

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**Notice of Preparation of an
Environmental Impact Report and
Notice of Public Scoping Meeting**

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners,
and Interested Parties

From: Eric Chiang, Project Manager, California Public Utilities Commission

Subject: Pacific Gas and Electric Company Egbert Switching Station (Martin
Substation Extension) Project (A.17-12-021)

Date: November 16, 2018

NO PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: November 16th to December 16th, 2018
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:

Date: December 3, 2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
5000 Sierra Point Parkway Brisbane, California 94005

A. Introduction

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed an application (A.17-12-021) on December 28, 2017 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to authorize the construction and operation of the Egbert Switching Station (Martin Substation Extension) Project (proposed project). The project would improve the reliability of PG&E's transmission system serving the City and County of San Francisco by constructing a new 230-kilovolt (kV) switching station in the vicinity of Martin Substation that provides a high likelihood of continued electric service to the City and County of San Francisco should an extreme event render Martin Substation inoperable. The California Independent System Operator Board of Governors concluded in its 2014–2015 Transmission Plan that the low probability, yet high impact event, of a service failure at Martin Substation constituted a significant

reliability concern that requires mitigation under its planning standards, and recommended the proposed project (CAISO 2015¹).

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, and the CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC prepared an Initial Study to determine whether the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Initial Study used the significance criteria outlined in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.²). Based on the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project, CPUC determined to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As required by CEQA, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to interested agencies and members of the public who submitted a request for such notices. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of an EIR for the proposed project, and to solicit comments concerning the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Information that will be most useful at this time would be descriptions of the significant environmental issues, as well as reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures you would like to see explored in the Draft EIR.

This NOP includes an introduction to the proposed project, a description of the proposed project and its location, a summary of potential project impacts, and information on how to provide comments to the CPUC. This NOP can be viewed on the project website at the following link:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/egbert/egbert.html>

B. Project Description and Location

The proposed project involves the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 230 kV switching station in the City and County of San Francisco that would be connected to the local 230 kV system by reconfiguring two existing underground single-circuit 230 kV transmission lines located in the City and County of San Francisco, City of Daly City, and City of Brisbane. The proposed project involves switching station, substation, and underground transmission line construction activities consisting of the following three major elements:

1. Construct the proposed Egbert 230 kV Switching Station
2. Extend the existing underground Jefferson-Martin 230 kV transmission line to the proposed Egbert Switching Station, creating the proposed Jefferson-Egbert 230 kV transmission line

¹ CAISO (California Independent System Operator). 2015. *2014–2015 Transmission Plan*. March 27, 2015. <http://www.caiso.com/Documents/Board-Approved2014-2015TransmissionPlan.pdf>.

² 14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendices A–L. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

3. Loop the existing underground Martin-Embarcadero 230 kV transmission line into the proposed Egbert Switching Station, creating the proposed Egbert-Embarcadero 230 kV transmission line and the proposed Martin-Egbert 230 kV transmission line

The new Egbert Switching Station is proposed to be constructed at 1755 Egbert Avenue on approximately 1.7 acres in the City and County of San Francisco. Refer to Figure 1, Project Vicinity, and Figure 2, Project Location and Alignment. The proposed switching station site is in the neighborhood of Bayview, located on the eastern side of U.S. Highway 101. The existing Martin-Embarcadero transmission line would be looped into Egbert Switching Station with construction of two transmission lines underground, creating the Martin-Egbert transmission line and the Egbert-Embarcadero transmission line. An underground transmission line extension would connect the existing underground Jefferson-Martin transmission line to Egbert Switching Station, creating the Jefferson-Egbert transmission line. Figure 3A, Proposed Egbert Switching Station and Alternative Route Options (Northern Portion), and 3B, Proposed Egbert Switching Station and Alternative Route Options (Southern Portion), show an in-depth view of the northern and southern portions of the proposed project. The existing and proposed transmission lines are shown, as well as alternative route options. Work would also occur at PG&E's Jefferson, Embarcadero, and Martin Substations.

