

## A. INTRODUCTION

### A.1 CONTENTS OF THE FINAL EIR

This document constitutes the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project (the Proposed Project) proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E Co.). The Final EIR is organized as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Introduction</li> <li>B. Project and Alternatives Description</li> <li>C. Environmental Analysis</li> <li>D. Comparison of Alternatives</li> <li>E. Other CEQA Considerations</li> <li>F. Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</li> <li>G. Public Involvement</li> <li>H. Responses to Comments</li> <li>I. Landowner Comments and Responses</li> </ul> <p>Appendices:     1: Notice of Release of Draft EIR                       2: Comments on Draft EIR</p>
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CEQA Guidelines (§15132) specify the required contents of a Final EIR. Table A-1 shows how this Final EIR complies with those requirements.

**Table A-1 Contents of Final EIR**

CEQA Guidelines (§15132) Require that the Final EIR include:	Final EIR Contents
(a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft.	The Draft EIR is incorporated by reference into this Final EIR, but the bulk of the analysis included in the Draft EIR will not be re-printed.
(b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary.	All comments are reproduced in their entirety in Appendix 2 (Draft EIR comments).
(c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.	Table H-1 list all persons, organizations, and public agencies who commented on the Draft EIR.
(d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.	Sections H.1 through H.5 present the responses to all comments on the Draft EIR.
(e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.	Final EIR Sections B through D are presented by the CPUC to present additional background information and to reconsider the comparison of alternatives. Section C.5 describes the changes made to the Draft EIR. Section F is provided to document the final Mitigation Measures and the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Program, and Section G summarizes the public involvement program carried out for this EIR.

## A.2 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

This Final EIR has been prepared for the CPUC pursuant to the *California Environmental Quality Act* (Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (Section 15000 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations). The *Guidelines* stipulate that an EIR must be prepared for any project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The proposal under consideration, the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project, is a “project” as defined by Section 15180 of the *Guidelines*. Upon initial review, the CPUC determined that the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, the preparation of an EIR was required.

## A.3 HISTORY OF CEQA ANALYSIS OF THIS PROJECT

The CEQA analysis of the proposed Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project began with issuance of a Notice of Preparation in April of 2000. The Draft EIR was issued in late December 2000 and consisted of approximately 800 pages, including a detailed analysis of impacts in 11 environmental disciplines. A summary of public involvement opportunities during the CEQA process is presented in Section G. Comments received on the Draft EIR are reproduced in this Final EIR (Appendix 2). Responses to all comments are presented in Section H.

## A.4 CPUC DECISION PROCESS

The CPUC’s General Proceeding, of which CEQA compliance is only one part, started when PG&E Co. submitted its application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) in November of 1999 (A.99-11-025). In this proceeding, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ Michelle Cooke) has held hearings and listened to testimony of parties with an interest in the case. These hearings and testimonies took place in February and March of 2001. At their conclusion, and after issuance of the Final EIR, the ALJ will draft a Proposed Decision addressing several key issues, including: (1) the need for the proposed project; (2) whether this EIR (including the Draft EIR) should be certified as adequate under CEQA (“EIR certification”); and (3) whether the project as proposed, or with alternatives as analyzed in the EIR, should be approved by the CPUC, and if so, with what conditions or mitigation measures.

The Proposed Decision on the project will be submitted to the entire five-member Commission and the Commission will vote on the project during a public meeting. This CPUC meeting and Decision are expected to take place in summer 2001. The CPUC’s Internet Home Page lists Commission meeting agendas: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>.