
Scoping Meeting
Draft Environmental Impact Report
**Pacific Gas & Electric Company's
Santa Cruz 115-kV Reinforcement Project**
Application No. 12-01-012

California Public Utilities Commission
January 29, 2013



Presentation Overview

1. Project History
2. CEQA and the EIR Process
3. Overview of the Proposed Project and Alternatives
4. Environmental Topics
5. Public Comment Period



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Project History

- PG&E submitted a Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Application for a Permit to Construct to the CPUC in Jan. 2012
- The CPUC initially prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND); MND circulated for a 45+ day public review in October and November 2013.
- CPUC determined an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is appropriate based on review of comments/public feedback,
 - NOP Issued January 17th for 30+ day public review
 - Purpose to receive public input on issues to address in the EIR



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Purpose of an EIR

What is an EIR?

- Identifies potentially significant environmental effects
- Identifies ways to minimize or eliminate the significant effects
- Evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives

How is it Different than the IS?

- Provides additional environmental analysis
- Provides an evaluation of alternatives
- Additional opportunities for public review and input



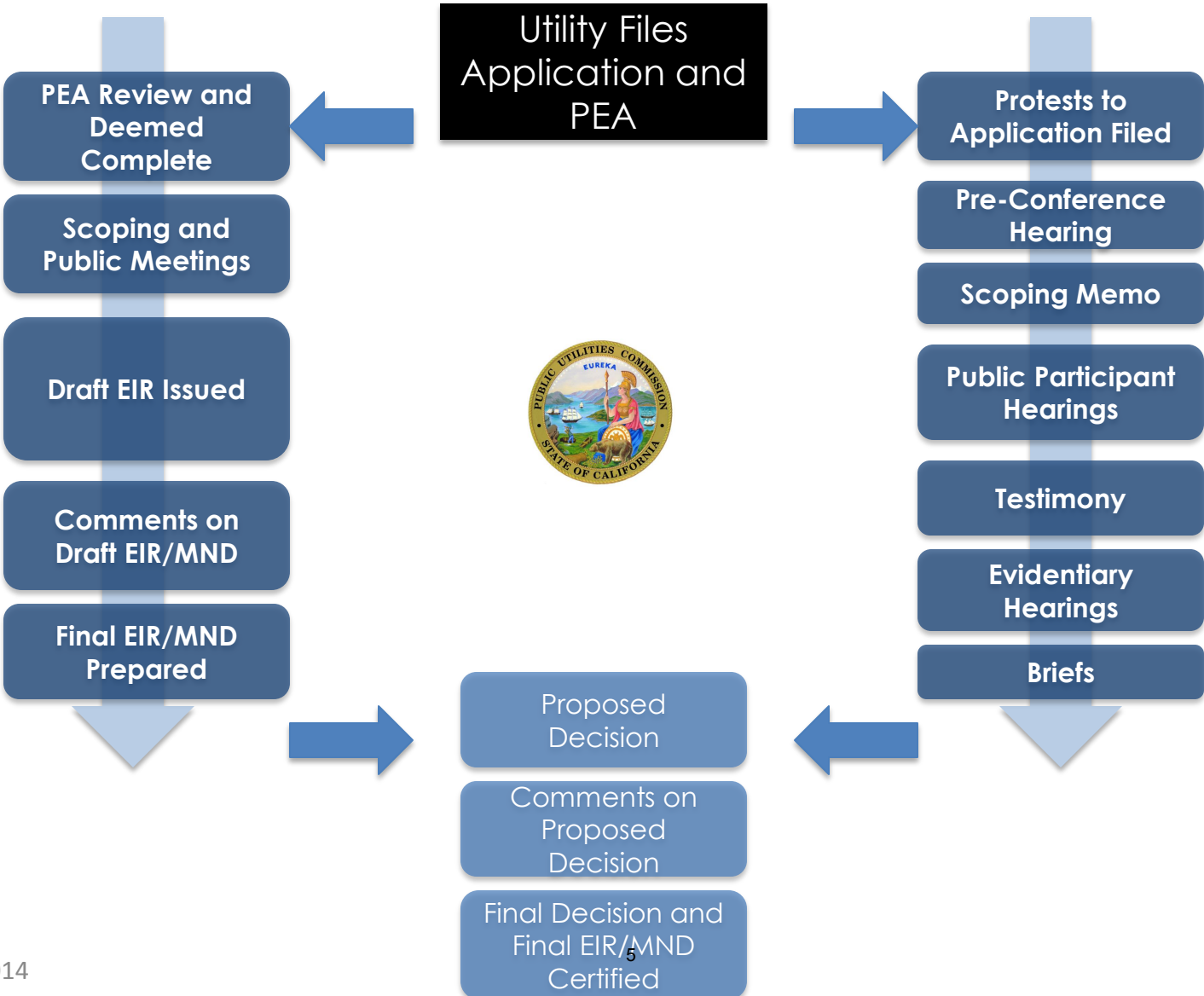
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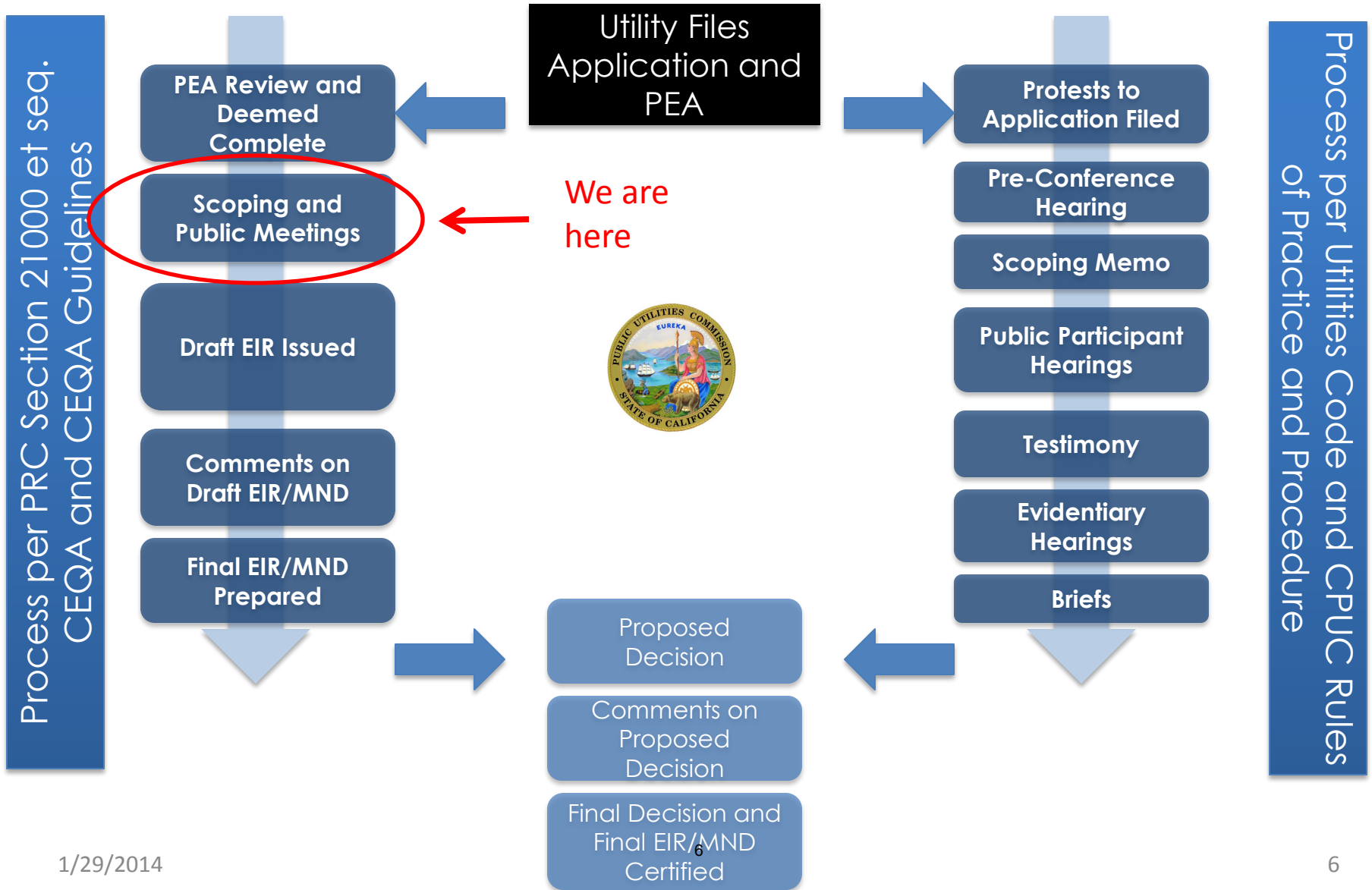
CPUC Review Process

Process per PRC Section 21000 et seq.
CEQA and CEQA Guidelines

Process per Utilities Code and CPUC Rules
of Practice and Procedure



CPUC Review Process



Next Steps in EIR Process

Activity	Purpose	Estimated Timeframe
**Scoping Period	To collect comments from the public	30+ days to Feb. 18th
Prepare Draft EIR	Complete the analysis of environmental effects – develop and analyze alternatives	~June 2014
**Public Review of Draft EIR	Public reviews the analysis and provides comments - - Additional public meetings	45 day review period June – July 2014
Response to Comments and Final EIR	Respond to public comments and make any changes to the EIR	~October 2014

**** Opportunities for public input**



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Questions on Process?



