

H. Public Participation

H.1 Introduction

This section outlines the scoping and public participation program completed by the CPUC before issuance of the Draft EIR (DEIR). Within this section is a list of all comments received during the scoping program with reference to the portion of this draft that addresses those issues. This section also includes information about the DEIR review process.

H.2 Public Participation Program

This section summarizes the CPUC's program of public notice and participation to maximize agency and public input for the Valley-Ivyglen 115 kV Subtransmission Line and the Fogarty 115kV Substation Project environmental review process.

H.2.1 EIR Scoping Process

The scoping process for the Valley-Ivyglen 150 kV Transmission Line and Fogarty 115 kV Substation Project EIR consisted of the five elements listed below. Each element is described in more detail in the following sections.

1. Publication of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings soliciting comments from affected public agencies, as required by CEQA, as well as from the public.
2. Public scoping meetings and meetings with agencies.
3. Summarization of scoping comments in a Scoping Report.
4. Distribution of the Scoping Report and scoping comments as appropriate to the commenting agencies, scoping meeting attendees, the DEIR team members for use in work planning and impact analysis, and to public libraries designated as project repository sites for members of the public interested in reviewing the report and comments.
5. Establishment of a website, email address, telephone hotline, and local EIR Information Repositories.

H.2.1.1 Notice of Preparation

The CPUC issued the NOP on January 22, 2008, and distributed it to potentially responsible government agencies, interested groups, and individuals and property owners within the vicinity of the right-of-way and substation location. There was a 30-day legally required period for interested parties to submit comments regarding the contents of the EIR. There were 506 copies of the NOP mailed out to members of the public. In addition, the NOP was sent to 10 federal agencies, 24 state agencies, and 30 local agencies and planning groups. The NOP was also distributed to 68 private organizations and Native American groups. A copy of the NOP is available in the Scoping Report, which may be viewed at the EIR Information Repositories and on the Internet, as described in Section H.2.4.

H.2.1.2 Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings were conducted as part of the EIR scoping process to receive input regarding the scope and content of this DEIR, as well as alternatives and mitigation measures which should be considered. Approximately 22 members of the public and representatives from organizations and government agencies attended the two scoping meetings. The following scoping meetings were held prior to selection of alternatives to be studied and conduct of the analysis documented in this DEIR:

- February 6, 2008, at 6:00 pm at the Lake Elsinore Cultural Center, Lake Elsinore
- February 7, 2008, at 2:00 pm at the Bob Glass Gymnasium, Perris

H.2.1.3 Scoping Report

A comprehensive Scoping Report was issued, summarizing issues and concerns received from the public and various agencies and presenting copies of all written comments received. A total of 14 letters and emails were received during the NOP scoping period from government agencies, Native American tribal groups, land developers, and concerned members of the public. The Scoping Report was made available for review at two repositories and on the internet as listed in Section H.2.4.

The specific issues raised during the public scoping process are summarized below according to the following major themes:

- Human Environment
- Physical Environment
- Environmental Review and Decision Making Process.

Nearly all of the public and agency comments raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of the project on the human environment, most often expressing concerns regarding aesthetic, noise, and public health and safety concerns, particularly electromagnetic fields (EMF). Other common concerns expressed dealt with air quality, public utilities, transportation and traffic, land use compatibility, cultural and biological resources, and hydrology issues.

Human Environment

- **Visual and Aesthetic Impacts.** Private citizens were concerned about the visual character of their neighborhoods being affected by new transmission poles. Suggestions of underground transmission and camouflaged poles, similar to cell phone towers, were made.
- **Noise.** Multiple private citizens commented on the potential increase in noise due to new and larger poles. A quantification of noise levels was requested in the environmental document.
- **EMF-Related Health and Safety Issues.** The majority of comments from members of the public and organizations expressed concern over the health effects of the 115 kV subtransmission line and the EMF it would generate, particularly as it related to a nearby high school.
- **Air Quality.** A comment was made regarding the wood recycling plant and the high level of dust generated by this local facility. A private citizen was concerned with the cumulative effects of the wood dust and construction dust from the Project.
- **Public Services and Utilities.** A private citizen commented on the leach fields associated with septic systems along the proposed route and requested that the impacts to leach fields be analyzed.

