

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This document constitutes the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E Co.). The information contained in this document is based on the Draft EIR (published in December 2000), and presents responses to comments received on that document. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will base its decision on the proposed transmission project on this Final EIR, the Draft EIR document, and the evidentiary record developed during formal hearings on PG&E Co.'s Application. There is no comment period after issuance of the Final EIR as part of the CEQA process.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

The components of the Proposed Project are presented in four sections, one for each of the three major geographic areas of the project (Pleasanton, Dublin/San Ramon, and North Livermore), and one for the second phase of PG&E Co.'s Proposed Project (Phase 2), which is not immediately needed. Note that alternatives to the Proposed Project are described in this same order. Areas within the project region are also referenced as the "South Area" (Pleasanton) and "North Area" (North Livermore, Dublin/San Ramon, and Proposed Phase 2). The major elements of the Proposed Project include:

Pleasanton Area:

- Modification of the existing Vineyard Substation (in Pleasanton) to include a 230 kV transmission interconnection.
- Installation of 2.8 miles of new 230 kV overhead double-circuit transmission line and 2.7 miles of 230 kV underground double-circuit transmission line to serve the Vineyard Substation, and a transition structure to convert the 230 kV overhead transmission line to an underground cable system.

North Livermore Area:

- Construction of a proposed North Livermore Substation, located three miles north of Interstate 580 at the intersection of May School Road and North Livermore Avenue.

Dublin/San Ramon Area:

- Construction of a proposed Dublin Substation, located three miles north of Interstate 580 and one mile east of Tassajara Road in Contra Costa County.

North Livermore and Dublin/San Ramon Areas:

- Installation of 7.9 miles of new 230 kV overhead double-circuit transmission line in PG&E Co.'s existing vacant easement to serve the Dublin and North Livermore substations.

Phase 2 (North Livermore to Tesla):

- Construction of approximately 10 miles of new 230 kV double-circuit transmission line in PG&E Co.'s existing vacant easement from the Contra Costa-Newark 230 kV line southeast to the Tesla Substation. This would connect the Dublin and North Livermore Substations directly to the Tesla Substation but would not be required until the Phase 1 connection to the Contra-Costa Newark 230 kV line becomes overloaded.

Alternatives have been considered for each of the major project components, as shown in Table ES-1. These alternatives are described and evaluated in detail in Section B of the Draft EIR (December 2000), and modifications to certain alternatives are described in Section B of this Final EIR.

Table ES-1 Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Project Component	Alternatives
Phase 1: 230 kV Transmission Line and Substations	<p>Pleasanton Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Route and Vineyard Substation Modification • S1 (Vineyard-Isabel) Alternative • S2 (Vineyard Avenue) Alternative (with S2A Modification) • S4 (Eastern Open Space) Alternative • S5 (Quarry Route) Alternative <p>Dublin/San Ramon Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Route and New Dublin Substation • D1 (South Dublin) Alternative and D1 Substation • D2 (San Ramon) Alternative with Proposed Dublin Substation <p>North Livermore Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Route and New North Livermore Area Substation • L1 (Raymond Road) Alternative and L1 Substation • L2 (Hartman Road) Alternative and L2 Substation
Phase 2 (Tesla Connection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Phase 2 Route to Tesla Substation • Stanislaus Corridor Alternative to Tesla Substation • Switching Station Alternative

3. AREAS OF CONTROVERSY

The areas of controversy for the Proposed Project and alternatives have included the following concerns and environmental issues:

- The potential for project construction and operation to affect residential areas, especially in the Cities of Pleasanton and Livermore. Major concerns relate to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), visual impacts, construction impacts, and the use of relatively new solid dielectric cable technology at the 230 kV level.
- The potential visual and land use impacts of the Proposed Project (particularly in the North Livermore area) and of alternatives (in Livermore's Isabel Avenue area and the vineyard areas south of Livermore).
- The location of the D1 (South Dublin) Alternative amidst commercial land uses.

Each of these concerns is addressed in detail in the responses to comments on the Draft EIR (Section H of the Final EIR).

4. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

CEQA requires that an EIR present a conclusion regarding the "environmentally superior alternative." Table ES-2 identifies the environmentally superior alternative for each area of the project. Figure ES-1 illustrates the environmentally superior project components, as well as the proposed route and alternatives that have been considered through the CEQA process for purposes of evaluating the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project. Detailed environmental analysis of these project components is presented in the Draft EIR in Section C and in Section C of this Final EIR.

The Environmentally Superior Alternatives would involve a total of 2.3 miles of overhead transmission line and about 6.7 miles of underground. These mileage totals assume that no project components would be constructed for the North Livermore Area or for Phase 2, because for those two project components, the No Project Alternative is considered to be Environmentally Superior.

Table ES-2 Environmentally Superior Project Components

Phase 1 Transmission Lines and Substations
Pleasanton Area: S2A Alternative to New Vineyard Avenue, then <i>either</i> the S5 Quarry Route or the S2 Underground Route to Vineyard Substation
Dublin/San Ramon Area: D1 South Dublin Alternative to South Dublin Substation
North Livermore Area: No Project Alternative is considered to be environmentally superior. Of the "build" alternatives, the P3 Alternative (as modified in this Final EIR) is environmentally superior.
Phase 2 (Tesla Connection)
The No Project Alternative is considered to be environmentally superior for Phase 2. Of the "build" alternatives, the Switching Station Alternative (at the southern terminus of the S2A route) is environmentally superior.

5. IMPACT SUMMARY TABLES

The Impact Summary Tables that follow are complete, condensed presentation of the significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures for the proposed Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project and project alternatives. The complete environmental analyses, along with the recommended mitigation measures for the Proposed Project and for each of the alternatives, are set out fully in Part C of the Draft and Final EIRs.

The Impact Summary Tables are organized first according to impact class (separate tables are presented for Class I, Class II, and Class III impacts). Within each class, impacts are presented according to environmental issue area in the same order as presented in Part C of the Draft EIR and in Section 5 of this Executive Summary. Reading from left to right across the tables, (1) each impact is described briefly, (2) the phase of the project life in which the impact would occur is given (pre-construction, construction, or operation), and (3) the mitigation measure is presented. When no mitigation measure is specified, this is indicated. In-depth discussion of the three summary areas on the tables is located within Part C of the Draft EIR.

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Figure ES-1 – Environmentally Superior Project
page 1 (color, 8.5x11)

Figure ES-1 page 2 (color, 8.5x11)

Insert Executive Summary Tables