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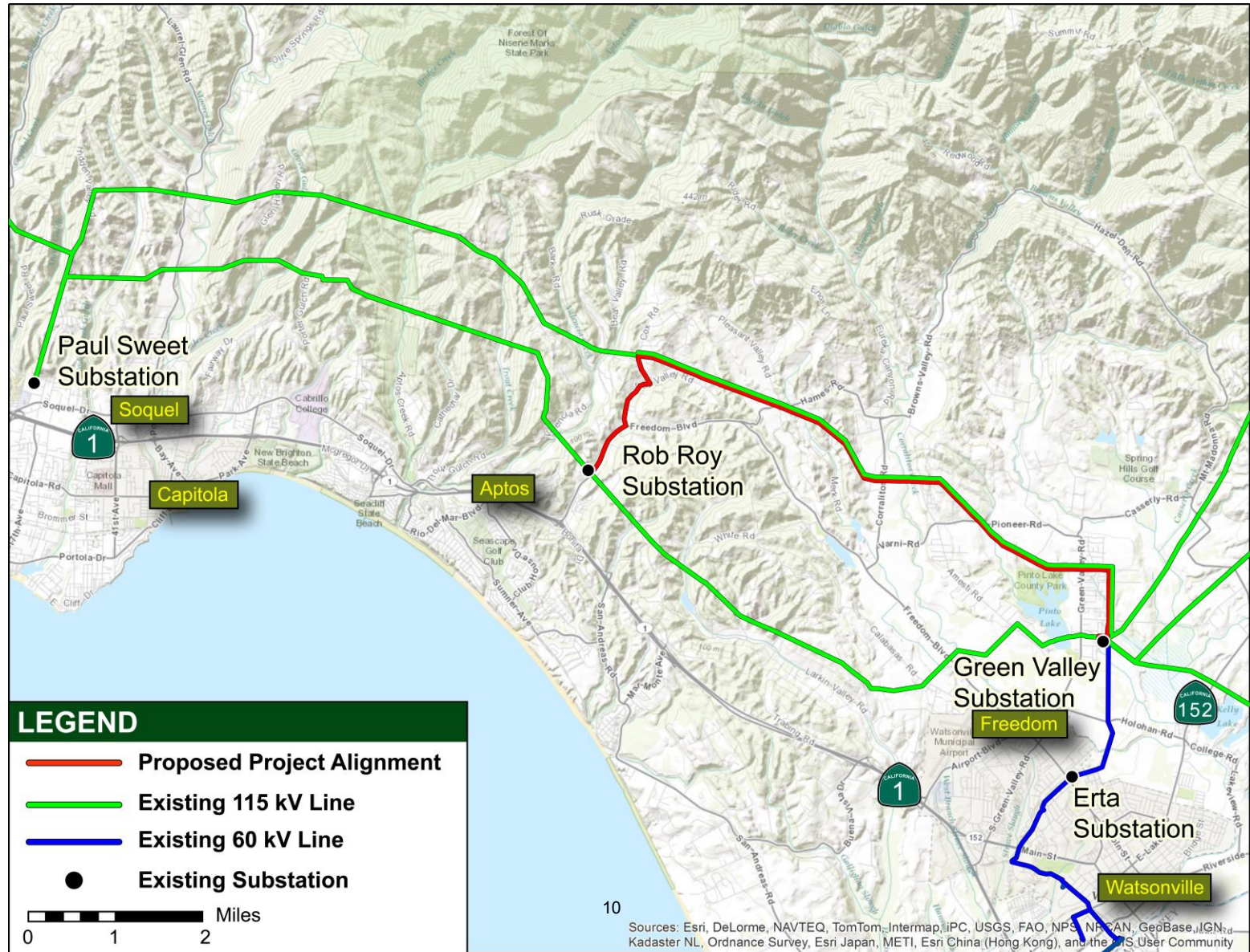
Project Purpose