The proposed project includes approximately 3.9 miles of new underground transmission line installed mainly in paved areas, with approximately 420 feet to be installed by trenchless technology (likely auger bore) under U.S. Highway 101. The proposed Jefferson-Egbert transmission line starts its bypass near the intersection of Carter Street and Guadalupe Canyon Parkway in the City of Brisbane, continues north along Carter Street through the City of Daly City, then proceeds northward through the City and County of San Francisco streets to Mansell Avenue. Once at Mansell Avenue, the proposed Jefferson-Egbert transmission line heads east to the trenchless crossing under U.S. Highway 101. East of U.S. Highway 101, the route turns north within Crane Avenue and continues north across private property to the Egbert Switching Station. The proposed Egbert-Embarcadero and Martin-Egbert transmission lines would connect the bisected existing Martin-Embarcadero transmission line to the proposed Egbert Switching Station with the construction of two new, approximately 0.4-mile-long underground 230 kV transmission lines. The connection would start at the intersection of Bayshore Boulevard, then the lines would proceed to Bacon Street and Egbert Avenue, terminating at the Egbert Switching Station.

In addition, construction would require equipment staging and laydown areas. Fieldwork and agency coordination would be conducted in advance of finalizing the construction plan to identify appropriate staging and laydown areas in existing city streets, in warehouses, or on existing paved or graveled areas that are commercially available in existing locations. The precise location of some staging or laydown areas may depend on rental availability, specific encroachment permits, and other construction occurring in the area and would be coordinated with the cities as appropriate. These sites would be finalized once the construction contractors have been chosen. Construction materials for the proposed

project may be stored at existing PG&E-owned properties or leased properties suitable for construction storage without physical modifications.

C. Potential Environmental Effects

The EIR will evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The EIR will identify reasonable alternatives, compare the environmental impacts of the alternatives to those of the proposed project, and propose mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts deemed potentially significant. Potential issues and impacts to the existing environment to be analyzed in the EIR include, but may not be limited to, the following environmental topics.

- Aesthetics
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Biological Resources
- Noise
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Recreation
- Hazards/Hazardous Materials, Wildland Fire Ecology
- Transportation and Traffic

The EIR will also address the cumulative environmental consequences of the proposed project in combination with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects in the area. This will serve to satisfy CEQA requirements regarding regional cumulative effect concerns.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, the EIR will describe and evaluate the comparative merits of a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The EIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered, but ultimately rejected by the lead agency as infeasible, and briefly explain the rationale. The EIR will also provide an analysis of the No Project Alternative, as well as identify the environmentally superior alternative. The alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR will be developed during the environmental review process and will consider input received during public scoping.

D. Alternatives

PG&E identified and evaluated several potential project sites and associated transmission line route options in an effort to identify the proposed project. In addition to the proposed project, there are two other potential sites that would meet the project objectives: the Geneva Switching Station and the Bayshore Switching Station, each with its own associated transmission line options (Figure 4, Proposed and Alternative Switching Station Site Locations). These options are considered “preliminary” at this time, and additional options will be considered as appropriate. Determination of alternatives is part of the scoping process for the proposed project.

The Geneva Switching Station Alternative site is located at 2150 Geneva Avenue in eastern Daly City (Figure 5, Alternative Geneva Switching Station). This alternative would include the construction of a new switching station (Geneva Switching Station) and three new transmission lines (Geneva-Embarcadero, Martin-Geneva, and Jefferson-Geneva) created by re-routing the existing Martin-Embarcadero and Jefferson-Martin lines. The route options for the three transmission lines are reflected in Figure 5.

The Bayshore Switching Station Alternative site is located at 3435 Bayshore Boulevard in central Brisbane, adjacent to the Brisbane Lagoon (Figure 6, Alternative Bayshore Switching Station). The project site is partially developed with a plant nursery and greenhouse. This alternative would also include construction of a new switching station (Bayshore Switching Station) and three new transmission lines (Bayshore-Embarcadero, Martin-Bayshore, and Jefferson-Bayshore) created by re-routing the existing Martin-Embarcadero and Jefferson-Martin lines. The route options for the three transmission lines are reflected in Figure 6.

E. Public Scoping Meeting

As noted above, the CPUC is holding a public scoping meeting on December 3, 2018, to inform interested parties about the proposed project and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide written comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the scoping meeting to express their concerns about the project and to offer suggestions regarding the proposed project and alternatives.

F. Providing Comments

At this time, the CPUC is soliciting comments regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR. This information will be considered when preparing the Draft EIR discussion of environmental topics, significant effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives. Because of time limits mandated by state law, comments should be provided **no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2018**.

You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail (email), or (3) by attending the public scoping meeting and submitting written comments at that time.

By Mail: If you send written comments by U.S. mail, please use first-class mail, and be sure to include your name and a return address. Please send written comments on the scope and content of the EIR to:

Egbert Switching Station Project
c/o Dudek
1630 San Pablo Avenue, Suite 300
Oakland, California 94612

By Electronic Mail: Email communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the email message. Comments sent via email should be sent to egbert@dudek.com, with a subject line that states “**PG&E Egbert Switching Station NOP Comments.**”

All written comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR, which is anticipated to be available for public review in early 2019.

G. Location of Documents Available for Public Review

A hard copy of the NOP is available for review at the locations listed in Table 1.

**Table 1
Repository Sites**

Location	Address	Telephone
Brisbane Library	250 Visitacion Avenue, Brisbane, 94005	415.467.2060
Bayshore Branch Library	460 Martin Street, Daly City, 94014	650.991.8074
Visitacion Valley Library	201 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, 94134	415.355.2848
Portola Branch Library	380 Bacon Street, San Francisco, 94134	415.355.5660
San Francisco Public Library	5075 3rd Street, San Francisco, 94124	415.355.5757

The NOP and all public review documents for this project will also be available for review online at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/egbert/egbert.html>.

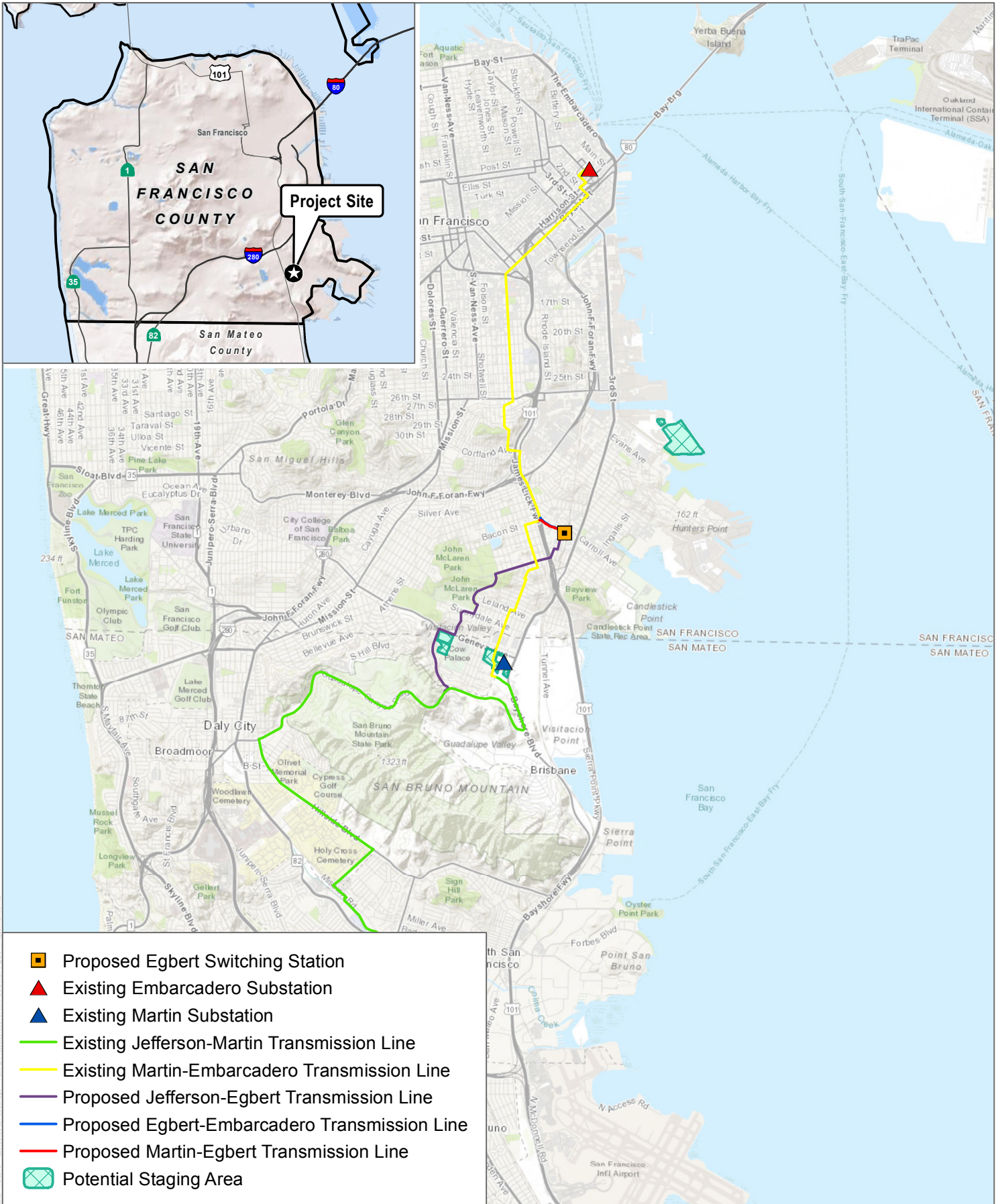
H. Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

Following are some suggestions for preparing and providing the most useful information for the EIR scoping process.

- 1. Review the description of the project** (see Section B of this Notice of Preparation and the figures provided). Additional detail on the project description from PG&E’s Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA) is available on the project website where the PEA may be viewed.
- 2. Review CEQA impact assessment questions** available online at http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/Appendix_G.html.
- 3. Attend the scoping meeting** to get more information on the project and the environmental review process (see time and date in Table 1).
- 4. Submit written comments** or attend the scoping meeting and **ask questions during the informational meeting**. Explain important issues that the EIR should cover in written comments.

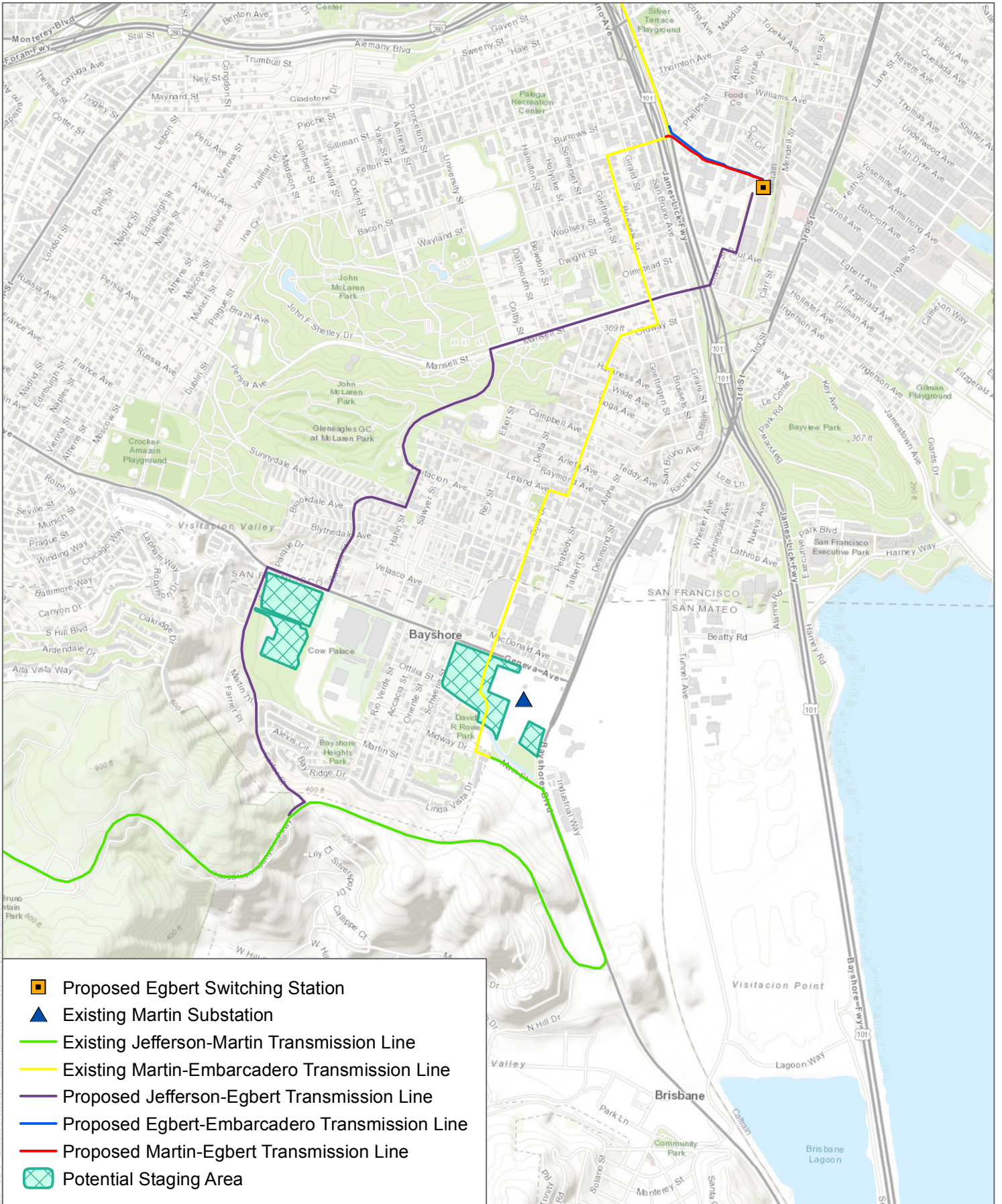
- 5. Suggest mitigation measures** that could reduce the potential impacts associated with PG&E's proposed project.
- 6. Suggest alternatives** to PG&E's proposed project that could avoid or reduce the impacts of the proposed project.

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SOURCE: Esri 2018; PG&E 2017

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SOURCE: Esri 2018; PG&E 2017



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FIGURE 2
Project Location and Alignment
 PG&E Egbert Switching Station/Martin Substation Extension Project

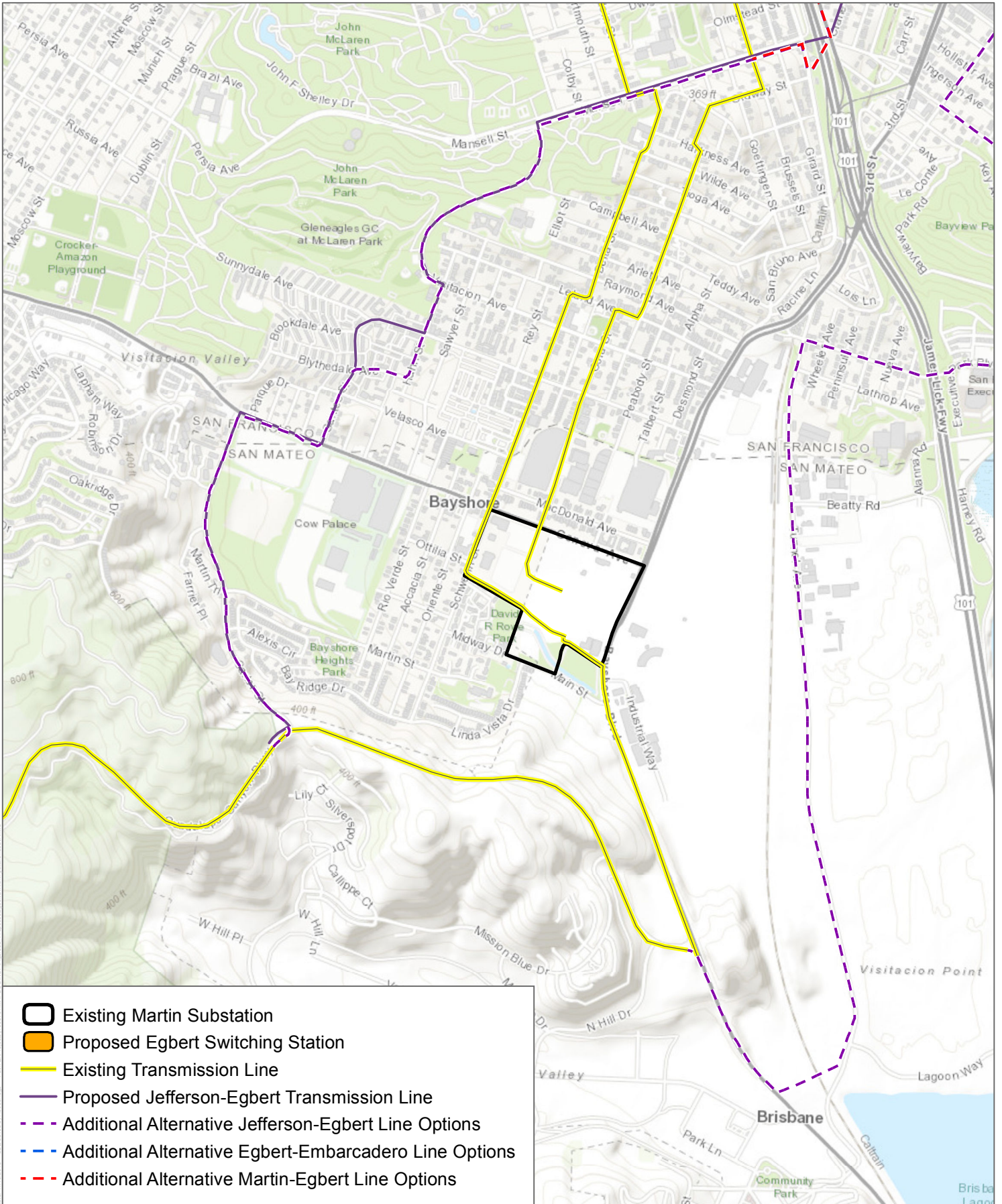
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SOURCE: Bing Maps 2018; San Mateo County 2014; PG&E 2017

