

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



**To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners
& Interested Parties**

From: Tommy Alexander, CPUC Project Manager

**Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
(MND)
Manning 500/230 kV Substation Project (A-24-06-017)**

Date: March 19, 2025

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Proposed IS/MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of LS Power Grid California, LLC's (LSPGC's) application (A-24-06-017). The application is to construct and operate the new Manning Substation and a new approximately 11.5-mile overhead double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would extend from the proposed Manning Substation to interconnect with Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) existing Tranquillity Switching Station. The project would also include interconnections, reconductoring, and related modification of PG&E's existing transmission lines and related facilities. The Proposed IS/MND describes the project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the project's construction, operation, and maintenance; identifies impacts that could be significant; and presents measures that, if adopted by the CPUC, would reduce these impacts.

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed project would be located in unincorporated Fresno County on and surrounded by agricultural lands with existing transmission infrastructure. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve and maintain the reliability of the transmission grid and increase the ability to deliver renewable power. The proposed project includes the construction and operation of the proposed LSPGC Manning Substation. The project also includes a new LSPGC 230 kV transmission line, connecting the proposed Manning Substation to PG&E's existing Tranquillity Switching Station. Further, the proposed Manning Substation would connect to PG&E's existing Los Banos-Midway #2 500 kV and Los Banos-Gates #1 500 kV transmission lines. In addition, the project would connect PG&E's existing Panoche-Tranquillity Switching Station #1 and #2 230 kV transmission lines, to the proposed Manning Substation. An existing PG&E 12 kV distribution line would be extended to the proposed Manning Substation to provide a temporary power source during construction, backup power for LSPGC during operations and management, and permanent power to PG&E's IT facility/communications building.

To support the connection of the Manning Substation to PG&E's electrical system, structure raises and installation of transposition structures (i.e., where the relative positions of the conductors of the transmission lines are swapped at specific intervals) would occur along PG&E's existing lines, and short segments of PG&E's existing lines would be re-routed. In addition, modifications and upgrades would be required at the Panoche Energy Center; PG&E's existing Tranquillity and Las Aguilas switching stations; and PG&E's existing Panoche, Los Banos, Gates, and Midway substations.

None of the project components would be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Public Comment on the Proposed IS/MND

The Proposed IS/MND is available for a 30-day public comment period that begins on **March 19, 2025** and ends on **April 18, 2025**. Please provide comments on the Proposed IS/MND by **April 18, 2025**.

Written comments on the Proposed IS/MND should be emailed or mailed to:

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Sacramento, CA 95814
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Availability of Proposed IS/MND

Copies of the Proposed IS/MND and project information are available for public review on the CPUC's project website:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ascent/manning/index.html>

To request printed copies of the Proposed IS/MND, please email manning@ascent.inc.