




California Public Utilities Commission



Power the South Bay Project CEQA Scoping Meeting

Meeting Information	Virtual Meeting No. 1	Virtual Meeting No. 2
Day and Date	Thursday, August 15, 2024	Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time	2:30 to 4:00 p.m.	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Attend by	Zoom Link: https://bit.ly/PowertheSouthBay or by phone: (888) 788-0099 Webinar ID: 894 4671 0376	

CPUC Power the South Bay Project Webpage:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/psb/index.html>

Protecting California since 1911

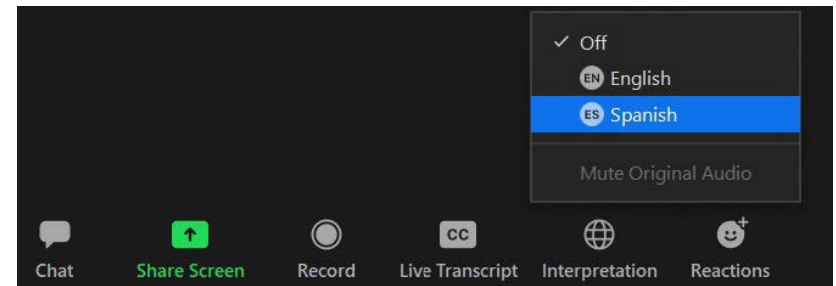
The CPUC regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies.



@CaliforniaPUC

Select Your Preferred Language / *Seleccione su idioma*

- Click the “**Interpretation**” button and select your preferred language / *Haga clic en el botón “Interpretación y seleccione Español”*
- Click the Interpretation button again and then click “Mute Original Audio” / *Haga clic en el botón Interpretación nuevamente y luego haga clic en “Silenciar audio original”*



Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Application and Permitting Process
- Environmental Review Process (CEQA)
- Project Overview
- Scoping: Environmental Impacts and Alternatives
- Public Comments
- Next Steps



Introductions

State Lead Agency (CEQA): California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

- Tommy Alexander, CPUC Project Manager

Consultant: Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

- Dave Davis, ESA Project Manager
- Vince Molina, ESA Deputy Project Manager
- Mike Manka, ESA Project Director

Project Applicant: LS Power Grid California (LSPGC)



Purpose of this Meeting



To receive input from the public, agencies, and interested parties to inform the scope and content of the environmental review.

Your ideas are welcome and invited.



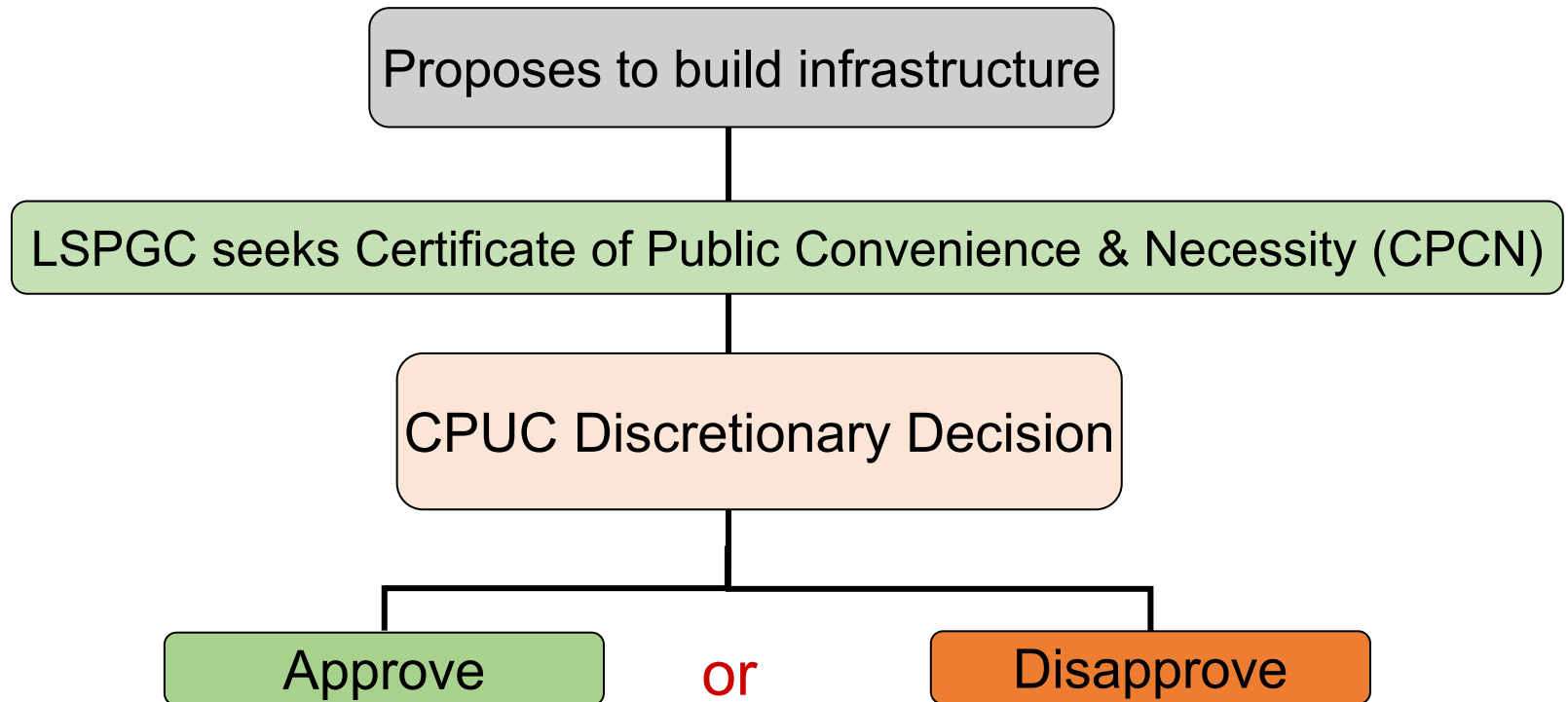
What is Scoping?