FIGURE 3A

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SOURCE: Esri 2018; PG&E 2017

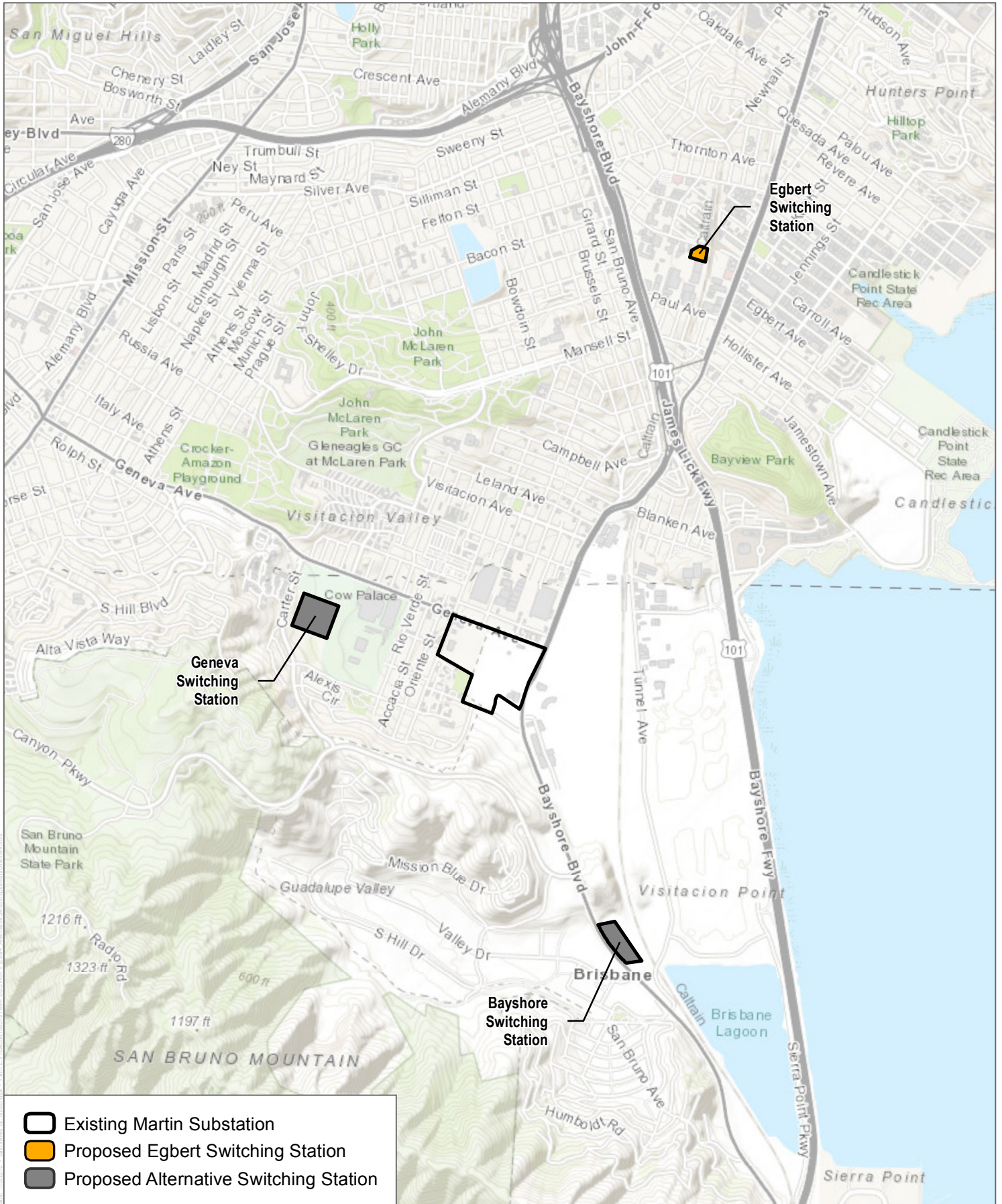
FIGURE 3B

Proposed Egbert Switching Station and Alternative Route Options (Southern Portion)



