

**Environmental Impact Report/Statement for:
San Diego Gas & Electric East County Substation, Pacific
Wind Development Tule Wind, and Energía Sierra Juárez
LLC, Energía Sierra Juárez Generation-Tie Projects**



**California Public Utilities Commission
Bureau of Land Management**



**Public Scoping Meetings
January 27 and 28, 2010**

Meeting Participants & Agenda

- **Introduction** (*John Porteous, Dudek*)
- **Key players and their roles** (*John Porteous, Dudek*)
- **Description of proposed projects** (*John Porteous, Dudek*)
- **CPUC review process** (*Iain Fisher, CPUC*)
- **BLM review process** (*Thomas Zale, BLM*)
- **County of San Diego process** (*Patrick Brown, County*)
- **EIR/EIS process** (*John Porteous, Dudek*)
- **After Final EIR/EIS Completion**
(*Iain Fisher, CPUC, Thomas Zale, BLM, and Patrick Brown, County*)
- **Comments from the public and agencies**



Key Players and Their Roles

- **Applicants:**
 - **San Diego Gas & Electric: East County (ECO) Substation Project**
 - **Pacific Wind Development (Iberdrola): Tule Wind Project**
 - **Energía Sierra Juárez, LLC: Energía Sierra Juárez Gen-Tie (ESJ) Project**
- **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC): Lead Agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) - ECO Substation Project**
- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Lead Agency under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – ECO Substation and Tule Wind Projects**
- **County of San Diego: Responsible Agency under CEQA for the Tule Wind and ESJ Projects**
- **Dudek: Environmental Contractor for CPUC / BLM**



Other Key Agencies

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- CA State Lands Commission
- CA Department of Fish and Game
- CA State Historic Preservation Office
- Department of Energy (Presidential Permit for ESJ):
website: <http://www.esjprojecteis.org/>



EIR/EIS for SDG&E ECO Substation, Pacific Wind Development Tule Wind, and Energía Sierra Juárez, LLC ESJ Gen-Tie Projects

- **EIR/EIS will be used to make a decision on:**
 - **ECO Substation Project:**
 - CPUC (CEQA)
 - BLM (NEPA)
 - **Tule Wind Project:**
 - BLM (NEPA)
 - County of San Diego (CEQA)
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - State Lands Commission
 - Army Corps of Engineers
 - **ESJ Project:**
 - County of San Diego (CEQA)



Project Description

- **San Diego Gas & Electric's proposed ECO Substation Project**
- **Connected Actions**
 - **Pacific Wind Development's (Iberdrola's) proposed Tule Wind Project**
 - **Energía Sierra Juárez, LLC's proposed ESJ Project**



Project Description

- **Major Elements of SDG&E's ECO Substation Project**
 - **A new 58-acre 500/230/138 kilovolt (kV) substation (ECO Substation)**
 - **Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in**
 - **Boulevard Substation rebuild**
 - **13.3-mile-long 138 kV transmission line from the ECO Substation to the Boulevard Substation, including 1.5 miles across BLM-managed lands within designated utility corridor**
 - **Rebuild communication facility at White Star**



Project Description

- **Major elements of Pacific Wind Development's (Iberdrola's) proposed Tule Wind Project**
 - 200 MW generation
 - 124 turbines proposed (1.5 to 3 MW)
 - Turbine height: 328 to 492 feet (ground to blade tip)
 - 5-acre project substation and a 5-acre operations and maintenance facility
 - 138 kV transmission line linking the project substation to an interconnection with the proposed SDG&E Boulevard Substation rebuild
 - Project involves public lands, private lands, state lands, and tribal lands



Project Description

- **Major elements of the Energía Sierra Juárez, LLC's proposed ESJ Project**
 - Interconnect renewable energy from the ESJ Wind generation project proposed in northern Baja California, Mexico, to the proposed SDG&E ECO Substation (no public lands involved)
 - One-mile double-circuit 230 kV or single-circuit 500 kV transmission line



Applicants' Project Objectives for ECO Substation, Tule Wind, and ESJ Projects

■ ECO Substation

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

■ Tule Wind

- Develop renewable wind energy within eastern San Diego County consistent with BLM's national 2005 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which lays the groundwork for wind development on BLM lands

