

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 20, 2026

Allyson Little
Horizon West Transmission, LLC
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, Florida 33408

RE: CPUC review of the Proponent's Environmental Assessment for Horizon West Transmission, LLC's North Gila to Imperial Valley/Ironwood Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Little:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq. require that the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's), as lead agency for this project, assess the environmental implications of the project for its use in considering the request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). In addition, Section 15100 of the CEQA Guidelines requires the agency responsible for the certification of a proposed project to assess the completeness of the project proponent's application. The Energy Division uses CPUC's Guidelines for Energy Project Applications Requiring CEQA Compliance: Pre-filing and Proponent's Environmental Assessments (PEA Guidelines, November 2019) as the guide for determining the adequacy of project applications.

We are aware of the timeline requiring a determination of completeness and adequacy of the application for the CPCN. However, CPUC Staff will be meeting internally with CPUC Commissioners before the status of completeness can be finalized. As we await that meeting in the meantime, the CPUC Energy Division has completed its review of the revised Proponent's Environmental Assessment for Horizon West Transmission, LLC's (HWT) (U 222-E) North Gila to Imperial Valley/Ironwood Transmission Line Project (PEA), which was received by CPUC on January 21, 2026.

It is noted the chapters follow the structural outline provided in the PEA Guidelines. With few exceptions the additional information requested in previous reviews have been included detailed comments for the current review are provided in the attached combined response matrix and attachments and general comments are provided below. It is also recognized that some chapters remain open to updates and that additional questions or data needs may arise during the CEQA process.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas

The majority of comments have been addressed, the AQ section has one minor error: "...the last paragraph on page 5.3-32 of the tracked changes version of the Chapter appears to mistakenly identify the nearest sensitive receptor as "SR5". Based on the description provided about this nearest receptor coupled with a review of Table 5.3-4, it appears as though the actual nearest sensitive receptor is SR3." There were no additional comments on GHG.

GIS Files

Comments related to GIS are provided with the review of each PEQ section and have also been summarized in the review matrix for Attachment 1 - GIS Data Requirements. The main comment is

regarding missing metadata including “The GIS dataset IW_Routes_All_Segments lacks required metadata, including the data source (report reference), date, title, and preparer; a description of contents and known limitations; and information on reference scale and positional accuracy. As provided, the dataset does not allow adequate verification of assumptions in the PEA or evaluation of the level of environmental impacts.” Several other items require reconfirmation and/or it is noted that modifications or additions to the project description, alternatives, or environmental resource data require submittal of the relevant accompanying GIS information.

Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources

The CPUC understands that the cultural resources studies will be initiated soon in cooperation with federal land owners as access to federal lands is received and ground and weather conditions allow studies to proceed. At the meeting with HWT and CPUC on February 18, HWT indicated that field work is scheduled for approximately 12 weeks and reporting will take approximately 8 weeks.

Remaining chapters may have minor comments or suggestions as noted in the matrix and attachments. Impact conclusions may need to be updated based on comments in technical sections.

As always, we are available to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this review. The Energy Division reserves the right to request additional information at any point in the application proceeding and during subsequent construction of the project should Horizon West’s CPCN be approved. Please direct questions related to this application to me at 408-705-6030 or boris.sanchez@cupuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Boris Sanchez
Public Utilities
Regulatory Analyst
Energy Division

CC: Michelle Wilson, Program and Project Supervisor, CPUC CEQA and Energy Permitting Group,
CEQA and FERC Branch
Anne Surdzial, AICP, Vice President, ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Attachment 1: Detailed Comment Matrices