

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners & Interested Parties
From: Ms. Connie Chen, CPUC Project Manager
Subject: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE SUNCREST 230 KILOVOLT (KV) LOOP-IN PROJECT (A.26-05-005)
Date: August 21, 2026

INTRODUCTION

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed an application (A.26-05-005) on May 8, 2026, with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and requests a Permit to Construct (PTC) for the Suncrest 230 Kilovolt (kV) Loop-In Project (Proposed Project). The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) 2022-2023 Transmission Plan identified the need for the Proposed Project to upgrade the California electric grid to accommodate load growth. As such, the Proposed Project's stated purpose is to:

- Address operational challenges and thermal overloads on SDG&E's existing Transmission Line (TL) 23054 and TL 23055 from SDG&E's existing Suncrest Substation to the existing Sycamore Canyon Substation, as well as operational challenges and thermal overloads on the existing transformers at the Suncrest Substation.

The CPUC, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the effects of the Proposed Project in compliance with CEQA. The CPUC has reviewed the application submitted on May 8, 2026, and deemed the application complete on June 4, 2026. To obtain early feedback on the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, the CPUC is initiating a 30-day scoping period from August 21, 2026 through September 21, 2026, to inform the CEQA environmental review.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE

Two virtual scoping meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Meeting Information	Virtual Meeting No. 1	Virtual Meeting No. 2
Date	Tuesday, September 15, 2026	Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Time	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Register at this link	https://tinyurl.com/3s495x53	https://tinyurl.com/ybz8e83c

What is Scoping?

The purpose of this NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning the scoping process and preparing an EIR for the Proposed Project. Scoping is the process of soliciting public and agency input on the scope and content of an EIR before its preparation. Pursuant to CEQA, the CPUC is requesting comments to inform the scope and content of the EIR and help identify the actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and environmental effects to be analyzed in the EIR.

This notice includes a brief description of the Proposed Project, a brief summary of anticipated impacts, information on public meetings, and instructions for providing input on the scope and content of the EIR. After the public scoping period has ended, a Scoping Report will be prepared to summarize the comments received. This NOP and the Scoping Report will be included as an appendix to the EIR and will be available on the CPUC's website for the Proposed Project with other project documents and reports, including SDG&E's application and Applicant-Prepared Administrative Draft EIR, at the following link:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ecorp/suncrest/index.htm>

PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project would cross unincorporated communities within San Diego County, California, including Crest and Harbison Canyon. Figure 1, *Proposed Project Overview*, provides an overview of the Proposed Project within regional jurisdictions.