- **Transportation and Traffic.** Specific concerns regarding the narrowness of Stonehouse Road were made and the difficulty new transmission poles would present drivers. Also, concerns over access to private property were voiced by private citizens.
- **Land Use Compatibility and Recreation.** Private citizens commented that the Project would decrease property values, increase noise and visual clutter, as well as create new sources of light pollution. An equestrian commented that views from the mountain trails would be impacted.
- **Public Health and Safety.** The argument was made that new transmission lines would prevent airplane fire suppression runs and therefore increase risk of fire danger. The same no-fly argument was made by the local hang glider association with regards to their safety.
- **Cultural Resources.** A single comment was made that the California Historic Commission should be included in the review of the project and the 23 cultural resources sites along the route should be preserved.

Physical Environment

- **Biological Resources.** Concerns over the eucalyptus trees along the route were raised by private individuals including the potential effects of EMF on trees. Also, it was requested that the environmental document address the endangered species in the surrounding areas.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** The potential of flooding along Highway 74 was raised and a private individual requested that a hydrology analysis be considered.

Environmental Review and Decision Making Process

A number of suggestions and comments were made regarding the adequacy of the environmental review and decision-making process. Individuals and agencies addressed issues such as cumulative impacts, inadequacies of the NOP and scoping process, and the Project's general effect on and benefits to the public. A private resident suggested that all projects being considered in the area be considered together. It was also suggested that all scoping and notification documents related to the Project be submitted to the library for public viewing. It was requested that mitigation measures be specific, avoiding more general plans.

- **Cumulative Impacts.** A private resident stated that there are three projects now being considered in the area that include substations and power lines. It was requested that the impacts of all these projects need to be considered together.
- **General EIR and Permitting Comments.** A private citizen commented that the notification and scoping process was inadequate and suggested that the public library receive all documents for public viewing. Also, it was suggested that mitigation measures be specific and avoid requiring simply the preparation of a plan.
- **Overall Project Comments.** A general comment was made by a private individual that the Project would be devastating to the public. Also, a private individual argued that the Project was no longer needed due to the recent economic downturn in the housing market, and therefore, a new demand study should be conducted to defend the project need.

All comments received during the scoping process are addressed in this document. Table H.2-1 summarizes the public scoping comments with references to the DEIR section that addresses those comments.

Table H.2-1 Appropriate DEIR Sections for Specific Scoping Comments

Comment/Concern	DEIR Section	Where Comment is Addressed in DEIR
The effect of transmission poles on the visual character of neighborhoods; increase in visual clutter	D.03 Visual Resources	Impact VIS-3 Degradation to Existing Visual Character
Cumulative effects of dust from construction and local wood recycling plant	D.10 Air Quality	Impact AIR-02 Air Quality Violations Impact AIR-02 Net Increase of Any Criteria Pollutants
Impact to leach fields associated with septic systems along the proposed subtransmission route	D.13 Public Services and Utilities	D.13.1.1 Public Services
Potential increase in noise due to new and larger transmission poles	D.11 Noise	
Potentially impacted access to private property (specific concerns regarding narrowness of Stonehouse Road)	D.12 Transportation and Traffic	Impact TRANS-1: Impact and Level of Service
Potential decrease in property value	D.15 Population and Housing	Economic issue that does not result in a physical impact and therefore CEQA does not require impact assessment.
New sources of light pollution	D.03 Visual Resources	Impact VIS-4 New Source of Light or Glare Affecting Daytime or Nighttime Views
Impact on views from mountain trails	D.03 Visual Resources	Impact VIS-1 Adverse Affects on a Scenic Vista Impact VIS-3 Degradation to Existing Visual Character
EMF concerns, particularly as they relate to local high school	D.08 Hazards and Public Safety	HAZ-3 Hazardous Emissions within a Quarter Mile of a School D.8.3.4 Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)
Prevention of airplane fire suppression and increase of fire danger	D.08 Hazards and Public Safety	HAZ-8 Significant Hazards Associated with Wildfires
Impact on safety of local hang-gliding association	D.08 Hazards and Public Safety	HAZ-6 Public or Worker Safety Hazard due to Proximity to Private Airstrip
Inclusion of California Historic Commission in project review and preservation of 23 cultural resource sites along the route	D.05 Cultural Resources	D.5.2 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards
Impact on eucalyptus trees along the route, including potential effects of EMF on trees	D.04 Biological Resources	Impact BIO-4 Local Policies
Environmental document addressing the impact on endangered species in the area	D.04 Biological Resources	Impact BIO-1 Effects on Sensitive Biological Communities and Sensitive Species
Potential of flooding along Highway 74	D.07 Hydrology	Impact HYD-4 Drainage Patterns and Flooding Impact HYD-3 Drainage Patterns, Erosion and Siltation
Hydrological analysis	D.07 Hydrology	Impact HYD-1 Water Quality Standards and Waste Discharge Requirements

