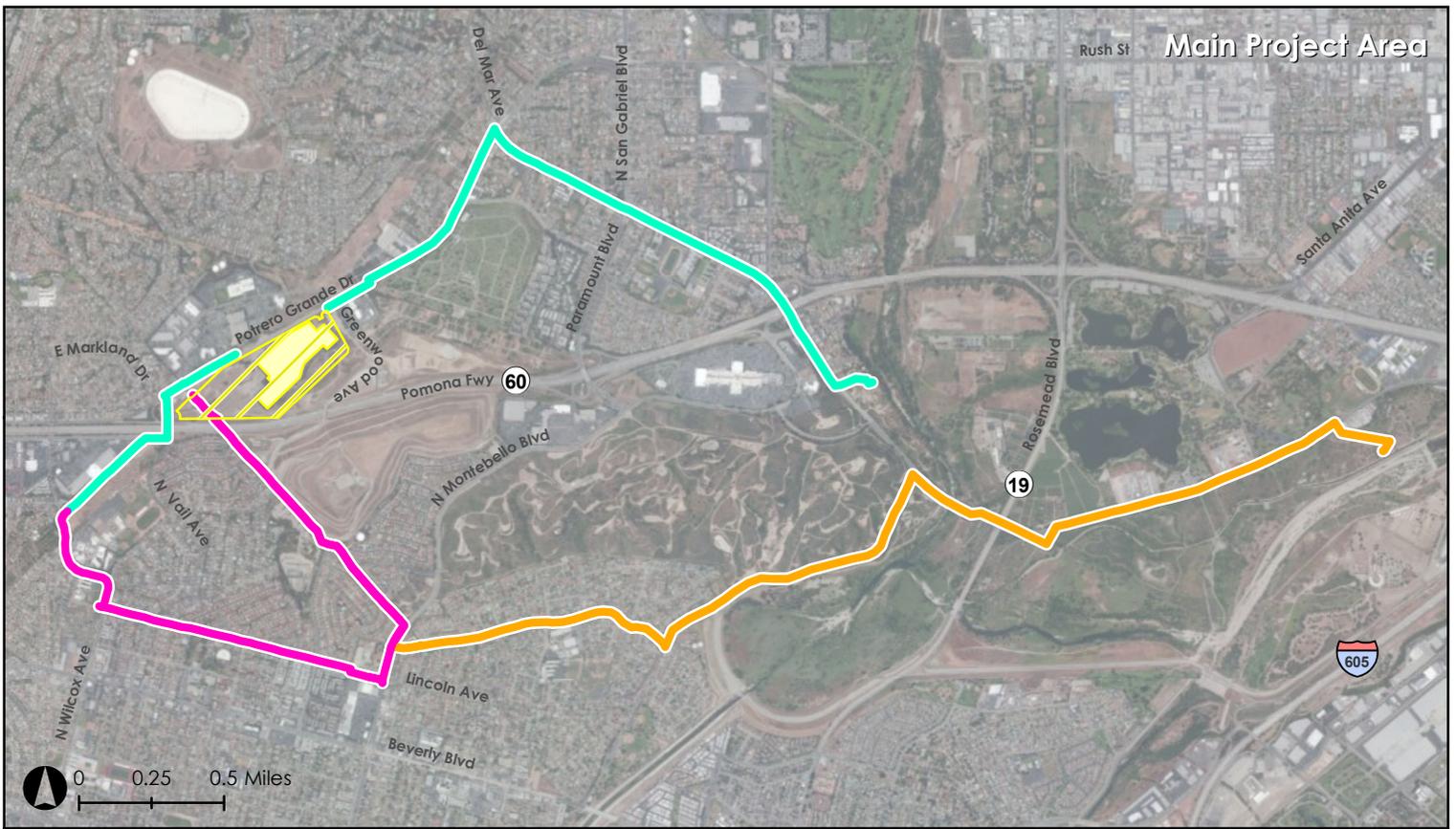
**Email:** [Mesa.CPUC@ene.com](mailto:Mesa.CPUC@ene.com)

**Fax:** (415) 398-5326 **Hotline:** (844) 538-6992 (toll free)

**Mail:** Attn: Lisa Orsaba

California Public Utilities Commission

Re: Mesa Substation Project, c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.,  
505 Sansome Street, #300, San Francisco, CA 94111



- Existing substation
  - Conversion of an existing distribution line from overhead to underground between three street lights
  - Replace existing 220-kV structure
  - Main project area
  - Substations where ground-disturbance will occur
- Telecommunications routes:
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
- Existing substation
  - Proposed substation footprint
  - City boundary
  - County boundary

**Mesa 500-kV  
Substation Project**  
Overview of  
Main Components



(photo simulations)



State of California  
Public Utilities Commission

# Mesa 500-kV Substation Project

## FACT SHEET No. 2 June 2015

### Electric and Magnetic Fields

- **Electricity** is a form of energy that can occur naturally or can be generated by burning coal or collecting the sun's rays with photovoltaic technology. Everyday, we use electricity for a variety of tasks—from lighting our homes to powering our computers. Our bodies also generate electricity naturally to allow information flow between cells and tissues.
- **Electric fields** are produced by voltage. Voltage is the pressure behind the flow of electricity—similar to the pressure of a water hose. The voltage creates electric fields around any electrical device that is plugged in—whether it is operating or not. The closer you are to the source or object, the stronger the electric field. However, electric fields are weakened or hindered by natural obstructions like walls or trees and decrease as you move farther from the source.
- **Magnetic fields** are produced by current. Current is the flow of electricity through a wire (i.e., “conductor”). Switching on an appliance generates a magnetic field around both the appliance and the cord through which the electric current flows. Like electric fields, magnetic fields are stronger the closer you are to the object and decrease as you move away. Unlike

electric fields, however, magnetic fields are not affected by walls or trees.

- **Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)** surround appliances and objects we encounter everyday such as microwaves, dishwashers, televisions, and the electric transmission lines that deliver power to our communities. EMF also occur naturally in lightning or in the Earth's magnetic field.

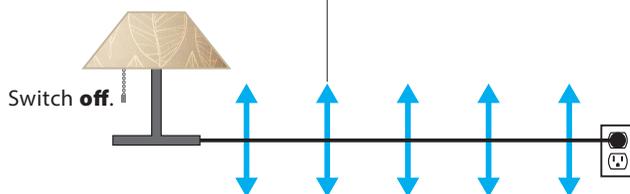
Although EMF are prevalent in our daily lives, EMF are generally associated with transmission infrastructure (eg., lines and substations). Compared to other forms of electromagnetic radiation, transmission line EMF is considered Extremely Low Frequency, but it is possible for a person standing directly under the line to receive a mild shock when touching something that conducts electricity. These sensations are caused by the strong electric fields from the high-voltage electricity in the lines; however, this reaction occurs only at very close range. As discussed above, EMF rapidly become weaker as the distance from the line increases. EMF are considered strongest at the middle point between two transmission towers where the line hangs closest to the ground.

#### VOLTAGE =

- Electrical pressure, the potential to do work
- Measured in volts (V) or in kilovolts (kV) (1kV = 1000 volts)

#### LAMP OFF

- 120 volts and no current
- **Electric field present**

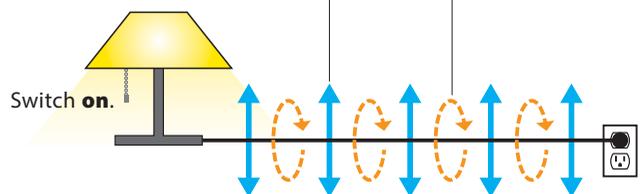


#### CURRENT =

- The movement of electric charge (e.g., electrons)
- Measured in amperes (A)

#### LAMP ON

- 120 volts and current flowing
- **Electric and magnetic fields present**



### For More Information:

**Email:** Mesa.CPUC@ene.com

**Fax:** (415) 398-5326 **Hotline:** (844) 538-6992 (toll free)

**Mail:** Attn: Lisa Orsaba

California Public Utilities Commission

Re: Mesa Substation Project, c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.,  
505 Sansome Street, #300, San Francisco, CA 94111

## Do electric and magnetic fields have an effect on human health?

- To date there is no definitive answer. While there have been several studies that concluded that there might be a link between high levels of EMF exposure and cancer risk, the evidence is not conclusive. Additional research is necessary before a more definitive conclusion can be reached, but EMF is not widely considered to be a serious human health risk.