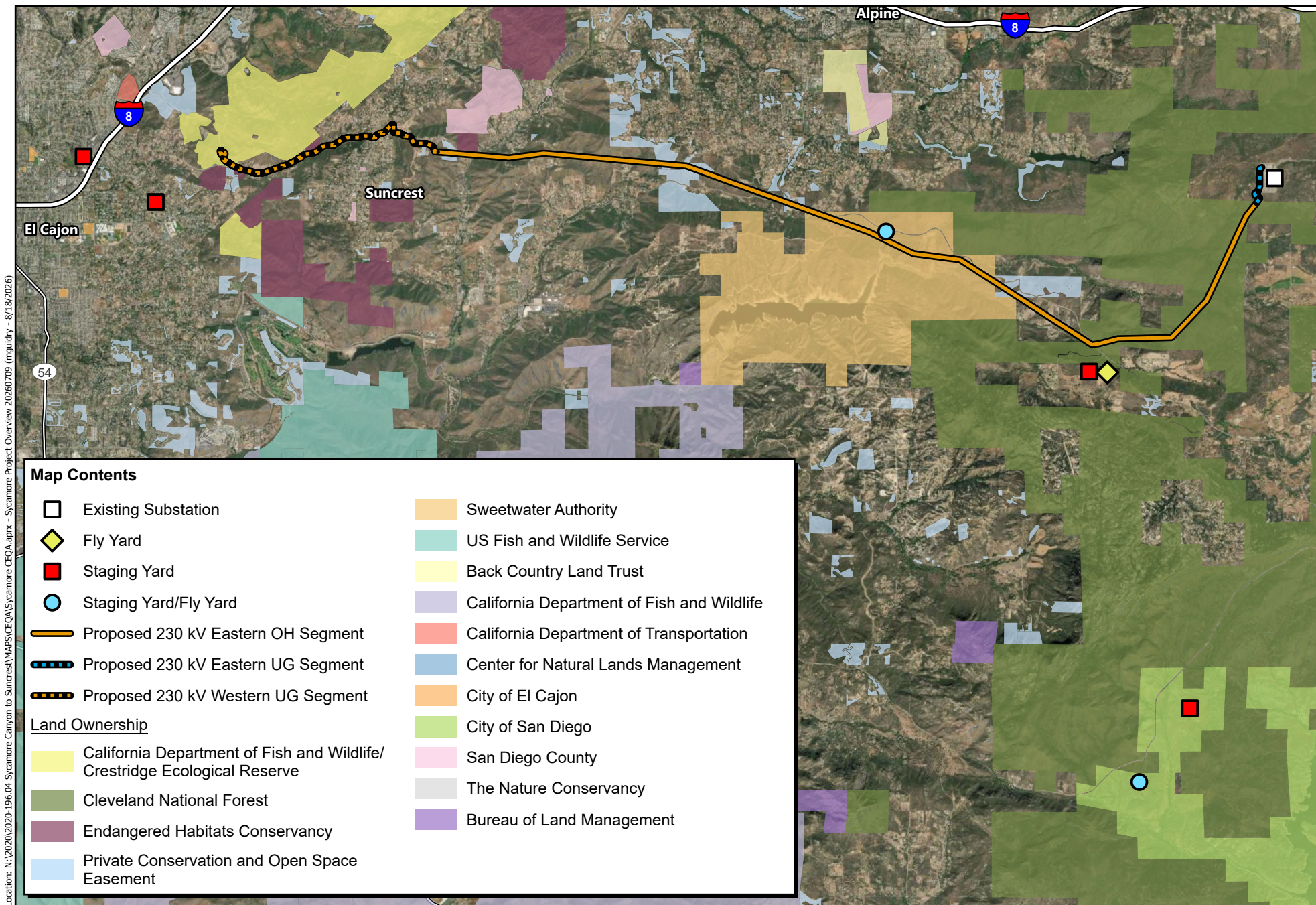
PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project would consist of the construction of an approximately 14.5-mile-long, double-circuit 230 kV transmission line consisting of overhead and underground segments to interconnect SDG&E's existing TL 23021 into the existing Suncrest Substation. The Proposed Project would also include modifications to the existing Suncrest Substation, including (1) installation of a 500/230 kV transformer bank and associated tertiary reactors, circuit breakers, disconnects, and communication equipment, and (2) construction of a 230 kV bay to accommodate the loop-in of TL 23021 to the existing Suncrest Substation. The proposed 230 kV transmission line, coupled with associated modifications to the Suncrest Substation, would create a loop to enhance system reliability.

PROPOSED PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To meet the Proposed Project's purpose, the Applicant-Prepared Administrative Draft EIR includes the following objectives:

- meet SDG&E's obligation to implement the CAISO-approved project;
- improve system reliability for SDG&E's approximately 3.7 million energy customers as well as the electrical grid as a whole;
- increase capacity to meet the forecasted load demands related to electrification;
- address operational challenges and thermal overloads on SDG&E's existing transmission lines (i.e., TL23054 and TL23055);



Map Date: 8/18/2026

Sources: SDGE, Esri



Figure 1. Proposed Project Overview

2020-196.04 Suncrest 230 kV Loop-In Project

- address operational challenges and thermal overloads on existing transformers at SDG&E's existing Suncrest Substation;
- achieve commercial operation by 2032 to timely address critical reliability issues within the transmission system;
- locate the Proposed Project on land adjacent to SDG&E's existing ROW or existing utility uses, or otherwise avoid, mitigate or minimize significant environmental impacts in a manner consistent with prudent transmission planning to the extent practicable;
- construct, operate, and maintain the facility with safety as a top priority;
- maintain compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards; and
- avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts to both the environment and community to achieve a project that is designed for the greatest public good and least private injury.

As lead agency under CEQA, the CPUC is responsible for identifying appropriate project objectives, which may differ from SDG&E's objectives described above, to inform the CEQA process/evaluation, including the development and screening of Project alternatives. The CPUC has not yet identified its CEQA objectives for the Proposed Project.

