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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-3298



March 2010

To: All Interested Parties

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared the enclosed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study (MND/IS) for consideration of Southern California Edison's application (A.08-11-019) for the proposed Triton Substation Project. The Final MND/IS has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and incorporates changes resulting from comments submitted during the public review period (November 18, 2009, through December 17, 2009).

**Description of the Proposed Project.** The project would be located in the Cities of Temecula and Murrieta and unincorporated areas of southwestern Riverside County in California. The project would include construction of the 56 megavolt ampere (MVA) 115/12 kilovolt (kV) Triton Substation, decommissioning of the existing 33/12 kV Canine Substation, and decommissioning of an emergency 33/12 kV transformer bank at the 115/33/12 kV Auld Substation. The Triton Substation would be located on an approximately 10-acre parcel at the southeast corner of Nicolas Road and Calle Medusa in Temecula, Riverside County, California. Canine Substation is a temporary facility that is scheduled to be retired by June 2010. Similarly, the emergency transformer bank at Auld Substation is scheduled to be disconnected in 2010.

The project would also include construction of a 115 kV subtransmission line loop-in along Nicolas Road from an existing subtransmission line to the new Triton Substation (approximately 0.25 miles). The subtransmission line loop-in would be installed on seven to eight new tubular steel poles. Two new 12 kV underground, distribution duct banks would be built on the Triton Substation site. The project would include installation of new telecommunications lines from the Triton Substation to the Auld and Moraga Substations. Minor telecommunications equipment upgrades would be conducted within the Auld, Moraga, Pauba, Pechanga, Stadler, and Valley Substations.

**Contents of the Final MND/IS.** The Final MND/IS consists of a single volume with the Mitigated Negative Declaration statement to be adopted by the CPUC, and the Initial Study, which evaluates the potential significance of project impacts. The Initial Study also contains the Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan to be approved by the CPUC. A new chapter (Chapter 6) has been added to the Initial Study that presents the written comments received during the public review period, a copy of the transcript of the public meeting on the Draft MND/IS, and written responses to those comments, including General Responses to frequent comments.

**Changes Made to the MND/IS.** In response to comments on the Draft MND/IS that was circulated for public review, various changes or additions have been made to the document. Other than the new Chapter 6, any text inserted into the Final MND/IS is underlined and **bold**, and any deleted text is shown in ~~strikeout~~.

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Information has been added or revised in the Final MND/IS as follows:

- Revisions and clarifications were made to the Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Population and Housing, Recreation, and Transportation and Traffic Sections.
- Minor revisions were made to mitigation measures in the Biological Resources Section.
- Comment letters received during the public review period and a transcript of comments made during the public meeting are included with responses to major comments (Chapter 6).

**CPUC Actions After Final MND/IS Circulation and Public Involvement in CPUC General Proceeding.** There is no comment period for the Final MND/IS. Following the publication of the MND/IS the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may seek further briefings or testimony on issues associated with the project. The ALJ may seek further information on the legal validity of the MND/IS or any other topic pertaining to the issuance of the Permit to Construct.

If the ALJ intends to take further evidence relating to the project then she will convene a pre-hearing conference to allow parties to set out their issues and to establish a timetable for briefing on these issues. Upon completion of briefs the ALJ will then write the proposed decision which may include the recommendation that the Commission adopt and certify the MND/IS.

The Commissioners will then evaluate the proposed decision, and may propose alternative decisions. The Commissioners will then vote on whether to issue a Permit to Construct for the Triton Substation. The decision will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing.

If the CPUC approves the proposed project, the CPUC will implement a Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan. This plan will ensure that the approved project is constructed as defined, and that all adopted mitigation measures and project design features the applicant committed to are implemented to ensure that effects on the environment do not exceed those described in the MND/IS.

**Availability of the Final MND/IS.** Copies of the Final MND/IS on compact disk (CD) have been mailed to parties to the General Proceeding and public agencies and Native American Tribes that commented on the proposed MND/IS during the public review period, as well as members of the public who have requested it. The document is available on the CPUC's project website at:

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

The Final MND/IS is also available at the repository locations below:

Temecula Public Library  
30600 Pauba Road  
Temecula, CA 92592-6206  
(951) 693-8900

Copies of the Final MND/IS on CD may be requested by e-mail at [triton@ene.com](mailto:triton@ene.com) or by calling Karen Ladd at (415) 981-2811. The CPUC also has a limited number of hard copies of the complete Final MND/IS document available to the public upon request at the above addresses and numbers.

Further information about this document is available from Iain Fisher, CPUC Project Manager, at [AEI@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:AEI@cpuc.ca.gov) or (415) 355-5580.