PG&E Egbert Switching Station/Martin Substation Extension Project

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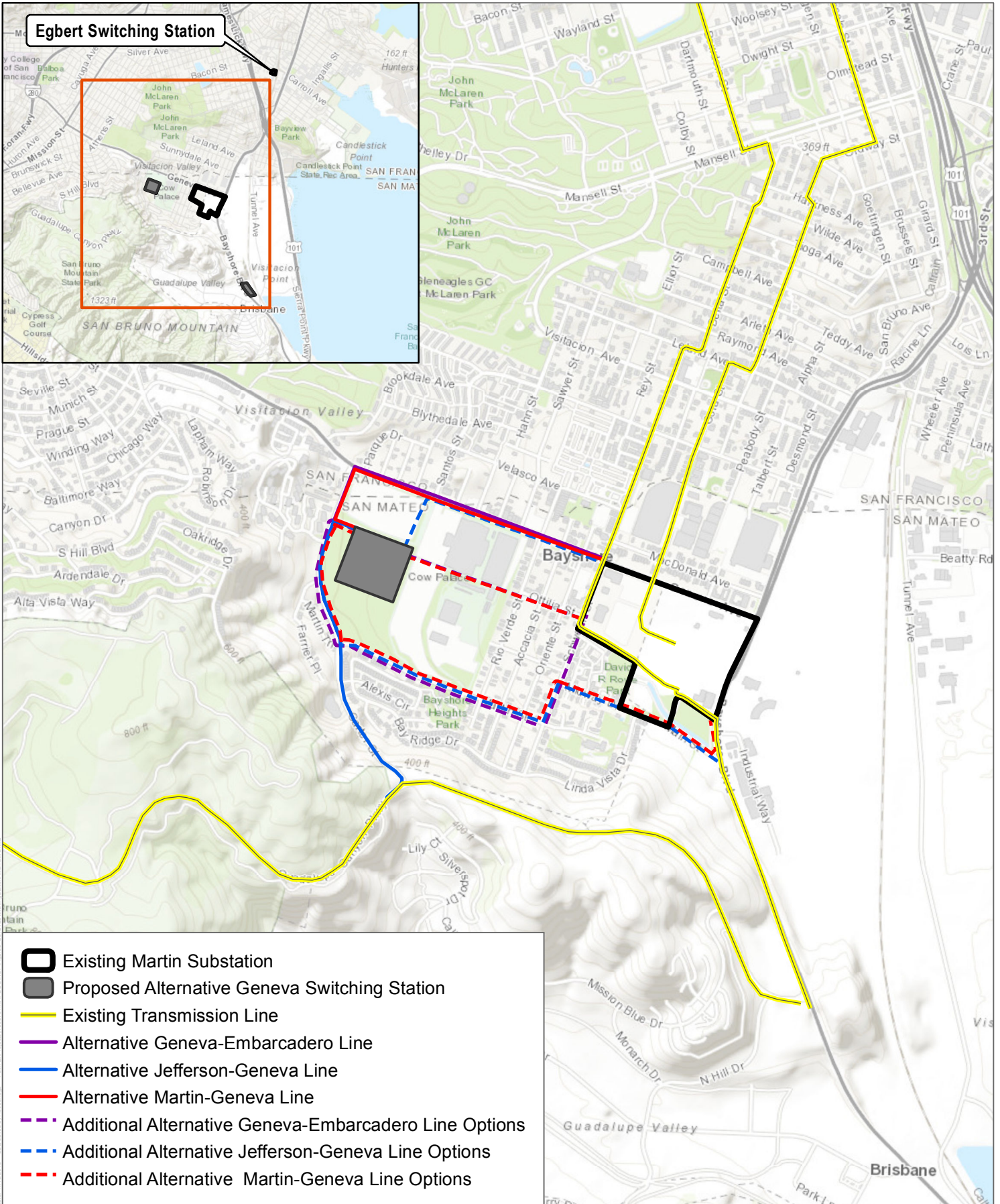
SOURCE: Esri 2018; PG&E 2017