■ ESJ Gen-Tie

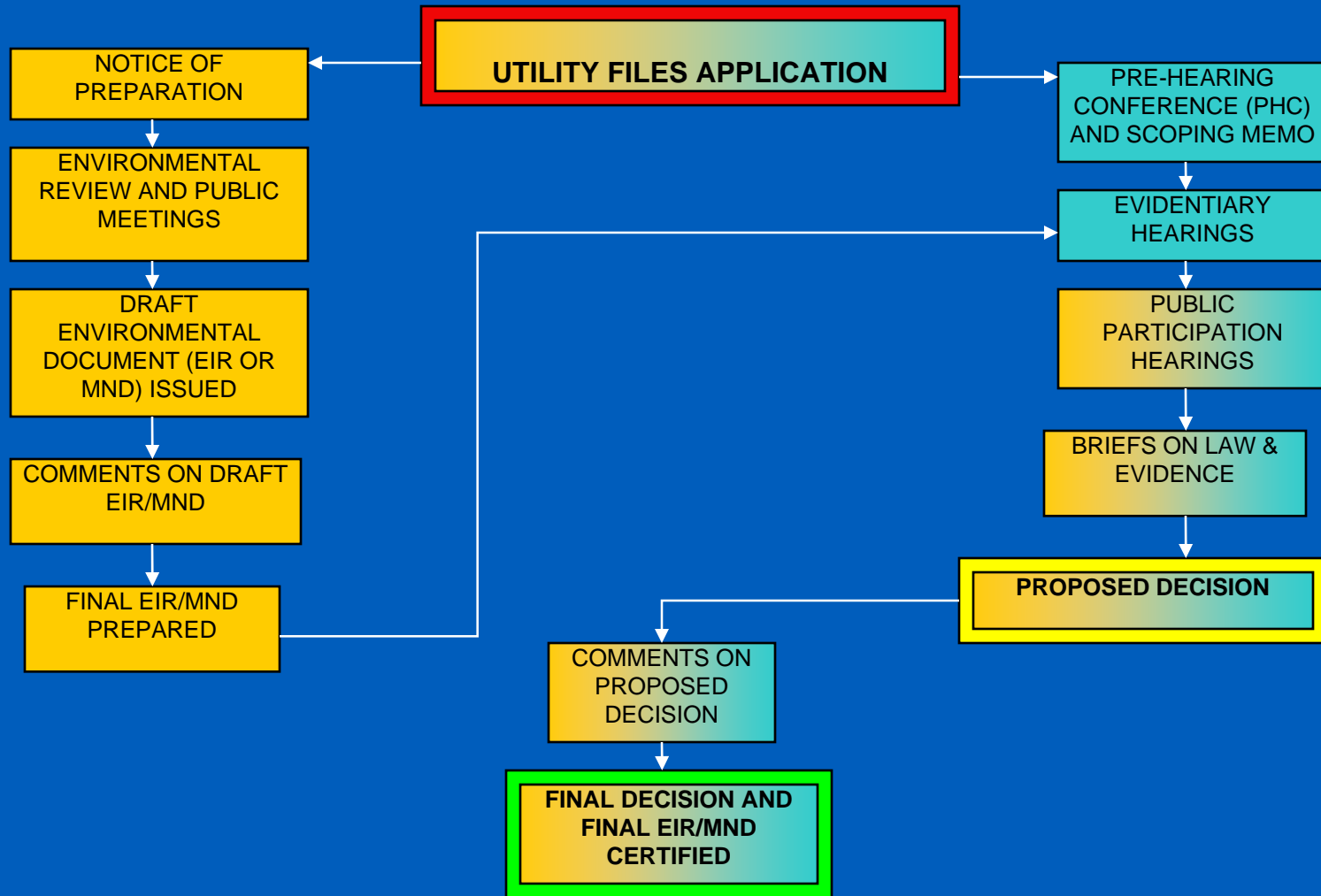
- Provide generation-tie to only transmit renewable energy from a wind farm project proposed in northern Baja California, Mexico, to the proposed SDG&E ECO Substation



Common Objectives for ECO Substation, Tule Wind, and ESJ Projects

- Accommodate delivery of renewable energy to meet state and federal renewable energy goals from wind and solar sources in San Diego County
- Meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program that requires utilities to purchase 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2010
- Meeting the Governor's Executive Order S-14-08 that increased the goal to 33% by 2020
- Provide additional renewable generation to assist in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by developing renewable energy production on federal lands
- Encourage the timely and responsible development of renewable energy and associated transmission while protecting and enhancing the nation's water, wildlife, and other natural resources (Order No. 3285 from the Secretary of the Interior, March 11, 2009)

CPUC Review Process – SDG&E’s ECO Substation





General Proceeding for Permit to Construct

- **Led by**
 - Assigned Commissioner Michael R. Peevey and Administrative Law Judge Melanie Darling
- **Scope**
 - EMF Guidelines compliance
 - Environmental review
 - Environmental document complies with CEQA
 - Feasibility of alternatives
 - Findings on overriding considerations