- Scoping is the process of soliciting public and agency input regarding the scope and content of an EIR in advance of its preparation.
- 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.



Application Process

LS Power Grid California(LSPGC)

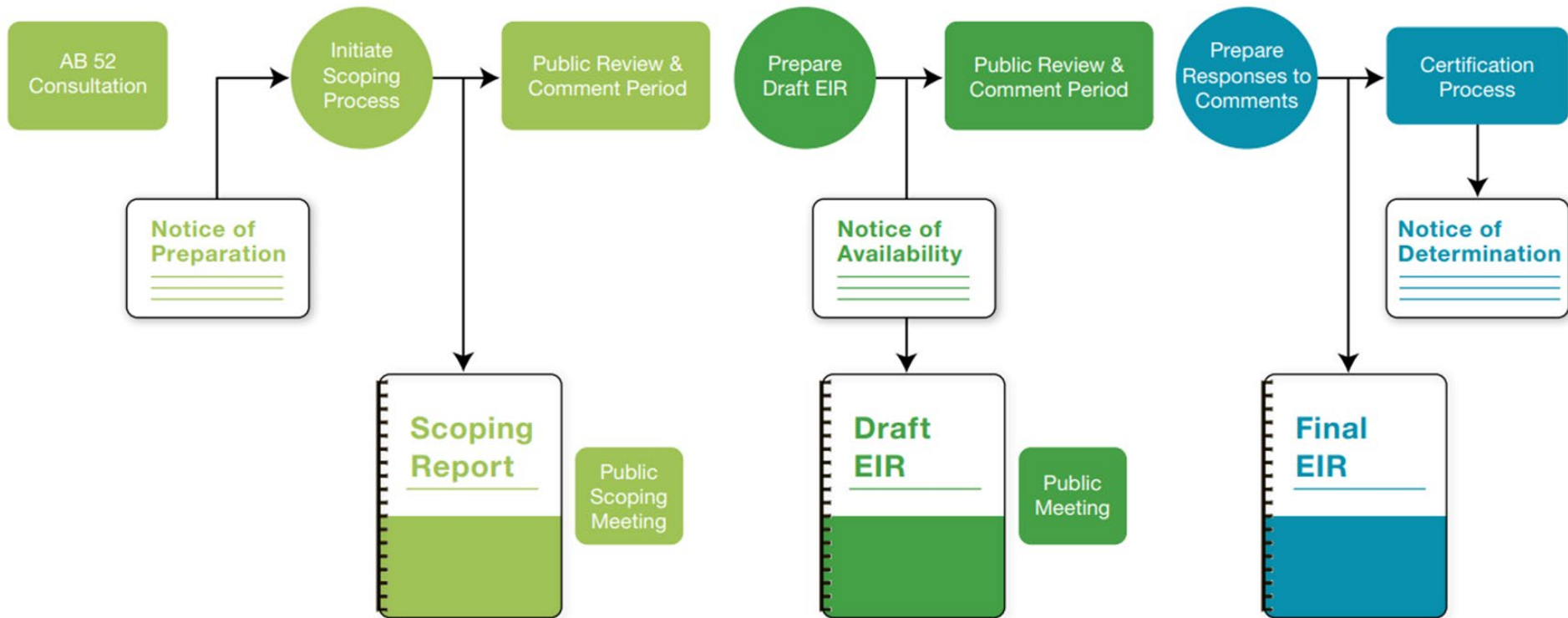


CEQA Overview

- The California Environmental Quality Act
 - Informs decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of a proposed project
 - Identifies ways that environmental impact can be avoided or significantly reduced
 - Seeks to prevent significant, avoidable impact to the environment through use of alternatives or mitigation measures
 - Discloses to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved
- Focus on physical impacts to the environment



CEQA EIR Process



CEQA: Project Description

Construction

- What would be built?
- How would the project be built?
 - Construction methodology
 - Equipment required
 - Workers required
- Project schedule - duration/phases



