Project Information

Contact Information

For more information about the project, the environmental review process, or to get on the project mailing list, please call the **Project Hotline at (408) 351-8858** (you may leave a voice message or send a fax to this number).

You may also send an email to the EIR team:
nesanjo@aspeneg.com

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Everyone receiving this newsletter will be notified when the Draft EIR is released. Public meetings will be held to record written and verbal comments on the Draft EIR, and written comments. Details on this process will be mailed in June 2000.

Internet Website

All are encouraged to check out the project website for information regarding the project. Project documents are also available on the website for viewing or downloading.
http://cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/nesanjo.htm

Project Documents

The locations listed below have information on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, including project documents such as the Notice of Preparation of the EIR, the Initial Study, and the Scoping Report.

Fremont Public Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd.
Fremont, CA
Tel: (510) 745-1400

Alviso Branch Library
5050 North First Street
Alviso, CA
Tel: (408) 263-3626

Milpitas Community Library
40 North Milpitas Blvd.
Milpitas, CA
Tel: (408) 262-1172

Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Library
180 West San Carlos Street
San Jose, CA
Tel: (408) 277-4815

CPUC Central Files
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA
Tel: (415) 703-2045

California **P**ublic **U**tilities **C**ommission
Attention: Judith Iklé
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 968
San Francisco, CA 94104

California Public Utilities Commission

Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project

April 2000

Draft Environmental Impact Report Being Prepared

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project. The Draft EIR, expected to be released in June of this year, will analyze the potential environmental impacts of a proposed 7.3-mile-long 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, construction of a new substation, and upgrading of existing power lines. The map on pages 2 and 3 shows the location of the project components and their alternatives.

PG&E's existing transmission line corridor in the City of Fremont

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) applied to the CPUC in July 1998 for a permit to construct a transmission line and associated facilities. The permit is called a "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" (CPCN). However, due to permitting concerns related to crossing the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, PG&E withdrew that application in May 1999. In September 1999, PG&E re-submitted its application with a different proposed transmission line route.

The CPUC is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR will be prepared by the CPUC and its consultants, following CEQA's requirements. The CPUC is also reviewing PG&E's application for a CPCN under its General Proceeding decision-making process. The CEQA analysis provides information for the CPUC to use in deciding whether to approve PG&E's application.

Under the guidelines of CEQA, the CPUC will analyze the project for impacts to land uses, recreation, visual resources, water and air quality, traffic, wetlands, endangered species, public health and safety, noise, cultural resources, and other issue areas.

The CPUC's Draft EIR will include a detailed description of the project and an independent evaluation of the environmental impacts that could result from construction and operation. In addition, the EIR will suggest mitigation measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts.

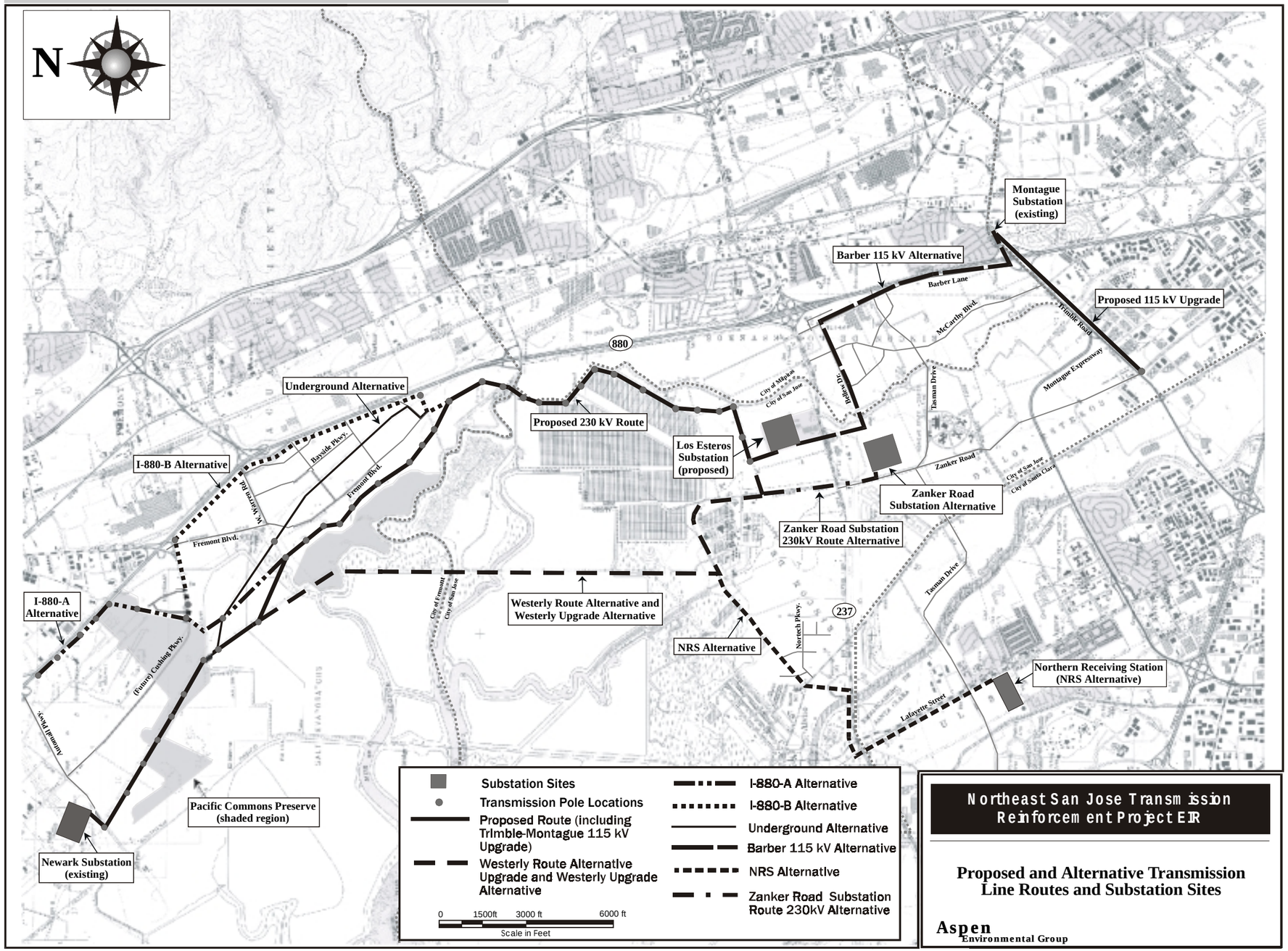
The EIR will also include analysis of alternatives to PG&E's project. As required by CEQA, feasible alternatives must be developed that would eliminate some of the significant impacts of the proposed project. The CPUC's EIR team has been studying potential alternatives; these alternatives are described in more detail on pages 2 and 3.

