

CPUC A.24-11-005 Proceeding

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

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

CEQA Scoping Meeting

California Public Utilities Commission,
Energy Division



California Public
Utilities Commission

March 13, 2025



*Please note that this meeting will be recorded

Meeting Guidelines

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

Scoping Meeting Agenda

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



Introductions

State Lead Agency (CEQA):

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

CEQA Consultant:

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

Project Applicant:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)



Purpose of this Meeting



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

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

Your ideas are welcome and invited!

What is Scoping?

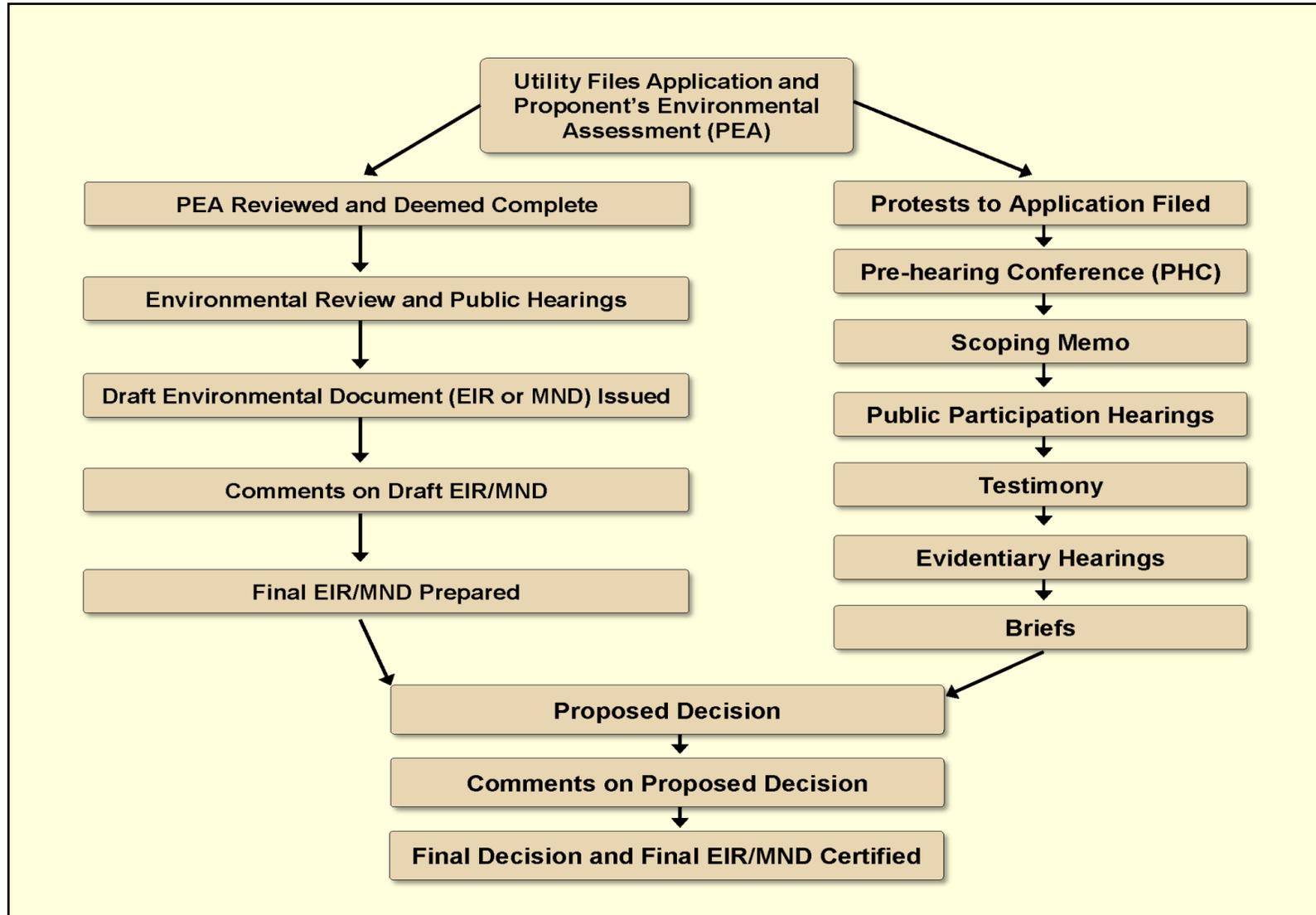
- Scoping is the process of soliciting public and agency input regarding the scope and content of an EIR, in advance of its preparation.
- CPUC is requesting comments to inform the scope and content of the EIR and help identify the project actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation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

Role of California Public Utilities Commission

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

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

CPUC Process (Generalized)