Table H.2-1 Appropriate DEIR Sections for Specific Scoping Comments

Comment/Concern	DEIR Section	Where Comment is Addressed in DEIR
Cumulative Impacts – specifically of three projects now being considered in area	D. Environmental Analysis	Cumulative Impacts are addressed at the end of the analysis for each resource area.
Inadequate notification and scoping process – public library to receive all documents for viewing?	H. Public Participation	H.2.2 Public Notification
Require specific rather than general mitigation measures	D. Environmental Analysis	Mitigation measures are presented in the environmental analyses sections with the impact analysis.
Study defending project need in response to recent downturn in housing market	A. Introduction/Overview	A.1.2 Purpose

H.2.2 Public Notification

H.2.2.1 Notification for Scoping Meetings

The NOP was mailed on January 22, 2008, to more than 500 individuals, groups, and government agencies identified for the initial EIR mailing list, based on the Applicant’s list of property owners located within 300 feet of the right-of-way and the substation location, as well as groups and individuals with a vital interest in the Project compiled by the EIR Team. The dates, times, and locations of the two scoping meetings were included in the NOP mailed to these affected agencies and other parties interested in the CPUC’s General Proceeding for SCE’s application. This information was also posted on the CPUC’s project website and on the project hotline. A notice for the two public scoping meetings was also published in the *Perris Progress*, *Press Enterprise*, and the *San Bernardino County Sun*.

H.2.2.2 Notice of Release of Draft EIR and Property Owner Notification

A Notice of Release of the DEIR will be sent to property owners and occupants on or adjacent to the Applicant’s proposed and alternative routes in June, 2009 when the DEIR is released. The Notice will include information on how to access the DEIR, which is the Environmentally Superior Alternative(s), and the dates, times, and locations for informational workshops on the DEIR as well as the CPUC’s Public Participation Hearings.

H.2.3 Informational Meetings and Public Hearings on the Draft DEIR

There will be a 45-day public review period for the DEIR, ending on July 30, 2009. Following the release of the DEIR, two public participation hearings will be held (times, dates, and locations listed in Table H.2-1). The purpose of these public participation hearings will be to allow the public to speak formally on the record on the DEIR and any other issues of concern related to the Applicant. These public hearings will be held by CPUC; times and dates are below. For more information on the public participation hearings, you may contact the Public Advisor at 1-866-849-8390 or public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

Table H.2-1 Time, Date, and Location of Public Participation Hearings		
Time	Date	Location
From 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Wednesday, July 15, 2009	Lake Elsinore Cultural Arts Center 183 N. Main Street, Lake Elsinore, California 92530
From 2:00 to 4:00 PM	Thursday, July 16, 2009	Cesar E. Chavez Library Community Room 163 E San Jacinto, Perris, California 92570

H.2.4 DEIR Information and Repository Sites

The DEIR will be placed in two repository sites to allow the public access to the document. EIR-related documents, including the Scoping Report, this DEIR, and the Final EIR will be made available upon their release to the public at the locations listed below.

Lake Elsinore Library

600 W. Graham Ave.
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
951-674-4517

City of Perris

Cesar E. Chavez Library

163 E. San Jacinto
Perris, CA 92570
951-657-2358

A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (951)274-7293. Faxes may be sent to (415) 981-0801. Email queries and comments may be sent to ivyglen@ene.com.

Information about the Project, including the Scoping Report, the environmental review process, the DEIR, and the Final EIR will be posted on the Internet at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivyglen/ivyglen.html>

This site is used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings.