

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

G.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the scoping and public participation program completed by the CPUC before issuance of the Final EIR.

G.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

This section summarizes the CPUC's program of public notice and participation to maximize agency and public input for the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project environmental review process.

G.2.1 EIR SCOPING PROCESS

The scoping process for the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project EIR consisted of five elements:

- (1) Publication of a Notice of Preparation of an EIR (NOP) and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings soliciting comments from affected public agencies, as required by CEQA, as well as from the public
- (2) Public scoping meetings and meetings with agencies
- (3) Summarization of scoping comments in a Scoping Report
- (4) Distribution of the Scoping Report and scoping comments as appropriate to the commenting agencies, scoping meeting attendees, the EIR team members for use in work planning and impact analysis, and to public libraries designated as project repository sites for members of the public interested in reviewing the report and comments
- (5) Establishment of an Internet web site, electronic mail address, a telephone hotline, and local EIR Information Repositories.

G.2.1.1 Notice of Preparation

The CPUC issued the NOP on April 21, 2000 and distributed it to the State Clearinghouse and city, county, state and federal agencies, affected state and federal legislators, and local elected officials. There was a 30-day legally required period for interested parties to submit comments regarding the content of the EIR. There were approximately 180 copies of the NOP mailed out and approximately 250 additional copies distributed at the scoping meetings. A copy of the NOP is available in the Scoping Report, which may be viewed at the EIR Information Repositories and on the Internet, as described in Section G.2.4.

G.2.1.2 Scoping Meetings

Three public scoping meetings were conducted as part of the EIR scoping process to receive input regarding the scope and content of this EIR, as well as alternatives and mitigation measures which should be considered. The following scoping meetings were held prior to selection of alternatives to be studied and conduct of the analysis documented in this EIR:

- May 8, 2000 at 2:30 pm at the Dublin Branch of the Alameda County Public Library, Dublin (20 attendees).
- May 8, 2000 at 7:00 pm at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, Livermore (about 40 attendees).
- May 9, 2000 at 7:00 pm at the Pleasanton Public Library, Pleasanton (about 170 attendees).

G.2.1.3 Scoping Report

In July 2000, a scoping report was issued summarizing issues and concerns received from the public and various agencies. This report was made available for review at the five repositories and on the Internet as listed in Section G.2.4, and mailed to those agencies and individuals who registered at the scoping meetings or requested copies.

G.2.2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

G.2.2.1 Notification for Scoping Meetings

About ten days before the scoping meetings, the Notice of Scoping Meeting was mailed to over 1,100 individuals, groups and government agencies identified for the initial EIR mailing list, based on PG&E Co.'s list of property owners located on or near the route of its Proposed Project, as well as groups and individuals with a vital interest in the Proposed Project compiled by the EIR Team.

The dates, times and locations of the three scoping meetings were included in the NOP mailed to affected agencies and other parties interested in the CPUC's General Proceeding for PG&E Co.'s application, about two weeks in advance of the meetings. This information was also posted on the CPUC's project website and on the project hotline.

Several days prior to the scoping meetings, quarter-page ads were published in two newspapers in the project area, as follows:

- The Tri-Valley Herald (May 3rd and 4th, 2000)
- Alameda Times-Star (May 3rd and 4th, 2000)

G.2.2.2 Newsletter

A newsletter was distributed in early November 2000 to describe the EIR process and the alternatives selected for detailed analysis in the Draft EIR. The mailing list for this newsletter numbered over 11,000, and included postal carrier routes near the Proposed Project and the alternatives selected for study in the EIR, as well as those added to the mailing list since the mailing of the Scoping Meeting Notice (including those registering at the Scoping Meetings, written commenters during scoping, and requests received via e-mail, telephone/facsimile or postal mail.

G.2.2.3 Notice of Release of Draft EIR

A Notice of Release of the Draft EIR was mailed to the project mailing list on December 15, 2000. The notification included the dates and times for the informational meetings and public participation hearings. A newspaper notice was also published to announce the release of the Draft EIR; following is a list of newspapers and the dates that the notices appeared:

- Alameda Times-Star (January 3rd and 18th, 2001)
- Tri-Valley Herald (January 3rd and 18th, 2001)

G.2.2.4 Public Participation Hearings Correction Postcard

An additional postcard listing the dates, times, and locations of the three public participation hearings was mailed to approximately 11,000 recipients on February 2, 2001.

G.2.3 INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Following the release of the Draft EIR, three informational meetings were held: on January 23, 2001 at Vintage Hills School, Pleasanton; on January 24, 2001 at Dublin Elementary School, Dublin; and on January 25, 2001 at the City of Livermore Council Chambers, Livermore. The purpose of the meetings was to help affected communities understand the proposed project, the findings of the Draft EIR, and to explain how to participate in the CPUC's decision making processes. At the workshop, EIR preparers and CPUC staff were available to respond to attendee questions and provide clarification regarding the technical aspects of the proposed project, EIR alternatives, and the impact analysis presented in the Draft EIR.

There was a 58-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on February 23, 2001. Three public participation hearings were held by the CPUC's Administrative Law Judge on February 8, 13, and 15, 2001 at the City of Livermore Council Chambers, Vintage Hills School, and Dublin Elementary School, respectively, to receive oral and written testimony on the Draft EIR from interested parties.

G.2.4 PROJECT INFORMATION AND REPOSITORY SITES

Placing documents in "repository" sites can be an effective way of providing ongoing information about the project to a large number of people. Therefore, five repository sites (listed below) in the proposed project area were established and documents were also made available at the CPUC. All project documents, including the Draft EIR have been made available upon their release to the public at these five locations. A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (925) 397-3041. This number receives voice messages and faxes.

Pleasanton Public Library
400 Old Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 931-3400

San Ramon Library
100 Montgomery Street
San Ramon, CA 94583
(925) 973-2850

Livermore Public Library
1000 South Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 373-5500

Dublin Branch Library
7606 Amador Valley Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 828-1315

CPUC Central Files
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-2045

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Note that project information is also available on the Internet. Project information and copies of newsletters and reports are available on the CPUC's project website which can be accessed from the page defined below by clicking on the link to the Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project.

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/projects.htm>