

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**



To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, & Interested Parties

From: Connie Chen, CPUC Environmental Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF AN INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP AND SCOPING MEETING: Permit to Construct the Circle City Substation and Mira Loma-Jefferson 66 kV Subtransmission Line Project

Date: January 29, 2016

Description of the Project

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is preparing an EIR for the Project identified below, and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. Southern California Edison (SCE), in its CPUC application (A.15-12-007), filed on December 4, 2015, seeks a permit to construct (PTC) the Circle City Substation and Mira Loma-Jefferson 66 kilovolt (kV) Subtransmission Line Project (Project). The Project would consist of construction of: a new 66/12 kV substation (Circle City Substation); four new 66 kV subtransmission source lines; and a new 66 kV subtransmission line, which would be a combination of both overhead and underground construction. The Project would also include an upgrade to the Mira Loma Substation, construction of approximately six new underground 12 kV distribution getaways that would exit the proposed Circle City Substation, relocation of approximately 1.9 miles of an existing overhead 33 kV distribution line to an underground position, and installation of telecommunication facilities to connect the Project to SCE's existing telecommunications system. Refer to the attached figure for an illustration of the proposed 66 kV subtransmission line routes, the proposed substation site, and the existing substations that would be associated with the Project.

The purpose of this Project is to ensure the availability of safe and reliable electrical service and to provide additional capacity to serve long-term forecasted electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area (ENA), while also maintaining or improving system reliability and providing greater operational flexibility. The ENA includes the cities of Corona and Norco, and the surrounding area of unincorporated Riverside County.

Location of the Project

The Project would be located in portions of northwestern Riverside County, including the cities of Corona, Eastvale, and Norco; and in portions of San Bernardino County, including the cities of Chino and Ontario. The Circle City Substation would be located approximately 0.25 mile south of the corner of Magnolia Avenue and East 6th Street in Corona, and the subtransmission line would connect the Circle City Substation to the Mira Loma Substation located off Hamner Avenue near the corner of Cantu-Galleano Ranch Road in Ontario. See the attached figure.

Issues To Be Addressed in the EIR

It has been determined that an EIR is required because the Project could result in potentially significant impacts to environmental resources. The EIR will address all of the issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form (see CEQA Guidelines Appendix G). The EIR will identify the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project, including those resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. The EIR will also discuss and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives

to the Project, including a No Project alternative scenario, and alternatives to the Project that could attain most of its basic objectives while avoiding or reducing any of its significant environmental effects.

In its PEA, SCE identified a number of alternatives that will be considered by the CPUC's EIR 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 in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

Specific areas of analysis to be addressed in the EIR include: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, and energy conservation. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. The EIR will also address potential cumulative impacts of the Project, considered together with past, other current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

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. Additional information about the environmental review process for the Project as well as electronic copies of SCE's PTC Application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment can be found on the CPUC's website for the Project at:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/Circle_City/index.html

Public Scoping Period for this Notice of Preparation

State law mandates a 30-day time limit after the date of the NOP for the scoping period. The scoping period for this Project begins on Friday, January 29th, 2016, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 29th. Please include a name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and e-mail address of a contact person for all future notification 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 to:

Connie Chen
Circle City Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
1425 North McDowell Blvd, Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954
E-mail: CircleCityEIR@esassoc.com
Fax: (707) 795-0902

Educational Workshop and Scoping Meeting

In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the EIR for the Project, a meeting will be held during the NOP scoping period. The meeting will be held:

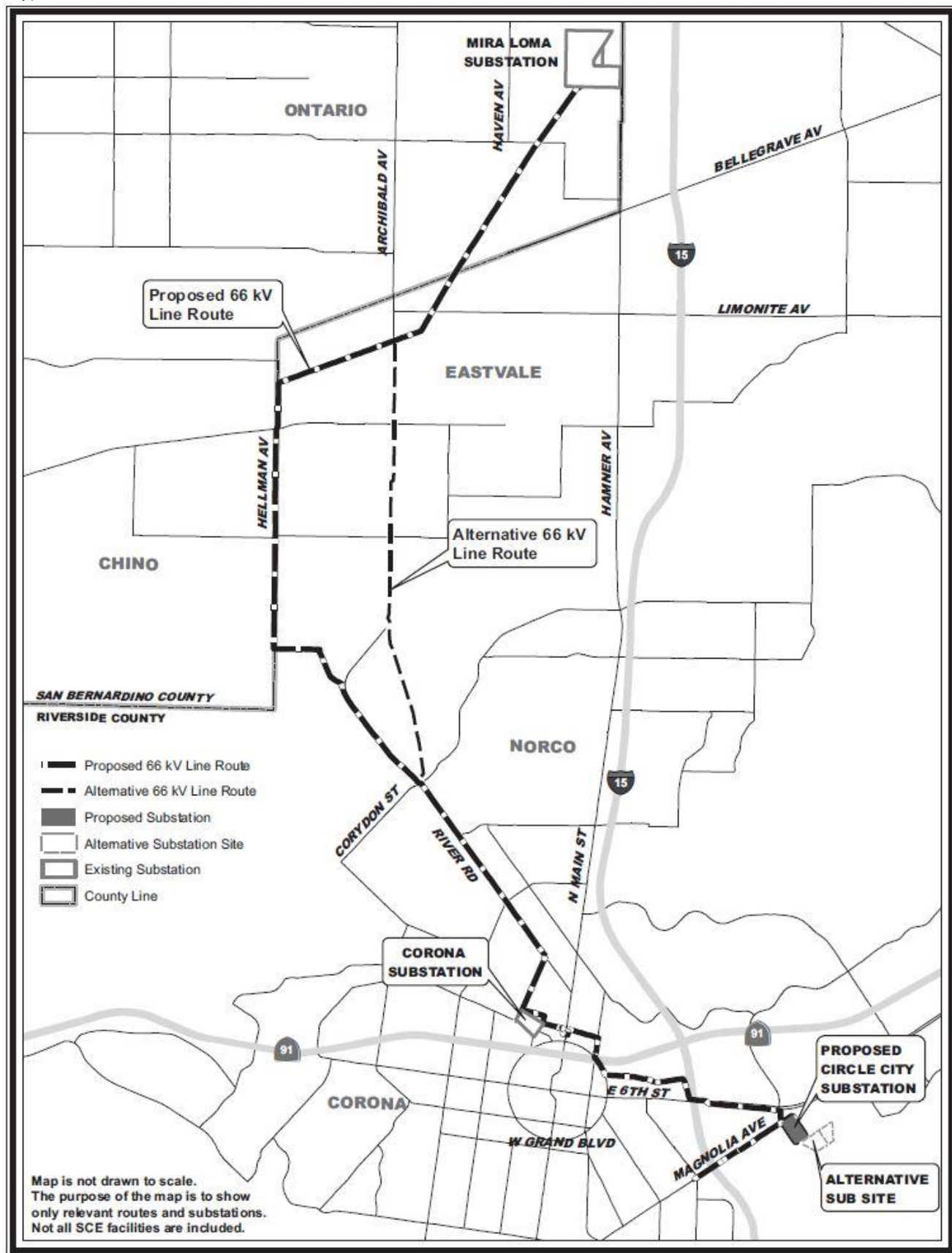
Wednesday, February 17th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Corona Public Library
650 S. Main Street
Corona, CA 92882

From 6:00 to 6:30, the CPUC will hold an educational workshop. This workshop will address: (a) CPUC's process for reviewing the Project application; (b) the environmental review process; and (c) details on how members of the public can become involved with each of these processes.

From 6:30 to 8:00 the CPUC will hold the official scoping meeting. The scoping meeting will start with a brief presentation providing an overview of the Project and alternatives identified to date. Following the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to provide comments about the Project. Comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit written comments at the scoping meeting. Written comments also may be submitted anytime during the NOP scoping period to the address, e-mail, or facsimile number provided above.

REMINDER: All comments will be accepted by postmark, e-mail, or facsimile through February 29th, 2016. Please be sure to include your name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and e-mail address.

Figure 1



Source: Southern California Edison, 2015. Application of Southern California Edison Company (U 338-E) for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages between 50 kV and 200 kV: Circle City Substation and Mira Loma-Jefferson Subtransmission Line Project. December 4, 2015.