FIGURE 4

Proposed and Alternative Switching Station Site Locations

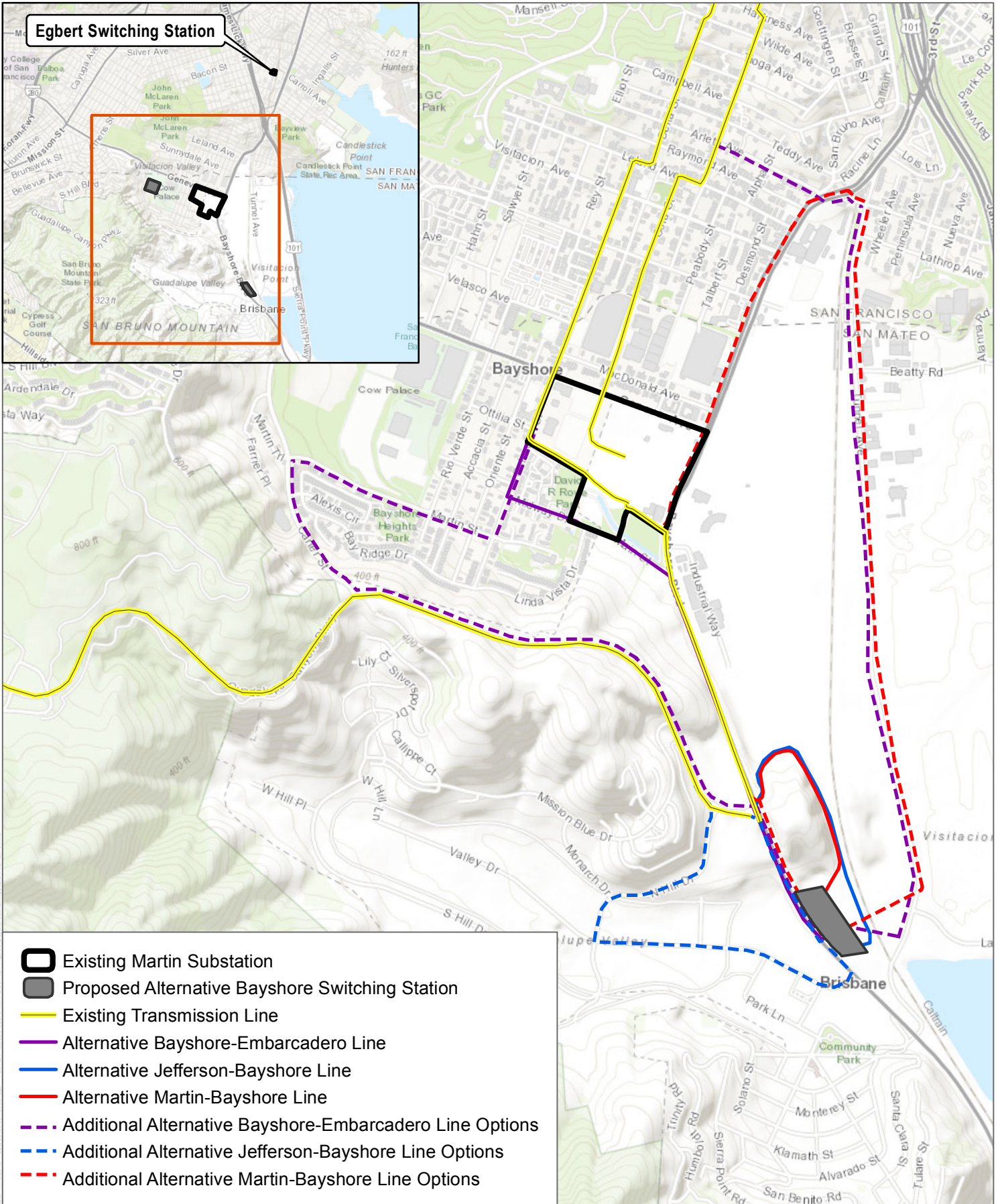
PG&E Egbert Switching Station/Martin Substation Extension Project

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