Contents of this Newsletter

Looking Ahead...
June 2000: Expected Release of Draft EIR
October 2000: Expected Release of Final EIR

CPUC Evaluates Alternatives

The first step in the evaluation of alternatives is a screening process during which the EIR team studies a wide range of potential alternatives. These alternatives to the proposed Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project include other transmission line routes, other substation sites, and alternative methods of providing electricity to the area, such as local generation. The EIR team evaluates each alternative using the following criteria: 1) Potential for provision of clear environmental advantages over the proposed project, 2) Technical and regulatory feasibility, and 3) Consistency with PG&E's objectives and with public policy objectives. The proposed project (including the 230kV transmission line, the Los Esteros Substation, and the Trimble-Montague 115kV Upgrade) is shown the map at below (note that "north" is to the left). Alternatives that met the above criteria are also shown on the map. These alternatives include:



Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project EIR

Proposed and Alternative Transmission Line Routes and Substation Sites

Aspen Environmental Group

I-880-A Alternative: This alternative would replace the first 2.7 miles of the proposed transmission line route. It would not start at the Newark Substation, but about a mile east of the substation at a tap off PG&E's existing Newark-Metcalf 230kV line just south of Automall Parkway. It would then follow the west side of I-880 (along the eastern edge of soon-to-be-created Pacific Commons Preserve), then turn southwest behind Northport Loop West. This alternative would re-connect with the proposed transmission line route in the salt ponds south of Cushing Parkway.

I-880-B Alternative: This alternative would replace the first 4.3 miles of the proposed transmission line route, following the same route as the I-880-A Alternative above to Cushing Parkway, then turning east on Cushing Parkway. The line would follow Cushing Parkway on the south side of the street, turning south at I-880 and following the west side of the freeway through the Bayside Business Park, re-connecting with the proposed transmission line route just south of the business park.

Underground Through Business Park Alternative: This alternative would replace 2.3 miles of the proposed transmission line route where it runs along the western edge of the Bayside Business Park. The underground route through the business park would follow the route of PG&E's existing 115kV lines, re-joining the proposed route immediately south of the business park.

Westerly Route Alternative: This 7.0 mile long transmission line alternative would use the same route as the proposed route for the northernmost 2.2 miles. It would then continue south, following the two existing 115kV lines through salt ponds and 1.3 miles of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and turn east at the south end into the Proposed Los Esteros Substation.

Westerly Route Upgrade Alternative: This alternative would follow the same route as the Westerly Route Alternative, but it would involve a different electrical structure. The two existing 115kV lines would be removed and replaced with two 230kV lines, only one of which would initially be energized at 230kV. This alternative is presented in two phases, with the second phase (beyond the scope of this project) to be constructed in the future when demand requires it. The second phase would require a second 230kV substation located at the Northern Receiving Station site in the City of Santa Clara.

115kV Component Alternatives: The proposed project includes the upgrading of a segment of an existing 115kV line that will connect the Los Esteros Substation with the Montague Substation. The route would be along Trimble Road and Montague Expressway, between Zanker Road and the Montague Substation (just east of I-880). Two alternatives to this project segment will be considered: (a) installing the line underground along the same route as proposed, and (b) a route from the Proposed Los Esteros Substation, south across Highway 237, east along Technology/ Bellew Drive, and south on Barber Lane to the existing Montague Substation.

Substation Site Alternatives: Two alternative substation sites (and associated 230kV transmission line routes) will be studied in the EIR. The first is the **Zanker Road Substation Alternative**, located just south of Highway 237 on the east side of Zanker Road. The second is the **Northern Receiving Station Alternative**, located on Lafayette Street about a mile south of Highway 237. Each of these alternatives would require a longer 230kV transmission line than the proposed project.