



# California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

## FACT SHEET

July 24, 2008

Docket #: A.08-05-039

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## San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop 220 kV Transmission Line Project

### Background

On May 30, 2008, Southern California Edison (Edison) filed Application No. 08-05-039 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The application seeks authorization from the CPUC for Edison to construct a 20 mile long double circuit 220-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The proposed construction would involve placing approximately 1 mile of the line in existing right-of-way (ROW) and approximately 19 miles of the line in new ROW. Edison refers to this line as the “San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Project” (SJXVL).

Edison is proposing the line to deliver additional power from Edison’s Big Creek hydroelectric facilities in the Sierra Nevada Mountains into its Rector Substation in the City of Visalia, Tulare County. Edison’s application explains that Tulare County is one of the fastest growing regions in California. Edison claims that this increased growth has resulted in an increased demand for electricity and that the existing transmission lines will be unable to deliver sufficient electricity to safely and reliably serve this increased demand.



## **Role of the CPUC**

In order to construct the SJXVL, Edison must receive CPUC authorization, referred to as a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a “CPCN.” Before the CPUC can grant a CPCN, it must: (1) conduct an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and (2) review the need for the project in light of its economic, environmental, and societal costs. At the conclusion of the environmental review, the CPUC’s Environmental Review Team will submit a Final Environmental Impact Report into the record of the proceeding. Based on the environmental review and the need determination considered in the formal part of the CPCN proceeding, the CPUC may approve Edison’s proposed project, an alternate project, or no project.

Public input about the proposed project is vital. The CPUC will hold public workshops in the San Joaquin Valley area to obtain the community’s comments and recommendations regarding the proposed project and to explain the CEQA process. The CPUC will also consult with various local, state, and federal agencies to determine their concerns and encourage their involvement in the project development process.

Based on the public comments and information collected from the meetings and in-the-field environmental studies, the CPUC will prepare an analysis known as a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will identify the “environmentally superior” alternative from the range of project alternatives. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be circulated to the public for 45 days of review and comment. During this period, the CPUC will once again hold several community meetings in the project area to obtain public comments.

Comments and recommendations from the public will then be addressed and incorporated into a document known as a Final Environmental Impact Report. This final document will then be forwarded to the CPUC Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case, who will incorporate the major findings and mitigation measures identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report into a draft CPUC decision. The draft decision will then



be circulated for 30 days to all parties to the proceeding. Commissioners of the CPUC may then vote on the proposed decision in a public meeting.

**Timeline - dates are approximate and subject to change:**

Public workshops in the affected area to explain the CEQA/CPCN process to the public. This meeting is for informational purposes only.	August 11- 12, 2008
Scoping meetings in the project area to discuss the scope of the project and solicit comments.	September 2008
Draft Environmental Impact Report circulated for agency and public comment.	January 2009
Public meetings in the project area to give the public a chance to comment on the project.	February 2009
Consider and respond to comments, publish Final Environmental Impact Report	April 2009
CPUC considers approval/disapproval of the Project	May 2009

For more information, including a copy of Edison’s application, a map showing the proposed and alternate routes of the transmission line, as well as additional links to information regarding the CPUC’s transmission line permitting process, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/sjxvl/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/sjxvl/index.html).

Formal filings and rulings regarding this proceeding are available at <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Published/proceedings/A0805039.htm>.