## CPUC Policy on EMFs

- The CPUC's 1993 decision (D.93-11-013) requires that utilities use "low-cost or no-cost" reduction measures for EMFs associated with electrical facilities that require certification under CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. With the decision, the CPUC directed utilities to use a 4-percent-of-budget benchmark for low-cost measures. The CPUC's January 27, 2006, decision (D.06-01-042) affirmed the 1993 decision on the low-cost/no-cost policy to mitigate EMF exposure for new utility transmission and substation projects and directs that the CPUC pursue and review available studies regarding EMFs.

**For the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project SCE included a Field Management Plan as part of its application for the proposed project that describes the EMF reduction measures it would implement as part of the proposed project.**

## Magnetic fields in the Home

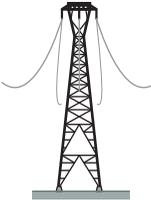
|   | 1.2" Away    | 12" Away  | 39" Away |
|---|--------------|-----------|----------|
|  <b>Microwave Oven</b>       | 750 to 2,000 | 40 to 80  | 3 to 8   |
|  <b>Washing Machine</b>      | 8 to 400     | 2 to 30   | 0.1 to 2 |
|  <b>Electric Range</b>      | 60 to 2,000  | 4 to 40   | 0.1 to 1 |
|  <b>Fluorescent Lights</b> | 400 to 4,000 | 5 to 20   | 0.1 to 3 |
|  <b>Television</b>         | 25 to 500    | 0.4 to 20 | 0.1 to 2 |
|  <b>Hair Dryer</b>         | 60 to 20,000 | 1 to 70   | 3 to 8   |

(data in milligauss)

Source: Adapted from Gauger 1985

## Magnetic Fields Outdoors

(maximum values may be lower for some California utilities)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <b>Transmission Lines</b> | 1 to 300 milligauss at the edge of the right-of-way |
|--|---|

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**C**

**Comment Letters**

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**From:** Public.advisor  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** Orsaba, Lisa  
**Subject:** FW: Protest, Mesa 500kV substation project, (A1503003, jy2)

[Another one.](#)

Ravneet Kaur  
Regulatory Analyst | Public Advisor's Office  
Consumer Service & Information Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
415-703-1972

**From:** [holeshot1@gmail.com](mailto:holeshot1@gmail.com) [<mailto:holeshot1@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:06 PM  
**To:** Public.advisor  
**Subject:** re: Protest, Mesa 500kV substation project, (A1503003, jy2)

Hello

I would like to file a protest to the application for the SCE Mesa 500 kV substation project.

EMF compliance is of concern. Power lines are extremely close to our homes here in Monterey Park.

SCE came out to test. Test results were extremely high.  
SCE rep said it's of no concern and poses no danger.

As with Chino Hills, they proved EMF to be harmful.

Thank you,

Doug Ito

--

**From:** Victor Pelayo [<mailto:VPELAYO@dpw.lacounty.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 4:06 PM  
**To:** Public.advisor  
**Subject:** file a protest, (A1503003, jy2)

Hello,

I have noticed several flyers on wood stakes along my neighborhood along Avenida De La Merced, and I would like to file a protest against the Mesa Substation project.

Please advise how I may do so. I have collected close to one hundred signatures from neighbors against this project being built on Avenida De La Merced.

Thank you.

Victor Pelayo

Message scanned by the Symantec Email Security service. If you suspect that this email is actually spam, please send it as an ATTACHMENT to [spamsample@messagelabs.com](mailto:spamsample@messagelabs.com)

**From:** Victor Pelayo [<mailto:VPELAYO@dpw.lacounty.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 2:51 PM  
**To:** Estrada, Andres  
**Subject:** Mesa Substation Project Comment

Hello,

Would like additional information and be added to the mailing list.  
Thank you.

Victor Pelayo

Message scanned by the Symantec Email Security service. If you suspect that this email is actually spam, please send it as an ATTACHMENT to [spamsample@message labs.com](mailto:spamsample@message labs.com)

**From:** Victor Pelayo [<mailto:VPELAYO@dpw.lacounty.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 4:13 PM  
**To:** Orsaba, Lisa  
**Subject:** Mesa Substation Project Comment

Hi Lisa,

Where can I view the construction plans for this project to get a better understanding of all the new infrastructure that will be impacting my neighborhood?  
Thank you.

Victor Pelayo  
City of Montebello

Message scanned by the Symantec Email Security service. If you suspect that this email is actually spam, please send it as an ATTACHMENT to [spamsample@messagelabs.com](mailto:spamsample@messagelabs.com)

**From:** Orsaba, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:13 AM  
**To:** Victor Pelayo  
**Cc:** James, Rachel ([RJJames@ene.com](mailto:RJJames@ene.com)); Hodgkins, Claire ([CHodgkins@ene.com](mailto:CHodgkins@ene.com))  
**Subject:** RE: Mesa Substation Project Comment

Mr. Pelayo,

The best source of information regarding this project is the CPUC website:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/mesa/mesa.html>

All the information we have received to date from SCE is posted here.

Please note that, if you scroll to the end of the website, you can contact the project email and can add your name to those who wish to be notified when new information is posted on the website.

Regards,

---

**Lisa Orsaba** | Energy Division  
Infrastructure Permitting & CEQA  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue | S.F. CA 94102-3298  
415-703-1966 | [lob@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:lob@cpuc.ca.gov)

**From:** Victor Pelayo [<mailto:VPDELAYO@dpw.lacounty.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:25 AM  
**To:** Orsaba, Lisa  
**Cc:** James, Rachel ([RJAMES@ene.com](mailto:RJAMES@ene.com)); Hodgkins, Claire ([CHODGKINS@ene.com](mailto:CHODGKINS@ene.com))  
**Subject:** RE: Mesa Substation Project Comment

Thank you so much Lisa, appreciate your help.

Victor

**From:** Orsaba, Lisa [mailto:[lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:31 AM  
**To:** Victor Pelayo  
**Cc:** James, Rachel; Hodgkins, Claire  
**Subject:** RE: Mesa Substation Project Comment

You are very welcome. Please know that, in the future, response will likely come from CPUC environmental consultants, E an E. Together we manage the environmental review of this proposed project.

---

**Lisa Orsaba** | Energy Division  
Infrastructure Permitting & CEQA  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue | S.F. CA 94102-3298  
415-703-1966 | [lob@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:lob@cpuc.ca.gov)

**From:** Victor Villalobos [<mailto:vgvillalobos@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 11:59 PM  
**To:** Public.advisor  
**Subject:** Objection to Mesa Project, (A1503003, jy2)

On behalf of Samuel B Villalobos. Thank you.

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April 13, 2015

Samuel B. Villalobos  
1428 Via Palermo  
Montebello, CA 90640-1834

California Public Utilities Commission  
Headquarters San Francisco Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

**SUBJECT:      REQUEST FOR PARTY STATUS  
                  FILING OF PROTEST OPPOSING THE APPLICATION  
                  FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT FOR THE MESA SUBSTATION PROJECT**

In keeping to Rule 2.6 Protest, Responses, and Replies of the California Public Utilities Commission's and in compliance with Rule 1.4. of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedures, subsections (a) (3) and (a) (4) herein I am respectfully documenting the filing a verbal motion submitted on Friday, April 10, 2015 on the CPUC Public Advisor in San Francisco telephone recording at its toll free telephone number 1-866-849-8391 objecting to the proposed Mesa Project application and requesting "Party Status" and in compliance with subsection (a) (4) of this rule I hereby also file a written motion objecting to the proposed Mesa Project and requesting "Party Status" recognition by the CPUC. As required please receive and file the following items:

**MOTION:** Objection to the application to construction the 50KV Substation in the City of Monterey Park, California, Los Angeles County on the grounds that the proposed construction will pose an adverse effect to the quality of life, impact the physical and psychological health of residential community members residing in the City Montebello and impose a negative impact on the economic value of existing residential properties located in near proximity to the proposed construction site of the proposed Mesa Station.

(1) Full Disclosure of person opposing the proposed Mesa Project application and making the verbal and written motion requesting "Party Status":

**PERSON:**

Samuel B. Villalobos, 1428 Via Palermo, Montebello, CA 90640  
(323) 722-0475

**INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS:**

- Adversely Impacted Property Owner
- Concerned City of Montebello Resident
- Owner Occupied Single Family Home
- Residential Land Use within 200 ft. of site

- Owner Occupied Two-Story Residential Structure
- Location: 1428 Via Palermo, Montebello, CA 90640-1834
- Consumer of California Public utilities
- Montebello Community Advocate for safe environment (Since 1979)

(2) Fact and legal contentions reasonably pertinent to the issues surrounding the application to construct the proposed 500 kV Mesa Substation Project are as follows:

- 1. Industrial Land-uses are not permitted in City of Monterey Park Commercial Land-use designation. The existing 220 kV substation will be upgraded to a new 500kV substation. The existing substation sits on 22-acres of an 84-acre parcel which is zoned commercial and the proposed project will use about 70-acres which are also zoned Commercial. Electrical Substation are not permit on the “Commercial” Land-use on the 70-acres site per City of Monterey Park Municipal Code (See excerpt below)

**Monterey Park Municipal Code**  
**21.10.030 Land Use Regulations.**

**Table 21.10(A)**

**Permitted Uses in Commercial Zones**

*Legend:*

- A As an accessory use only*
- C Permitted subject to approval of a conditional use permit*
- L Permitted subject to limitations or special standards as described in Section 21.10.040*
- P Permitted*
- S Permitted only on second floor or above*
- X Expressly prohibited*

| <b>Land Uses</b>          |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Additional/Accessory Uses | N-S | S-C | C-B | R-S | C-S | C-P |
| Public Utility Substation | X   | X   | X   | P   | P   | X   |

- 2. Non-compatible Land-Uses

The application for the construction of a 500 kV Substation is non-compatible to the adjacent Residential Land-uses existing in Montebello to the south of the proposed

Mesa Substation site. The Montebello Hills planned development that was constructed by the Ahmanson Corporation beginning 1977 through 1980 included single-family homes on Via Palermo, Montebello, California above the 60 Freeway and overlooking neighboring landscape grower businesses along Potrero Grande Drive in the City of Monterey Park, the residential communities on the hillsides of the City of Monterey Park and the view of the majestic San Gabriel Mountains in the far distance. The threat of the proposed industrial utilization of the 70-acres will impose adverse blighting conditions 200 feet from our home located at 1428 Via Palermo. The visual impact of the proposed 500 KV Mesa Substation nor power transfer tower have been nonexistent since we acquired our home in 1979.

- 3. Electric Magnetic Field (EMF) Compliance

In 1997 Germany became the first nation to adopt a national rule on EMF exposure for the general public. "Ordinance 26 applies only to facilities such as overhead and underground transmission and distribution lines, transformers, switchgear and overhead lines for electric -powered trains. Both electric 5 kV/m and magnetic field exposure limits 91 Gauss) are high enough that they are unlikely to be encountered in ordinary life. The ordinance also requires that precaution measures be taken on a case-by-case basis when electric facilities are sited or upgraded near homes, hospitals, schools, day care centers, and playgrounds. " (Source EMF Electric Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, NIEHS/ National Institute of Health June 2002 page 55) *"Is there an association between measured fields and child Leukemia? Yes,..."* (Source EMF Electric Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, NIEHS/ National Institute of Health June 2002 page 16) I simply stated do not want to run any risk of know or unknown Health Risk that 24/7 exposure to 500 kV substation will generate. The proposed mitigation measures for the Mesa station are the sufficient protection measures. The alternative to construct the Mesa Station away from the Montebello Hills Homes and Schurr High School in Montebello. Alternative sites have not be explored such as in the Whittier Narrows area or on proponents own land in Rosemead California at their headquarters on Walnut in Rosemead. The response that the proponent's representative provides is that Whittier Narrows would pose harm to flora and fona and that the parcel on Walnut in Rosemead has four existing buildings would expose to office staff to the daily operation of the proposed Mesa substation.

- 4. Schurr High School

Schurr High school student body is located on Wilcox Avenue in Montebello, CA and the existing power lines (220kV) run generally overhead along the northerly boundary of the campus. Administrators, Faculty, Para-professional staff and student are at the school site generally from 6:00 a. m. to 9:00 p.m. daily Monday through Friday and at times on Saturdays. EMF health risk should not taken by approving the proposed 500kV substation. The burden and responsibility for the EMF Health Risks Studies are with the proponent and the CPUC. The project review should not exclude communication with the students and their parents, faculty, staff and Montebello School District Administrators,

## Adverse Economic Impact

In consultation with a Real Estate Agent located in Arcadia California, the permitting and construction of a 500 KV substation at the proposed Potrero Grande site will result in an diminish valuation of real estate prices for the Home in the Montebello Hills. Home Comp Value current range upward than \$675,000 and home with enhanced amenities are price higher than I million dollars. The Proponent has failed to provide a relocation plan in the event that their proposal would clear all levels of Environmental review.

## Environmental Review

The proposed development will threated the drying out of the Potrero Grande Arroyo (water cree) a San Gabriel Valley historical preserve and water artery of the Rio Hondo River. This warrant a full EIR.

Sincerely,

Samuel B. Villalobos

## **21.10.020 Commercial Zones.**

### **(A) N-S – Neighborhood Shopping Zone.**

(1) The N-S Zone has a physical character that is generally comprised of shallow lots and small scale developments. This zone provides for the development of commercial areas to serve nearby residential neighborhoods and to maintain the integrity of such existing areas within the City. This zone maintains a small-scale pedestrian oriented commercial character available to serve neighborhood residents through the implementation of the following practices:

- (a) Limit the maximum sizes of commercial uses in this area.
- (b) Ensure the maintenance and improvement of the existing commercial environment.

### **(B) S-C – Shopping Center Zone.**

(1) The S-C Zone has a physical character that is generally comprised of deep and wide lots. This zone provides for the development of shopping and business centers that serve as a major retail attraction for the broader community through the implementation of the following practices:

(a) Encourage and facilitate development of parking structures to ease the parking demand in this area.

(b) Encourage the development of large retail centers that provide a variety of dining and retail uses and promote revenue for the City.

(c) Ensure the maintenance and improvement of the existing character of S-C Zones as successful retail destinations.

### **(C) C-B – Central Business Zone.**

(1) The C-B Zone has a physical character comprised of varying lot sizes with large and small scale development throughout. This zone provides for the development of a pedestrian-oriented downtown environment that allows for a mix of commercial and residential uses. This zone creates a vibrant pedestrian-oriented commercial district through the implementation of the following practices:

(a) Encourage the use of awnings and window displays that create attractive storefronts and promote walk-ability throughout the downtown.

(b) Promote a mix of retail, dining and limited service uses in which office uses are expressly prohibited on the street level.

(c) Promote accessory uses, such as outdoor dining, that will enhance a pedestrian friendly atmosphere.

### **(D) R-S – Regional Specialty Center Zone.**

(1) The R-S Zone has a physical character generally comprised of wide, deep lots with large scale development. This zone provides for the development of commercial areas that serve a regional need and promote the development of regional centers with diverse retail and entertainment uses. This zone will serve as a commercial and entertainment center that serves both local residents and the surrounding region. This district shall provide sufficient parking to meet the needs of regional shoppers while maintaining a walk-able, pedestrian friendly environment. This zone shall develop into a regional commercial destination through the implementation of the following practices:

(a) Implement corner treatments to serve as entryways and/or focal points at major intersections and entrances throughout the R-S Zone.

(b) Facilitate mixed-use developments that provide a vibrant balance of residential, retail, entertainment and dining uses.

(c) Implement various pedestrian amenities and pedestrian linkages to the downtown commercial district (C-B Zone).

(E) C-S – Commercial Services Zone.

(1) The C-S Zone has a physical character commonly comprised of primarily narrow and shallow lots generally located along the City's boundaries. This zone provides for the development of commercial areas that promote retail and provide transition areas between the City and neighboring communities.

(F) C-P – Commercial Professional Zone.

(1) The C-P Zone has a physical character generally comprised of both medium and large scale development located along principal and minor arterials. This zone provides for the development of integrated office and professional areas, in which all related uses and facilities may be located. This zone encourages the establishment of cohesive business parks that accommodate a range of professional office, laboratory and limited retail uses. (Ord. 2097 § 3, 2013)



**From:** JP Wolk

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2015 1:35:23 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**To:** Mesa CPUC; Fran Coye

**Subject:** we are opposed to any additional MESA 500kv

we are opposed to any construction or enlargement to substations in City of Industry on Gale Ave or Walnut Creek Energy Park.

we already have to deal with walnut creek energy park and the release of gas, odors occasionally.

the trains pass right next to it and it is a disaster waiting to happen.

we have enough electromagnetic radiation surrounding us without additional electrical lines on Gale Ave, Bixby etc..

enough already. we all want to be healthy and dont want the exposures.

we are vehemently opposed to any expansion plans.

jp wolk

--

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truth in fashion™



**J.P. Wolk, its Chief Financial Officer**

16425 East Gale Avenue  
City of Industry, CA 91745

626.961.7928 tel

626.934.5271 fax

[jpwolk@swatfame.com](mailto:jpwolk@swatfame.com)

[www.swatfame.com](http://www.swatfame.com)

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**From:** Salty [mailto:saulroe@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 7:04 PM  
**To:** Marissa.Castro@sce.com; Mesa CPUC  
**Subject:** Mesa Substation Project

Dear Ms. Castro,

I own property near the proposed project and have a home in the supply area of the Substation.

My concerns, which I would like addressed, are:

- Impact on surrounding area during construction
- visual changes for residence in the area
- security of this important infrastructure component.

The last item is of growing concern. Attacks on infrastructure are increasing, and the project should include protection from likely threats. These threats could include use of fire arms to destroy components, entry into the facility to wreck components. Tall walls should be considered to prevent those outside from direct line of site to critical equipment. Security monitoring and access control are a must.

Building barriers to protect the facility should be done in a way that it adds to the visual aesthetics, instead of detracting. Landscaping and architecturally pleasing enhancements should be included.

--

Saul Roe  
735 la mirada ave  
San Marino  
[saulroe@yahoo.com](mailto:saulroe@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Andy

**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 11:11:38 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**To:** Mesa CPUC; Martha Gonzalez. Kizh Gabrieleno

**Cc:** Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez

**Subject:** Preparation environmental impact report for the Mesa 500-kV substation project proposed by Southern California Edison . Application NO. 15-03-003

Dear Lisa Ordaba

This email is in response to your letter dated June 5, 2015

*“The project locale lies within a sensitive area where the traditional territories of the **Gabrieleño** villages adjoined and overlapped with each other, at least during the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods. The homeland of the **Gabrieleños**, probably the most influential Native American group in aboriginal southern California (Bean and Smith 1978a:538), was centered in the **Los Angeles Basin**, and reached as far east as the **San Bernardino-Riverside - Channel Islands and the inland costal areas**. Villages were based on clan or lineage groups. Their home/ base sites are marked by midden deposits, often with bedrock mortars. During their seasonal rounds to exploit plant resources, small groups would migrate within their traditional territory in search of specific plants and animals. Their gathering strategies often left behind signs of special use sites, usually grinding slicks on bedrock boulders, at the locations of the resources. **Therefore in order to protect our Cultural resources we're requesting one of our experienced & certified Native American monitors to be on site during any & all ground disturbances.***

In all cases, when the NAHC states there are “**No**” records of sacred sites” in the subject area; they always refer the contractors back to the Native American Tribes whose tribal territory the project area is in. This is due to the fact, that the NAHC is only aware of general information on each California NA Tribe they are “**NOT**” the “experts” on our Tribe. Our Elder Committee & Tribal Historians are the experts and is the reason why the NAHC will always refer contractors to the local tribes. Please contact our office regarding this project to coordinate a Native American Monitor to be present.

( The following are Recommendations of the State of Sacramento Native American Heritage Commission .)

## Understanding Cultural Resources

### ***Involvement of Local Native American Representatives in the Cultural Resource Management Process***

It is strongly recommended that County or City Planning Agencies involve local Native American groups in the management of cultural resources. Native American leaders and representatives must be kept informed about proposed development projects, particularly those situated in potentially or known sensitive areas, so that their concerns may be

heard. It is also recommended that city and county planners encourage the use of Native American Monitors during the course of archaeological excavations.

Sincerely,

Andy Salas Chairman Of Gabrieleño Band Of Mission Indians/Kizh (Kit'c) Nation  
Of the Los Angeles Basin, Orange county and the Channel islands.

***NOTICE: PLEASE FILE OUR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CONSULTATION ON ALL  
FUTURE PROJECTS WITHIN OUR TRIBAL TERRITORY.....***

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South Coast  
Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

June 18, 2015

Lisa Orsaba  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Ecology and Environmental, Inc.  
505 Sansome Street, Suite #300  
San Francisco, CA 94111

**Notice of Preparation of a CEQA Document for the  
Mesa 50-kV Substation Project**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The SCAQMD staff's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the draft CEQA document. Please send the SCAQMD a copy of the CEQA document upon its completion. Note that copies of the Draft EIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to the SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the Draft EIR directly to SCAQMD at the address in our letterhead. **In addition, please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. These include original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files (not Adobe PDF files). Without all files and supporting air quality documentation, the SCAQMD will be unable to complete its review of the air quality analysis in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting air quality documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

**Air Quality Analysis**

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More recent guidance developed since this Handbook was published is also available on SCAQMD's website here: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-\(1993\)](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-(1993)). SCAQMD staff also recommends that the lead agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: [www.caleemod.com](http://www.caleemod.com).

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the analysis.

The SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. The SCAQMD staff requests that the lead agency quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the results to the recommended regional significance thresholds found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=2>. In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts, the SCAQMD staff recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LST's can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts

when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the proposed project, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a localized analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds>.

In the event that the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("*Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis*") can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mobile-source-toxics-analysis>. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses (such as placing homes near freeways) can be found in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective*, which can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. CARB's Land Use Handbook is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process.

### **Mitigation Measures**

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts. Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed. Several resources are available to assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, including:

- Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*
- SCAQMD's CEQA web pages at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>.
- CAPCOA's *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* available here: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>.
- SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook for controlling construction-related emissions
- Other measures to reduce air quality impacts from land use projects can be found in the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning. This document can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/air-quality-guidance/complete-guidance-document.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

### **Data Sources**

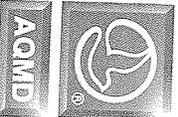
SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's webpage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project emissions are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at [Jwong1@aqmd.gov](mailto:Jwong1@aqmd.gov) or call me at (909) 396-3176.

Sincerely,



Barbara Radlein  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

Headquarters

21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar CA 91765-4178

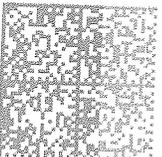
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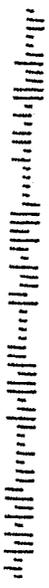
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*MESA*

14 E-DACMB 94111



**From:** Lin, Alan S@DOT [mailto:alan.lin@dot.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2015 10:55 AM  
**To:** 'state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov'  
**Cc:** Watson, DiAnna@DOT; Mesa CPUC  
**Subject:** SCH # 2015061014 Mesa 500 kV Substation Project

FYI. Hard copy will be mailed to the Lead Agency.

Alan Lin, P.E.  
Project Coordinator  
State of California  
Department of Transportation  
District 7, Office of Transportation Planning  
Mail Station 16  
100 South Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 897-8391 Office  
(213) 897-1337 Fax

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
DISTRICT 7—OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-9140  
FAX (213) 897-1337  
www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

July 1, 2015

Ms. Lisa Orsaba  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

RE: Mesa 500 kV Substation Project  
Vic. LA-60/PM R5.909 to 9.476  
LA-164/PM 2.412  
SCH # 2015061014  
IGR/CEQA No. 150620AL-NOP

Dear Ms. Orsaba:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The project proposes to construct the new 500/220/66/16-kV substation and demolition of the existing 220/66/16-kV substation in phases (4.5 years).

The project is anticipated to have telecommunication route construction truck trips and construction work on SR-60 and SR-164. As a reminder, any work that will occur within State right of way will require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit.

To assist in Caltrans efforts in evaluating the impacts of this project on State Transportation Facilities, please forward a copy of a construction traffic study for to Caltrans for review. If one has not been prepared, Caltrans requests that one be prepared to analyze the following information:

1. Construction/truck traffic impacts on State Routes 60 and 164 (Rosemead Blvd.), and all significantly impacted streets, crossroads and controlling intersections, as well as an analysis of existing conditions and construction periods.
2. A truck/traffic construction management plan is needed for this project and should be submitted to Caltrans for review.
3. Traffic volume counts that include anticipated AM and PM peak-hour volumes.
4. Level of service (LOS) before and during the construction.
5. A brief construction traffic discussion showing ingress/egress, turning movements, and a directional flow for construction vehicle trips.

Ms. Lisa Orsaba  
July 1, 2015  
Page 2

6. Discussion of mitigation measures appropriate to alleviate anticipated construction/truck traffic impacts.

There is existing drainage systems along the State Route 60 freeway and southerly boundary of the Mesa substation project that need to be protected in place and kept operational. The width of the existing right-of-way needs to be preserved for future expansion of the freeway. As a reminder, coordination may be needed for the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project in which the Metro project has proposed route through the substation project vicinity.

We look forward to reviewing the traffic study and expect to receive a copy from the State Clearinghouse when the DEIR is completed. If you would like to expedite the review process or receive early feedback, please feel free to send a copy of the DEIR directly to Caltrans District 7 Office of Regional Planning.

Caltrans is committed to working with the Lead Agency in an effort to alleviate construction traffic congestion on State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to IGR/CEQA No. 150620AL.

Sincerely,



DIANNA WATSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

**From:** Marks,Alexander S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2015 11:50:48 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Mesa CPUC  
**Subject:** SCE Mesa 500-kV Substation NOP-EIR

Dear Ms. Orsaba -

Please find the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's comment letter on Southern California Edison's proposed Mesa 500-kV Substation Project NOP-EIR attached.

A hard copy is also being sent via U.S. mail. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Alex Marks

Alex Marks  
Associate Environmental Specialist  
Environmental Planning Team  
The Metropolitan Water District  
(213) 217-7629

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

July 1, 2015

**Via Electronic and Regular Mail**

Ms. Lisa Orsaba  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Sansome Street, Suite #300  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. Orsaba:

NOP-EIR: Southern California Edison Mesa 500-kV Substation Project

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report for the Southern California Edison (SCE) Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (Project). The Project would upgrade SCE's existing 220/66/16-kV Mesa Substation to a 500/220/66/16-kV substation. The Project is needed to address reliability concerns resulting from the pending shutdown of a projected 6,100 MW of once through cooling generation and the retirement of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. As indicated in the NOP, the Project would include the relocation of an onsite Metropolitan water line. This letter contains Metropolitan's comments on the Project as an affected responsible agency.

Metropolitan is a public agency and regional water wholesaler. It is comprised of 26 member public agencies serving approximately 19 million people in portions of six counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Metropolitan's mission is to provide its 5,200 square mile service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Metropolitan's Middle Feeder pipeline traverses the SCE property and would be impacted by the Project. The pipeline was constructed in 1954 and serves the cities of Compton and Long Beach, Central Basin Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

Relocation of the Middle Feeder would be required to facilitate SCE's expansion of the Mesa Substation. The Middle Feeder is a 72-inch diameter treated water pipeline that currently crosses the project site. This relocation would allow Metropolitan to maintain reliable deliveries of treated water to its member agencies, listed above. Therefore, Metropolitan and SCE have mutually agreed to relocate the portion of the Middle Feeder that would be affected by the Project to an alternate alignment and are presently working on a relocation agreement. Metropolitan's approval of this relocation agreement is necessary to complete the project. As such, Metropolitan requests that we be provided with notice of any future information regarding the project.

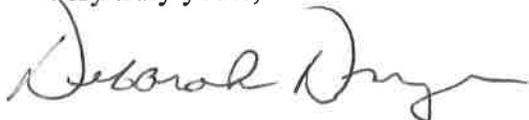
Ms. Lisa Orsaba

Page 2

July 1, 2015

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process. We look forward to continued coordination with the CPUC and SCE on the Project. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Alex Marks at (213) 217-7692.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Drezner".

Deborah Drezner

Interim Team Manager, Environmental Planning Team

ASM/asm

(EPT Job No. 20150625EXT)

**From:** CPC ODS03277CPC  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 04, 2015 2:57:05 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Mesa CPUC  
**Subject:** Mesa Project CEQA Input

This item is sent on behalf of Samuel B. Villalobos  
(323) 722-0475

Please acknowledge received by calling Villalobos at your earliest convenience please.

Thank you.

**Yvonne Billings**  
**Sr. Sales CPD Consultant** | Office Depot, Inc.  
2559 Via Campo Road | Montebello, CA 90640  
Tel: 323.726.2725 | [ods03277cpc@officedepot.com](mailto:ods03277cpc@officedepot.com)

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July 4, 2015

SAMUEL B. VILLALOBOS  
1428 VIA PALERMO  
Montebello CA 90640  
(323) 722-0475

Lisa Orsaba  
California Public Utilities Commission  
RE: Mesa 500kV Substation Project  
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
505 Sansome Street, Suite #300  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. Orsaba:

Regarding the proposed Mesa Project EIR please include the following in the scope of the EIR.

- Mesa Project would add impact of Montebello Hills Annex
  - The Environmental Protection Agency of the USA government has ongoing mitigation measures and remedies charged against the owners of Operating Industries (OI) on a toxic site former landfill located 200 feet from the site of of Mesa Project (summit) on south side of W Highway remaining methane and other toxic matter from site on the north and south parcel. Consult the EPA about environmental issues.
  - the Mesa Project poses threat to the preservation of gnatcatcher species of bird on the endangered list
- Sincerely Samuel B Villalobos

By Bethania Palma Markus, Staff Writer

Posted: 03/22/10, 12:01 AM PDT |

### [0 Comments](#)

MONTEBELLO - Splashed in emerald green from recent rains, the hills above the 60 Freeway are dotted with oil derricks, still working away - a testament to their long history as an oil field.

But controversy is brewing in these peaceful hills, which have been producing oil since 1917 and where Orange County-based developer Cook Hill Properties LLC has proposed building 1,200 new homes.

The \$500-million project is still going through a state-mandated environmental certification process, but Cook Hill expects completion by 2019, said spokesman Byron de Arakal.

The project, however, is facing strong opposition from area environmentalists and open-space advocates, who want to preserve the hills owned by Plains Exploration & Production Co. just the way they are.

"We believe it's wrong to destroy our town's scenic resource - the Montebello Hills," said Linda Strong, co-chairwoman of Save the Montebello Hills. "We're very concerned about the probable toxins that will be found in this dirt they want to bulldoze around."

Her group, which has received support from the Sierra Club in its opposition to the project, also is worried about traffic congestion. And there are fears the project will destroy the natural habitat of the California gnat catcher, an endangered bird species, Strong said.

De Arakal said the project plan includes a preserve for the gnat catcher.

"We understand their issues and we're sensitive to them, but we think their position doesn't reflect the effort to balance the site," he said. "It's as much an environmental plan as it is a community development plan, and we're perfectly comfortable the site will be safe."

Many of the concerns, like traffic and safety, are addressed in the project's draft environmental report, he added.

Only a third of the property's 480 acres would be developed, De Arakal said, while the rest would be devoted to open space and habitat protection.

The hills have become political hot button, helping to influence council elections in November and February. Councilman Frank Gomez, who was elected in November, promised during the campaign to work to preserve the hills.

Gomez, a chemistry professor at Cal State-LA, believes years of oil exploration and drilling have made the land unfit for human habitation.

"Would I want to live in homes on land that has been drilled on for 90 years? The answer to that is no," he said.

But supporters believe the project will bring much-needed revenue to Montebello, which is facing a \$3-million dollar budget.

"They're sitting on a gold mine, and they're choosing to cut services and lay off people because of their political views," said Craig Barker, president of the Montebello Firefighters Association.

The city recently laid off Fire Department support staff, including secretaries and fire prevention personnel, he said. The daily firefighter staffing has been reduced from 18 to 16, including the elimination of a ladder truck company.

De Arakal said property taxes alone from the completed project will be about \$7 million a year.

The developer is hoping the median sales price of the homes will be about \$720,000. The company also hopes to draw households earning an average of \$180,000 a year.

Councilwoman Christina Cortez said she's hoping both sides can meet in the middle.

"I hope we can get to a middle ground, where the developer can develop something that will contribute to our city's desperate need for tax revenue, and where the community can see it's a good project without a bad environmental impact," said Cortez.

[bethania.palma@sgvn.com](mailto:bethania.palma@sgvn.com)

562-698-0955, ext. 3028

# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE



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## Threatened and Endangered Birds

### Species Accounts

The list below provides access to species accounts for 33 species and subspecies of birds listed as either threatened or endangered by the State of California or the federal government. This list is provided in alphabetical order, by the general name of the animal (for example: eagle, rail, sparrow, etc).

Each species account contains the latest status report from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's periodic report on the status of these species. Each account also may contain links to additional, available status or life history information.

The list and the accompanying species accounts may not be complete or reflect the current legal status of these birds because of listing activities more recent than the status accounts in the links below. The current legal status for each species is [provided online](#) and is updated quarterly.

For more information on the species listed below, use the CDFW's [Species Explorer](#). Please note, the Species Explorer is still being worked on. Not all species might appear in the database.

| Common Name                               | Scientific Name                              |
|---|--|
| Albatross, short-tailed                   | <i>(Phoebastria albatrus)</i>                |
| Condor, California                        | <i>(Gymnogyps californianus)</i>             |
| Crane, greater sandhill                   | <i>(Grus canadensis tabida)</i>              |
| Cuckoo, western yellow-billed             | <i>(Coccyzus americanus occidentalis)</i>    |
| Eagle, bald                               | <i>(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)</i>            |
| Flicker, gilded northern                  | <i>(Colaptes auratus chrysoides)</i>         |
| Flycatcher, willow                        | <i>(Empidonax traillii)</i>                  |
| Flycatcher, southwestern willow           | <i>(Empidonax traillii extimus)</i>          |
| Gnatcatcher, coastal California           | <i>(Polioptila californica californica)</i>  |
| Goose, Aleutian Canada <b>(RECOVERED)</b> | <i>(Branta canadensis leucopareia)</i>       |
| Hawk, Swainson's                          | <i>(Buteo swainsoni)</i>                     |
| Murrelet, marbled                         | <i>(Brachyramphus marmoratus)</i>            |
| Owl, great gray                           | <i>(Strix nebulosa)</i>                      |
| Owl, northern spotted                     | <i>(Strix occidentalis caurina)</i>          |
| Owl, elf                                  | <i>(Micrathene whitneyi)</i>                 |
| Plover, mountain                          | <i>(Charadrius montanus)</i>                 |
| Plover, western snowy                     | <i>(Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus)</i>     |
| Rail, California black                    | <i>(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)</i> |

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Rail, California clapper        | <i>(Rallus longirostris obsoletus)</i>      |
| Rail, light-footed clapper      | <i>(Rallus longirostris levipes)</i>        |
| Rail, Yuma clapper              | <i>(Rallus longirostris yumanensis)</i>     |
| Shrike, San Clemente loggerhead | <i>(Lanius ludovicianus meamsi)</i>         |
| Sparrow, Belding's savannah     | <i>(Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi)</i> |
| Sparrow, San Clemente sage      | <i>(Amphispiza belli clementeae)</i>        |
| Swallow, bank                   | <i>(Riparia riparia)</i>                    |
| Tem, California least           | <i>(Sterna antillarum browni)</i>           |
| Towhee, Inyo California         | <i>(Pipilo crissalis eremophilus)</i>       |
| Vireo, Arizona Bell's           | <i>(Vireo bellii arizonae)</i>              |
| Vireo, least Bell's             | <i>(Vireo bellii pusillus)</i>              |
| Woodpecker, Gila                | <i>(Melanerpes uropygialis)</i>             |

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**From:** Olivia Villalobos [mailto:olivia.villalobos14@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 05, 2015 5:00 PM  
**To:** Mesa CPUC  
**Subject:** Mesa substation project

Sent on behalf of Samuel B Villalobos as evidence of lack of maintenance and blight. To be included in the review of the EIR CEQA document as a negative impact of the proposed 5KV substation project and the existing facility by proponent. This shows negligence and disregard for residents and homeowners of Montebello. Please call me at 323-722-0475.

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**From:** Joyce Kinnear  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2015 1:46:39 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Mesa CPUC  
**Cc:** 'berlin@susieberlinlaw.com'; 'Pushkar Wagle'; Barry Flynn ([brflynn@flynnrci.com](mailto:brflynn@flynnrci.com)); John Roukema  
**Subject:** Mesa Substation Project

Please accept these comments from Silicon Valley Power, the City of Santa Clara's publicly owned electric utility, on Southern California Edison's Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (Application No. 15-03-003) Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you.

**Joyce Kinnear** | Division Manager, Joint Powers Agencies  
City of Santa Clara Electric Department |  
1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050  
(408) 615-6656 (Office) | (Email: [jkinnear@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:jkinnear@santaclaraca.gov))

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## Comments on Southern California Edison’s Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (Application No. 15-03-003) Environmental Impact Report

| Submitted by   | Company  | Submitted to                          | Date Submitted      |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Joyce Kinnear: 408-615-6656, City of Santa Clara Electric Department, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050.</i> | <i>City of Santa Clara, dba Silicon Valley Power (SVP)</i> | <i>Lisa Orsaba: Mesa.CPUC@ene.com</i> | <i>July 6, 2015</i> |

Silicon Valley Power (SVP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Southern California Edison Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (Project).

SVP believes that two major topics should be discussed in the EIR regarding the Southern California Edison’s (SCE) Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (A.15-03-003). First, there should be a determination of whether SCE’s application for authority to construct the proposed Project, currently filed as a Permit to Construct (PTC), is sufficient for such a major project. Second, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CPUC must fully explore the “No Project” alternative.

**Sufficiency of a PTC for the Mesa Substation:** The Mesa 500-kV Substation Project application is filed as a PTC. The scope of this project exceeds that which is properly addressed in a PTC and requires the filing of a application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under General Order (GO) 131-D. The proposed project includes construction of the proposed Mesa 500 kV Substation and demolition of the existing Mesa Substation located within the City of Monterey Park as well as removal, relocation, modification, and/or construction of transmission<sup>1</sup>, sub-transmission, distribution, and telecommunications structures in Monterey Park, Montebello, Rosemead, South El Monte, Commerce, and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County. The proposed relocation and replacement of 230kV (Replace ~17 overhead structures) and 500 kV (Relocate ≤ 3 overhead structures) transmission lines are clearly in excess of a 200 kV transmission line segment, which, pursuant to GO 131-D section IX, subdivision (A),<sup>2</sup> requires that SCE’s application for authority to construct the proposed project must be presented as a CPCN application.

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<sup>1</sup> The Vincent – Mira Loma 500 kV, Laguna Bell – Rio Hondo 230 kV & Goodrich – Laguna Bell 230 kV lines will be looped into the expanded substation.

<sup>2</sup> An electric public utility desiring to build transmission line facilities in this state for immediate or eventual operation in excess of 200 kV shall file for a CPCN not less than 12 months prior to the date of a required decision by the Commission unless the Commission authorizes a shorter period because of exceptional circumstances.

The Commission has found that a PTC cannot be used to circumvent the CPCN process when there is a need for a complete review of a project and not just a review of environmental concerns.

In A.09-09-022 (Alberhill), the assigned Commissioner directed the docket office to change the caption of proceeding to provide for a CPCN in lieu of a PTC, and allowed SCE to amend its application to provide additional information. In doing so, the Ruling stated that:<sup>3</sup>

“Granted, the PTC procedure is more streamlined than the procedure required for a CPCN, as it is strictly limited to environmental review and does not address the need for and economic costs of the project [citation omitted] However, the reason for implementing the PTC procedure was that ‘under-200 kV projects pose little economic risk to ratepayers, and thus, absent the potential for environmental impacts and related [CEQA] obligations, would not otherwise trigger Commission pre construction review.’ [citation omitted] Again, that reasoning does not apply to the circumstances of this application, as this project involves over-200 kV facilities that are presumed to pose economic risk to ratepayers.”

Accordingly, in A.09-09-022, the caption of the proceeding was changed to reflect the proper scope of the requested authorization in the application as a CPCN under GO 131-D, section IX(A),<sup>4</sup> noting that the PTC procedure “focuses solely on environmental concerns, unlike the CPCN process which considers the need for and economic cost of a proposed facility.”<sup>5</sup> The AC Ruling found in A.09-09-022 that a project costing about \$380 million deserved an appropriate analysis of the need for that project provided under a CPCN procedure. Like the Alberhill System Project presented in A.09-09-022, the Mesa Substation Project includes specific components that require a CPCN, and which do not qualify for an exemption as a “minor relocation.” As such, the current application should be presented as a CPCN in order to ensure sufficient review of all relevant factors, including the need for and economic costs of the proposed project. If SCE’s Application were granted, the PTC procedure would prevent the Commission from reviewing the reasonableness of and justification for the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project costs of \$561 million<sup>6</sup> or more, which could clearly pose economic risk to ratepayers.

**Review of the “No Project” Alternative:** Several questions were raised regarding the need for the Mesa 500kV Substation Project during the California Independent System Operators (CAISO) 2013-14 Transmission Planning Process.<sup>7</sup> These questions range from disputed reliability issues in the SCE LA Basin area that could presumably be addressed by the Project to

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<sup>3</sup> Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling Directing Caption Modification, pp. 2-3, Application 09-09-022, March 3, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, citing (citing OIR re Transm’n Lines, D. 94-06-014, 55 CPUC2d 87, 101, 1994 Cal. PUC LEXIS 453, at \*32 (dated June 8, 1994)).

<sup>6</sup> Application Of Southern California Edison Company (U-338-E) For A Permit To Construct Electrical Substation Facilities With Voltage Above 50 kV: Mesa 500 kV Substation Project, March 13, 2015, p.5.

<sup>7</sup> Bay Area Municipal Transmission group (BAMx) comments on the CAISO Draft 2013-14 Transmission Plan, dated February 26, 2014, pp.2 and 6-7. See also Comments of the Office Of Ratepayer Advocates of the California Public Utilities Commission on the CAISO’s Draft 2013- 2014 Transmission Plan, pp. 5-6, and Comments of the California Public Utilities Commission Staff on the CAISO’s Draft 2013- 2014 Transmission Plan, pp. 2-4.

the cost-effectiveness of the Project relative to other generation and/or preferred resource solutions.<sup>8</sup> Given the questionable justifications for the Mesa 500kV Substation Project, SVP strongly supports a complete analysis of the “No Project” alternative in the EIR. In particular, in compliance with California’s loading order,<sup>9</sup> as part of the EIR process, the Commission must review the location of preferred resources in light of the Loading Order, including citing preferred resources at effective locations within the LA basin to eliminate the need for a \$561M transmission project needs to be thoroughly analyzed.

### **Conclusion**

SVP appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments to the Commission. It is imperative that the state’s electricity infrastructure provide safe and reliable electricity to the state’s homes and businesses. However, in doing so, it is critical that all proposed applications are presented to the Commission for complete review in a manner consistent with the Commission’s general orders and rules, and that the state’s ratepayers not be burdened with costs for facilities and projects that are not necessary.

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<sup>8</sup> “Preferred Resources” that meet the definition for energy efficiency, demand response, renewable resources, and clean distributed generation.

<sup>9</sup> The loading order consists of decreasing electricity demand by increasing energy efficiency and demand response, and meeting new generation needs first with renewable and distributed generation resources, and second with clean fossil-fueled generation. The loading order was adopted in the 2003 Energy Action Plan prepared by the energy agencies and the California Energy Commission’s 2003 Integrated Energy Policy Report (2003 Energy Report) used the loading order as the foundation for its recommended energy policies and decisions.

**California Public Utilities Commission  
Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California**

Public Meeting on the Draft EIR for the Proposed Mesa 500-kV Substation Project  
6:00 p.m., June 23, 2015

Reunión Pública del Proyecto Propuesto Mesa Substation, 6:00 p.m., 23 de junio de 2015.

Thank you for participating in tonight's public meeting. We would like to hear your comments.  
Gracias por su participación en la reunión pública esta noche. Queremos oír sus comentarios.

**Note:** Before including your address, telephone 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 may 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. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Nota:** Antes de añadir su dirección de postal, número de teléfono, dirección del correo electrónico, u otra información personal en su comentario, usted debe tomar en cuenta que su comentario entero, incluyendo identificación personal, pudiera estar disponible al público en cualquier momento. Aun cuando usted puede solicitarnos en su comentario que se mantenga su información de identificación personal como confidencial para la revisión pública, no podemos garantizar que estaremos en capacidad de hacerlo. Todos los comentarios de individuos que se identifiquen como representantes o funcionarios de organizaciones o empresas estarán completamente disponibles para inspección del público.