CEQA Overview

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

CEQA EIR Process



MOX Project Location

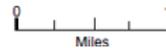
- Alameda County
 - Cities of Oakland & Piedmont
- Contra Costa County
 - Unincorporated County
 - City of Orinda

Legend

- Substation
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- State Route/Highway
- Arterial
- Local Street
- Project Components**
 - Four Existing Overhead 115 kV Lines to be Rebuilt in Same Overhead Configuration
 - Four New Underground 115 kV Lines
 - Four Existing Overhead 115 kV Lines to be Removed
- East Bay Regional Park District
- EBMUD Property
- Other Park or Recreation Area
- County Boundary
- City of Berkeley
- City of Moraga
- City of Lafayette
- City of Oakland
- City of Orinda
- City of Piedmont

Moraga-Oakland X 115 kV Rebuild Project

Proposed by
Pacific Gas & Electric Company



Proposed Project Purpose

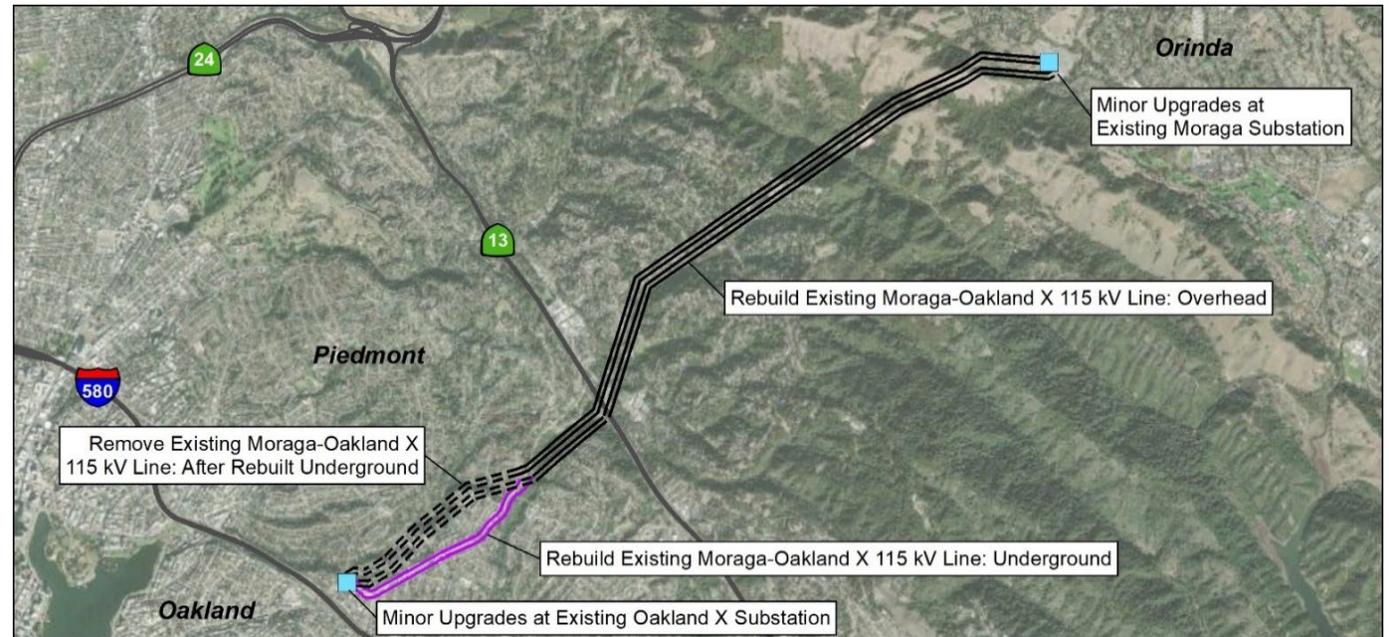
Purpose: Replace existing power line equipment that has reached the end of its useful life for safe operation of the lines.

The basic objectives of the MOX Project are to:

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

Project Summary

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



CEQA: Environmental Resource Areas

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

For Each Resource Area, the EIR will ...