BLM Process

- **ECO Substation Project**
 - Review environmental impacts as required by NEPA
 - Issue Record of Decision (ROD) on application for right-of-way (ROW) grant for project
- **Tule Wind Project**
 - Review environmental impacts as required by NEPA
 - Issue ROD on application for ROW grant for project
- **BLM lead federal agency for**
 - Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
 - Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
 - Government-to-government consultation with Native American Tribes



County of San Diego Process

- **Tule Wind and ESJ Gen-Tie Projects**
 - Review County portions of projects for CEQA
 - County established guidelines and thresholds
 - Participate as Responsible Agency in EIR process



Goal of the EIR/EIS

- **Produce an EIR/EIS that accurately assesses the potential impacts of the proposed ECO Substation, Tule Wind, and ESJ projects**
- **Identify mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts**
- **Identify impact-reducing alternatives**
- **Address the cumulative consequences of the proposed ECO Substation, Tule Wind, and ESJ projects in combination with other past, present, and planned projects in the area, including known wind energy and transmission projects**
- **Address community comments and concerns**



Purpose of the EIR/EIS

- **Provide full disclosure of significant effects and means to reduce, avoid, and minimize those effects**
- **Consider a reasonable range of alternatives**
- **Provide opportunity for public scrutiny in the planning and decision-making process**
- **Ensure that decision makers have a solid basis to make a decision**



Environmental Topics Included in the EIR/EIS

- Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials and Fire Hazards
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Socioeconomics / Environmental Justice
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Cumulative Impacts

Alternatives Analysis

- **No project / no action alternative**
- **Reasonable range of alternatives determined by**
 - **Consistency with most project objectives**
 - Meeting all objectives is not required
 - Must consider purpose and need
 - **Ability to reduce or avoid impacts of project**
 - Scoping comments will help to identify impacts
 - **Feasibility**
 - Technical concerns (can it be built?)
 - Regulatory feasibility (could it be permitted?)
 - Legal issues (would it be allowed under law?)



Alternatives Analysis

- **Screening of alternatives would include**
 - **Substation site alternatives**
 - **Routing alternatives**
 - **Generation alternatives**
 - **Project design alternatives**
 - **Operations alternatives**
 - **Alternatives to large-scale wind energy production**
 - **Energy efficiency alternatives**
 - **Alternatives suggested in scoping comments**

EIR/EIS Review Process – Opportunities for Public Input

California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)

National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)
to prepare an EIR
State Clearinghouse # 2009121079
December 28, 2009

NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)
to prepare an EIS
published in the *Federal Register*
December 29, 2009

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Soliciting Public Comments

January 27, 2010 (Jacumba, CA)
January 28, 2010 (Boulevard, CA)

Public Scoping Ends

BLM NOI: February 12, 2010
CPUC NOP: February 10, 2010

EIR/EIS Review Process – Opportunities for Public Input

California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)

National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)

**PUBLISH DRAFT EIR/EIS
for 45-day
Public Review Period
July – September 2010**

**Prepare FINAL EIR/EIS
Response to Comments
on Draft EIR/EIS
October – November 2010**

**FINAL EIR/EIS
Certified by CPUC**

**FINAL EIR/EIS
Approved by BLM**



After Final EIR/EIS Completion

- **CPUC**
 - Commission will vote on proposed SDG&E ECO Substation Project
 - EIR/EIS is referenced in the decision
- **BLM**
 - Prepare ROD for SDG&E's ECO Substation Project
 - Prepare ROD for Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind Project
- **County**
 - Rely on previous environmental review from EIR/EIS
 - Major Use Permits: Major Impact Service Utility
 - County Decision Maker: Planning Commission



EIR/EIS Scoping Comments

- **The most useful scoping comments**
 1. Identify the location and extent of environmental impacts of the proposed project.
 2. Identify measures that would reduce environmental impacts.
 3. Recommend alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts of the proposed project.

Written Comments

Please send comments to:

California Public Utilities Commission

Attn: Iain Fisher
c/o Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, CA 92024
Fax: (800) 371-8854
Email: ecosub@dudek.com

BLM California Desert District Office

Attn: Greg Thomsen
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553-9046
Fax: (951) 697-5299
Email: catulewind@blm.gov

***Public Scoping Ends:
BLM NOI on February 12, 2010
CPUC NOP on February 10, 2010***

Comments will be accepted until February 15, 2010

Please be sure to include your name, address,
and phone number on all comments.

For More Information

- **Check internet websites:**

CPUC:

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

BLM: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/tule.html>

Department of Energy: <http://www.esjprojecteis.org/>

- **Information Repositories: Three area libraries have project information**

Jacumba Public Library
44605 Old Highway 80
Jacumba, CA 91934

**Campo-Morena Village
Branch Library**
31356 Highway 94
Campo, CA 91906

Potrero Branch Library
24883 Potrero Valley Road
Potrero, CA 91963

Project Location Map