Name/Nombre: Samuel Villalobos

Affiliation/Organización: Homeowner Montebello

Phone/Teléfono: (323) 722-0475 Email/Correo electrónico: None

Address/Dirección: 428 Via Palermo  
Montebello, CA 90640

**COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS**

See attached letter of S. B. Villalobos  
dated April 13, 2015  
Subject: Request for Party Status

Filing of Project Opposing the Application  
For A Permit to Construct For the Mesa Substation  
Project

**Comments must be postmarked or received by July 5, 2015  
Los comentarios serán recibidos hasta el 5 de julio de 2015**

Send comments to/ Envíe sus comentarios a: Lisa Orsaba, California Public Utilities Commission  
Re: Mesa Substation Project, c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.,  
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111

Fax: (415) 398-5326 Project Voicemail/Línea de atención al usuario: 855-520-6799 (English) /844-538-6992 (Español)  
email/ Correo electrónico: MESA.CPUC@ene.com

April 13, 2015

Samuel B. Villalobos  
1428 Via Palermo  
Montebello, CA 90640-1834

California Public Utilities Commission  
Headquarters San Francisco Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

**SUBJECT:      REQUEST FOR PARTY STATUS  
                  FILING OF PROTEST OPPOSING THE APPLICATION  
                  FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT FOR THE MESA SUBSTATION PROJECT**

In keeping to Rule 2.6 Protest, Responses, and Replies of the California Public Utilities Commission's and in compliance with Rule 1.4. of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedures, subsections (a) (3) and (a) (4) herein I am respectfully documenting the filing a verbal motion submitted on Friday, April 10, 2015 on the CPUC Public Advisor in San Francisco telephone recording at its toll free telephone number 1-866-849-8391 objecting to the proposed Mesa Project application and requesting "Party Status" and in compliance with subsection (a) (4) of this rule I hereby also file a written motion objecting to the proposed Mesa Project and requesting "Party Status" recognition by the CPUC. As required please receive and file the following items:

**MOTION:** Objection to the application to construction the 50KV Substation in the City of Monterey Park, California, Los Angeles County on the grounds that the proposed construction will pose an adverse effect to the quality of life, impact the physical and psychological health of residential community members residing in the City Montebello and impose a negative impact on the economic value of existing residential properties located in near proximity to the proposed construction site of the proposed Mesa Station.

(1) Full Disclosure of person opposing the proposed Mesa Project application and making the verbal and written motion requesting "Party Status":

**PERSON:**

Samuel B. Villalobos, 1428 Via Palermo, Montebello, CA 90640  
(323) 722-0475

**INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS:**

- Adversely Impacted Property Owner
- Concerned City of Montebello Resident
- Owner Occupied Single Family Home
- Residential Land Use within 200 ft. of site

- Owner Occupied Two-Story Residential Structure
- Location: 1428 Via Palermo, Montebello, CA 90640-1834
- Consumer of California Public utilities
- Montebello Community Advocate for safe environment (Since 1979)

(2) Fact and legal contentions reasonably pertinent to the issues surrounding the application to construct the proposed 500 kV Mesa Substation Project are as follows:

- 1. Industrial Land-uses are not permitted in City of Monterey Park Commercial Land-use designation. The existing 220 kV substation will be upgraded to a new 500kV substation. The existing substation sits on 22-acres of an 84-acre parcel which is zoned commercial and the proposed project will use about 70-acres which are also zoned Commercial. Electrical Substation are not permit on the “Commercial” Land-use on the 70-acres site per City of Monterey Park Municipal Code (See excerpt below)

**Monterey Park Municipal Code**  
**21.10.030 Land Use Regulations.**

**Table 21.10(A)**

**Permitted Uses in Commercial Zones**

*Legend:*

- A As an accessory use only*
- C Permitted subject to approval of a conditional use permit*
- L Permitted subject to limitations or special standards as described in Section 21.10.040*
- P Permitted*
- S Permitted only on second floor or above*
- X Expressly prohibited*

| <b>Land Uses</b>          |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Additional/Accessory Uses | N-S | S-C | C-B | R-S | C-S | C-P |
| Public Utility Substation | X   | X   | X   | P   | P   | X   |

- 2. Non-compatible Land-Uses

The application for the construction of a 500 kV Substation is non-compatible to the adjacent Residential Land-uses existing in Montebello to the south of the proposed

Mesa Substation site. The Montebello Hills planned development that was constructed by the Ahmanson Corporation beginning 1977 through 1980 included single-family homes on Via Palermo, Montebello, California above the 60 Freeway and overlooking neighboring landscape grower businesses along Potrero Grande Drive in the City of Monterey Park, the residential communities on the hillsides of the City of Monterey Park and the view of the majestic San Gabriel Mountains in the far distance. The threat of the proposed industrial utilization of the 70-acres will impose adverse blighting conditions 200 feet from our home located at 1428 Via Palermo. The visual impact of the proposed 500 KV Mesa Substation nor power transfer tower have been nonexistent since we acquired our home in 1979.

- 3. Electric Magnetic Field (EMF) Compliance

In 1997 Germany became the first nation to adopt a national rule on EMF exposure for the general public. "Ordinance 26 applies only to facilities such as overhead and underground transmission and distribution lines, transformers, switchgear and overhead lines for electric -powered trains. Both electric 5 kV/m and magnetic field exposure limits 91 Gauss) are high enough that they are unlikely to be encountered in ordinary life. The ordinance also requires that precaution measures be taken on a case-by-case basis when electric facilities are sited or upgraded near homes, hospitals, schools, day care centers, and playgrounds. " (Source EMF Electric Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, NIEHS/ National Institute of Health June 2002 page 55) *"Is there an association between measured fields and child Leukemia? Yes,..."* (Source EMF Electric Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, NIEHS/ National Institute of Health June 2002 page 16) I simply stated do not want to run any risk of know or unknown Health Risk that 24/7 exposure to 500 kV substation will generate. The proposed mitigation measures for the Mesa station are the sufficient protection measures. The alternative to construct the Mesa Station away from the Montebello Hills Homes and Schurr High School in Montebello. Alternative sites have not be explored such as in the Whittier Narrows area or on proponents own land in Rosemead California at their headquarters on Walnut in Rosemead. The response that the proponent's representative provides is that Whittier Narrows would pose harm to flora and fona and that the parcel on Walnut in Rosemead has four existing buildings would expose to office staff to the daily operation of the proposed Mesa substation.

- 4. Schurr High School

Schurr High school student body is located on Wilcox Avenue in Montebello, CA and the existing power lines (220kV) run generally overhead along the northerly boundary of the campus. Administrators, Faculty, Para-professional staff and student are at the school site generally from 6:00 a. m. to 9:00 p.m. daily Monday through Friday and at times on Saturdays. EMF health risk should not taken by approving the proposed 500kV substation. The burden and responsibility for the EMF Health Risks Studies are with the proponent and the CPUC. The project review should not exclude communication with the students and their parents, faculty, staff and Montebello School District Administrators,

### Adverse Economic Impact

In consultation with a Real Estate Agent located in Arcadia California, the permitting and construction of a 500 KV substation at the proposed Potrero Grande site will result in an diminish valuation of real estate prices for the Home in the Montebello Hills. Home Comp Value current range upward than \$675,000 and home with enhanced amenities are price higher than I million dollars. The Proponent has failed to provide a relocation plan in the event that their proposal would clear all levels of Environmental review.

### Environmental Review

The proposed development will threated the drying out of the Potrero Grande Arroyo (water cree) a San Gabriel Valley historical preserve and water artery of the Rio Hondo River. This warrant a full EIR.

Sincerely,

Samuel B. Villalobos