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



CEQA: Project Alternatives

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

To Get Involved in the CEQA Process

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

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

How to Submit a Scoping Comment

E-mail: MOX@aspenerg.com

Address to: Tharon Wright, CPUC

Subject line: Moraga-Oakland X Project

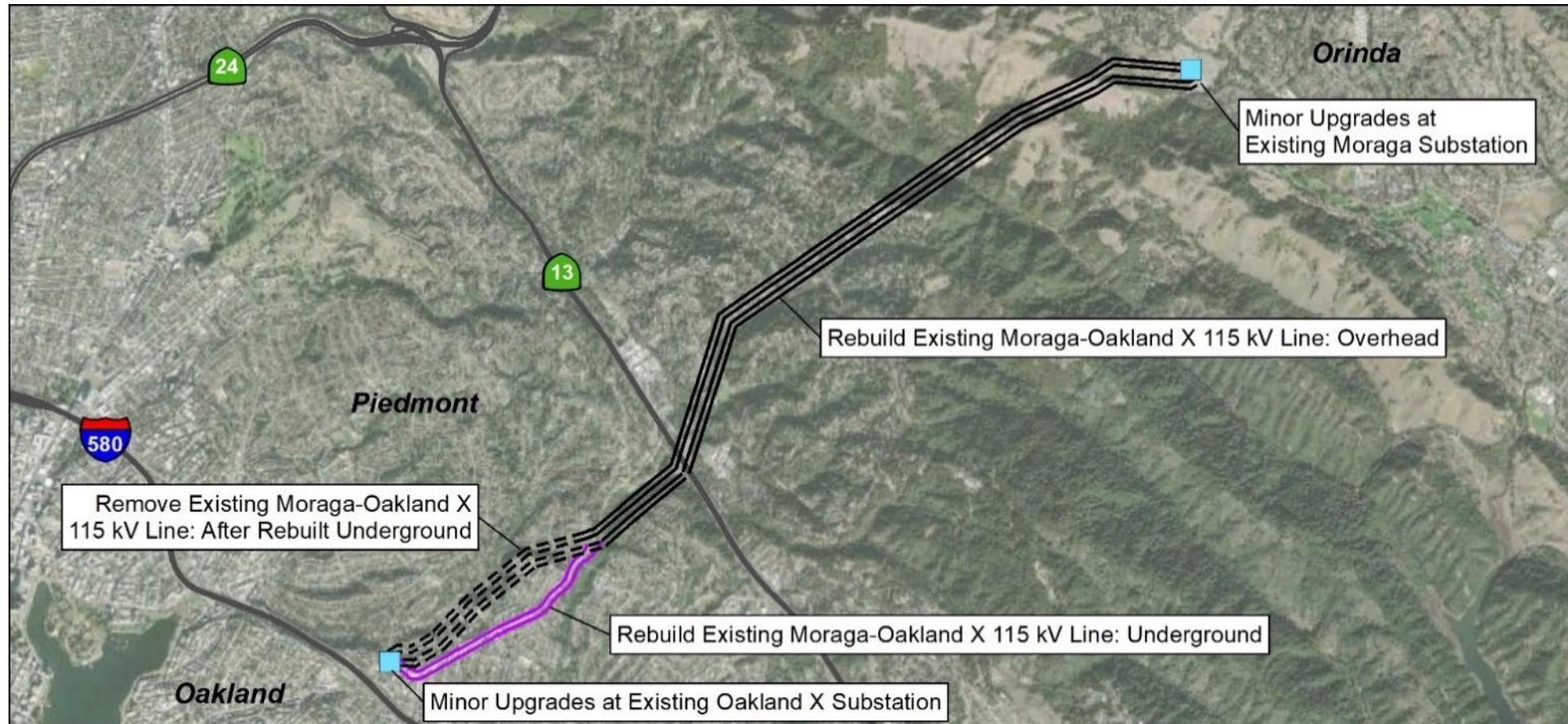
Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on all comments.

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

Project Webpage:

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

Public Comments



Discussion Guidelines

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



Public Comments

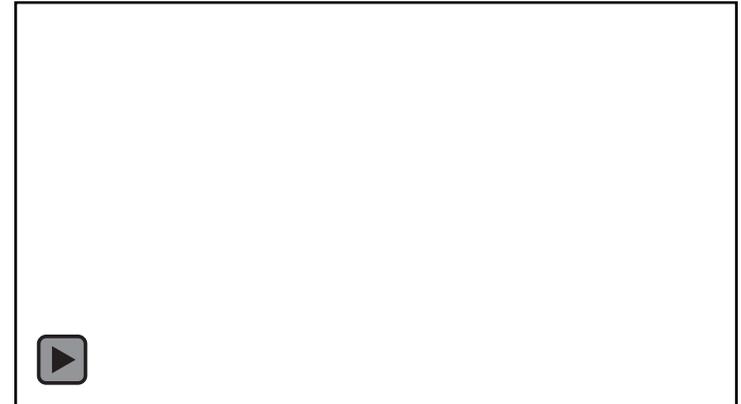
Via the Zoom Platform

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



By Telephone

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



Thank you for joining!

E-mail: MOX@aspeneg.com

Address to: Tharon Wright, CPUC

Subject line: Moraga-Oakland X Project



Scoping comments will be accepted through March 27, 2025

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

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

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