

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Public Notice
for the
San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E)
East County Substation Project

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) has filed an application (A.09-08-003) for a Permit to Construct (PTC) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the proposed East County (ECO) Substation Project. SDG&E has also filed an application for a Right-of-Way Grant with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The CPUC, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the BLM, as lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the proposed ECO Substation Project.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), the CPUC has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP), copies of which are available for review at Dudek's office, located at 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024; Jacumba Public Library, located at 44605 Old Highway 80, Jacumba, CA 91934; Campo-Morena Village Branch Library, located at 31356 Highway 94, Campo, CA 91906; and Potrero Branch Library, located at 24883 Potrero Valley Road, Potrero, CA 91963. Two public scoping meetings will be held at the locations listed below. Your attendance at one of these meetings will provide you with additional opportunities to learn more about the project and to comment on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR/EIS. Information about the environmental review process will be posted on the Internet at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/ECOSUB.htm>

The proposed SDG&E ECO Substation Project includes the following components:

- A new 58-acre 500/230/138 kilovolt (kV) substation (ECO Substation), with a loop-in from the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL), just south of Interstate 8, about 4 miles east of the community of Jacumba
- The project also proposes to rebuild the existing Boulevard Substation; construct a new 13.3-mile-long, 138 kV transmission line from the ECO Substation to the Boulevard Substation that will run westward following the SWPL Transmission Line and head northward toward the community of Boulevard; and re-build the existing SDG&E Communication Facility at White Star.

According to SDG&E, the proposed ECO Substation Project is needed for two primary purposes:

1. To facilitate interconnection of renewable generation in southeastern San Diego County
2. To improve reliability for the existing electric transmission system in the Mountain Empire region of San Diego County.

The CPUC and BLM have determined that the Energia Sierra Juarez Generator—Tie Line Project (ESJ Project) is so closely related that it will be analyzed in relation to the ECO Substation Project. One additional project, the Tule Wind Project, as proposed by Iberdrola Renewables, Inc, is also an interrelated project as current plans would tie this project into the proposed Boulevard Substation rebuild component of the ECO Substation Project. These two projects will be analyzed within the EIR/EIS.

The EIR/EIS will address the cumulative environmental consequences of the proposed ECO Substation, ESJ, and Tule Wind projects in combination with other past, present, and planned projects in the area, including known wind energy and transmission projects. This will serve to satisfy CEQA/NEPA requirements regarding regional cumulative concerns.

Affected Jurisdictions

The ECO Substation, SWPL Loop-in, 138 kV transmission line, and facility rebuilds proposed by SDG&E would primarily be located on private land within the vicinity of the unincorporated communities of Boulevard and Jacumba in southeastern San Diego County. A portion of the proposed 138 kV transmission line alignment would be located on lands administered by the BLM.

The ESJ Project would be located entirely within San Diego County to the east of the community of Jacumba. The Tule Wind project would be located in eastern San Diego County. The project would be located on lands administered by BLM and the California State Lands Commission, as well as lands on the Ewiiapaayp Indian Reservation and lands under jurisdiction of the San Diego County, located north of Interstate 8.

Public Scoping Meeting

The CPUC and BLM will conduct two public scoping meetings in the project area. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to present information about the proposed project and the CPUC and BLM's decision-making process, and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. **Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings to express their concerns about the project and to offer suggestions regarding the project as proposed, including alternatives.**

Time and Location

January 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Jacumba Highland Center
44681 Old Highway 80
Jacumba, California 91934

January 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department
39223 Highway 94
Boulevard, California 91905

Scoping Comments

At this time, the CPUC and BLM are soliciting information regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR/EIS. **All scoping comments must be received by February 10, 2010.** You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail (e-mail), (3) by fax, or (4) by attending one of the public scoping meetings and handing in written comments at the scoping meeting.

By Mail: If you send 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/EIS to: Iain Fisher, California Public Utilities Commission, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024.

By Electronic Mail: E-mail communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the e-mail message. E-mail messages should be sent to ecosub@dudek.com

By Fax: You may fax your comment letter to our information line at (800) 371-8854. Please remember to include your name and return address in the fax, to write legibly, and use black or blue ink.

Additional Project Information

Internet Website. The NOP and information about this application and the environmental review process will be posted on the Internet at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/ECOSUB.htm>.

Project Information Hotline. You may request project information by leaving a voice message at (800) 371-8854 or sending a fax, using the same telephone number.

Document Repositories. Documents related to the ECO Substation Project and the EIR/EIS will be made available at the Jacumba Public Library, located at 44605 Old Highway 80, Jacumba, CA 91934; Campo-Morena Village Branch Library, located at 31356 Highway 94, Campo, CA 91906; Potrero Branch Library, located at 24883 Potrero Valley Rd, Potrero CA 91963; and Dudek's office, located at 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024.