- Improve the area electrical system's capacity and reliability
 - Population and demand has increased substantially since the system was built in the 1970s
 - Rob Roy Substation and associated power lines have not been upgraded
- EIR will expand on the purpose and need for the project



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Proposed Project



Proposed Project

- Add a second 115-kV circuit between Green Valley Substation and Rob Roy Substation



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Project Elements

Northern Alignment

- Convert 7.1 miles single-circuit 115 kV to double-circuit
 - Replace ~60 ft wood poles to ~90 ft tubular steel poles (TSP)

Cox-Freedom Segment

- Build 1.7 miles new single-circuit 115kV along existing distribution alignment
 - Replace ~ 39 ft wood distribution poles with ~89 ft wood transmission poles
 - Install four new ~98 ft TSPs

Rob Roy Substation Modifications

- Modify substation and existing power lines
 - Changes to accommodate line
 - Install 4 new ~84 ft TSPs replacing 3 wood poles

CEQA Alternatives

- CEQA requires consideration of Alternatives
 - Meet project objective
 - Reduces environmental effects
 - Substantially obtain the objectives of the proposed project
- Alternatives - types
 - No Project Alternative
 - Alternatives considered but eliminated
 - Feasible alternatives – carried forward for analysis
- CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.6(e)(2)) requires identification of the “environmentally superior alternative”



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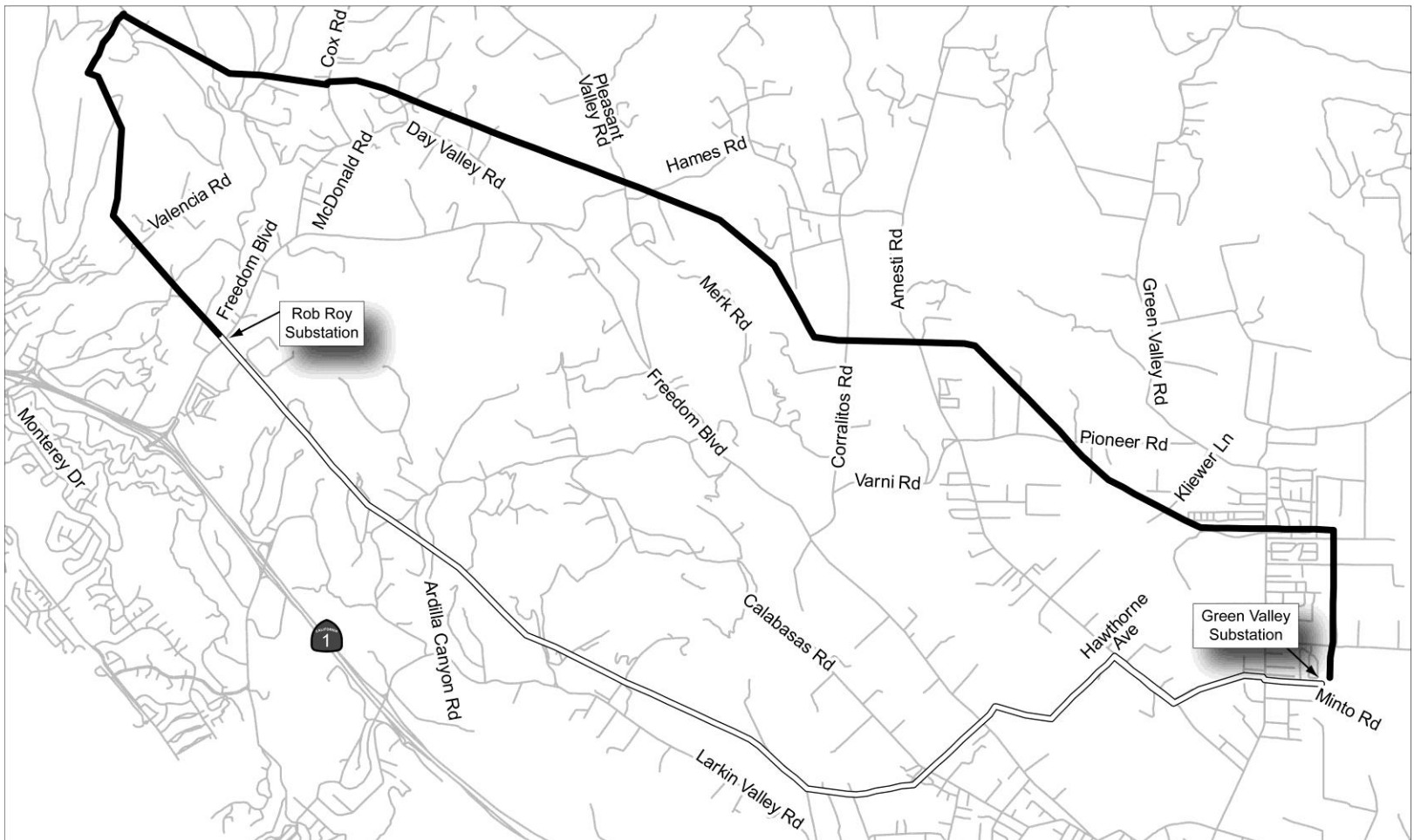
Preliminary Alternatives

Alternative	Description
Alternative: Underground Portions of the Cox- Freedom Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still evaluating feasibility• Wider easements needed• Two 100-plus foot tall steel transition structures would be required at each end of the underground segments• Existing distribution lines would not be undergrounded
Alternative: Valencia Route Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rebuild Northern Alignment from Green Valley Substation to Day Valley• Construct new single circuit 115-kv line from Fern Flat Road to the Southern Alignment
Alternative: Southern Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rebuild Southern Alignment from a single circuit to a double circuit• New easements required to move alignment away from gas line



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Preliminary Alternatives

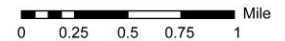


SOURCES: Esri 2014 and Panorama Environmental, Inc. 2014

Scale: 1:55,000

LEGEND

-  Valencia Alignment
-  Southern Alignment



PANORAMA
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Questions?



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Environmental Review Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Air quality/greenhouse gas emissions
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology and soils
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and housing
- Public services (fire, police, schools, and parks)
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems (water, wastewater, and solid waste)

***Per CEQA Guidelines App G.*



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Potential Impacts Proposed Project

- **Aesthetics** – change in visual character
- **Agriculture**– impacts to existing agricultural land and uses
- **Air Quality** – emissions during construction
- **Biological Resources** – special status plants and animals; impacts from tree removal; impacts to nesting birds
- **Cultural Resources** – impacts to known and unknown resources
- **Geology and Soils** – effects of seismicity on safety; soil erosion
- **Hydrology and Water Quality** – degradation of water quality during construction from runoff
- **Noise** – helicopter noise; noise during construction
- **Transportation and Traffic** – safety hazards during and after construction; traffic delays during construction
- **Utilities** – Central Water District lines; disruption of service



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Potential Impacts of Alternatives

Alternative	Potential Impacts (Compared to Proposed Project's Impacts)
Underground portions of Cox-Freedom Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trenching, resulting in road closures, dust, noise, limited emergency and local access, and greater ground disturbance • Longer construction period • Need for additional property/right-of-way and removal of trees, fences, and landscaping • Potentially reduces visual impacts
Valencia Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater loss of coastal oak woodland vegetation • Additional impacts to robust spineflower critical habitat • Potentially reduces visual impacts
Southern Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of coastal oak woodland vegetation due to need for greater right of way and avoidance of a gas pipeline • High risk of take of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander due to higher quality habitat along this alignment • Potentially reduces visual impacts



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Ways to Comment

- Oral comments tonight
- Fill out a comment card to submit comments and questions tonight
- Submit comments after this meeting by mail, fax, or email

Mail	Fax	Email
Lisa Orsaba CPUC c/o Panorama One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740 San Francisco, CA 94111	(650) 373-1211	santacruz115kvproject@ panoramaenv.com

- **Comments due by 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2014**



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What is an effective scoping comment?

- The EIR should address noise impacts from the use of helicopters for construction
- I would like the EIR to address traffic safety hazards during and after project construction.
- The EIR should explain and provide support for why the project is needed.



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What are less effective scoping comments?

- The EIR should examine aesthetic impacts.
- The project should be located somewhere else.
- The project is not needed.
- I am against the project.
- The analysis in the EIR will be biased and untrustworthy.

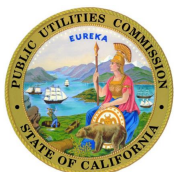


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Comment Guidelines

- State name and affiliation
- Only speak at the podium
- Avoid side conversations
- Keep input concise (to maximize participation)
- Respect others' opinions/interests



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Environmental Resource Areas

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Air quality/greenhouse gas emissions
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology and soils
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Noise
- Hydrology and water quality
- Population and housing
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resource
- Public services (fire, police, schools, and parks)
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems (water, wastewater, and solid waste)
- Alternatives
- Cumulative Impacts



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