APPLICANT-PROPOSED MEASURES

As part of the Proposed Project, SDG&E has committed to implementing the applicant-proposed measures (APMs) incorporated into the project's design. APMs are considered binding measures, and the EIR will evaluate these measures as part of the Proposed Project.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

CPUC has determined that an EIR will be prepared because the Proposed Project could result in one or more significant impacts to environmental resources. The EIR will address all issues identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

Environmental Effects

SDG&E, in its Applicant-Prepared Administrative Draft EIR, has not identified any significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the Proposed Project. The EIR will independently and objectively evaluate potential environmental effects and the need for mitigation for the following resource areas and CEQA Appendix G checklist items:

- **Aesthetics:** *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; substantially damage scenic resources; substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (in nonurbanized areas); conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality (in urbanized areas); introduce new sources of light and/or glare.*
- **Agricultural Resources:** *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production; result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.*

- **Air Quality:** Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan; result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; result in other emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people.
- **Biological Resources:** Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS; have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites; conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan; create a substantial collision or electrocution risk for birds or bats.
- **Cultural Resources:** Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; disturb, uncover, expose, and/or damage any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.
- **Energy:** Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation; conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.
- **Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources:** Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, and landslides; result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse; be located on expansive soil creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property; have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater; directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials; create a risk to human health and the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials; emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school; be located on a site

which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment; for a project located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area; impair or interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency response plan; expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires.

- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality; decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin; substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite, create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or impede or redirect flood flows; risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones; conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.*
- **Land Use and Planning:** *Physically divide an established community; cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.*
- **Mineral Resources:** *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.*
- **Noise:** *Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; generate excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.*
- **Population and Housing:** *Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly; displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.*
- **Public Services:** *result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.*
- **Recreation:** *Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.*
- **Transportation:** *Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b); substantially increase hazards due to geometric design feature or incompatible uses; result in inadequate emergency access.*

- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1 (k); cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion ad supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1.*
- **Utilities and Service Systems:** *Result in relocated, new, or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities that could cause significant environmental effects; have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development; result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; exceed capacity of solid waste facilities and be noncompliant with solid waste statutes and regulations; not comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.*
- **Wildfire:** *If located in or near SRA lands or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ), substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors; require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.*

Mitigation Measures, Cumulative Impacts, and Alternatives

The EIR will include the CPUC's independent evaluation of the potential effects described above and other potentially significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project, including those resulting from its construction, operation, and maintenance. Where necessary and feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended (in addition to or to supersede SDG&E's APMs) to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. The EIR will also address potential cumulative environmental impacts of the Proposed Project when considered with past, other current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the region.

The EIR will include a discussion and analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project, including a No Project alternative and alternatives that could attain most of its basic CEQA objectives while avoiding or reducing any of its significant environmental effects. SDG&E has identified several alternatives in their Applicant-Prepared Administrative Draft EIR, including a No Project Alternative, Alternative Route 4, Alternative Route 4B, and Alternative Route 5. These will be considered by the CPUC's environmental review team and potentially carried forward for full analysis in the EIR. Other alternatives may be added to the analysis based on input received during the 30-day scoping period following issuance of this NOP, or by the EIR team to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

Per Public Resources Code Section 21092.6(a), if the Proposed Project site or site of any project alternative to be analyzed is a site listed on the "Cortese List" of hazardous waste sites, then this information must be included in the NOP. According to the Corridor Study prepared by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. and a review of the GeoTracker and EnviroStor databases, the Proposed Project would not be located on a known hazardous site with an existing or past release.

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD FOR THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Information to be included in the EIR will be based in part on input and comments received during the scoping period. Decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, property owners, and members of the public will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR once it is issued. Pursuant to CEQA, the scoping period will be 30 days following the release of this NOP. The 30-day scoping period for this Proposed Project begins on Friday, August 21, 2026, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026. Please include the name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and e-mail address of the contact person for all future notifications related to this process. Public comments will become part of the public record and will be published in a Scoping Report.

Please send your comments on the scope and content of the EIR by email to CEQA@suncrestloop-in.com or by mail to:

**Connie Chen, CPUC
Suncrest 230kV Loop-In Project
c/o ECRP Consulting, Inc.; Attn. D. Atwater
3838 Camino del Rio North, Suite 370, San Diego, CA 92108**

Email messages should have "SDG&E Suncrest 230kV Loop-In Project" as the subject line.

SCOPING MEETINGS

For the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the EIR for the Proposed Project, two virtual meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, during the NOP scoping period. Information about the meetings is included in the table provided on page 1. For the first half hour of the meetings, CPUC will host a workshop to explain: a) the CPUC's process for reviewing the application; b) the environmental review process; and c) details on how the public can become involved with each of these processes. Following the workshop, the CPUC will hold the official scoping meeting, beginning with a brief presentation that provides an overview of the Proposed Project and the alternatives identified to date. Following this presentation, agencies and the public will have an opportunity to provide verbal comments to inform the scope of the environmental review. Written comments will be accepted throughout the NOP 30-day scoping period to the address and/or email provided above.