Operations

- How would the project be operated?
- Operational personnel required

Maintenance

- How is the project maintained?
- When is maintenance performed?
- Maintenance personnel required



Project Location

Alameda County

- Newark
- Fremont

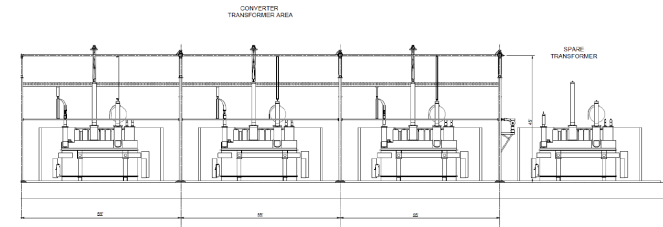
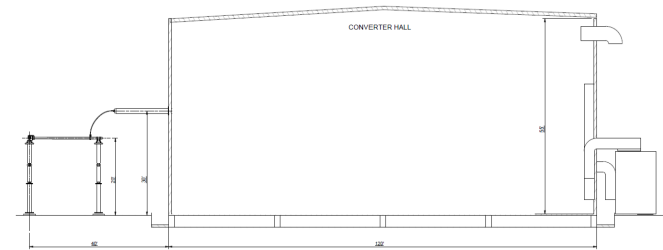
Santa Clara County

- Milpitas
- San José
 - Alviso
- Santa Clara

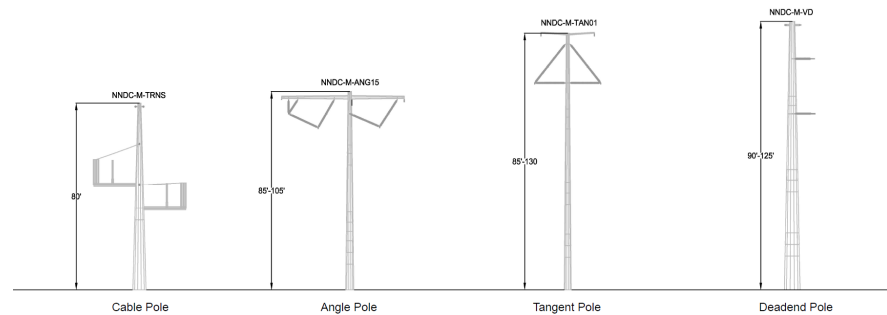


Project Components

- 2 high-voltage direct current (HVDC) terminals w/ associated transmission lines
- Connect w/ PG&E Newark 230 kV substation & SVP Northern Receiving Station (NRS) 230 kV substation + modifications
- Albrae HVDC converter station terminal at PG&E Newark substation
- Baylands HVDC converter station interconnected with SVP NRS
- ~12.5 miles of 230 kV & 320 kV transmission line, above- & below ground
- 10 trenchless crossings



HVDC Terminal Site Profile



Typical 320 kV DC Overhead Transmission Line Structures



Existing - Albrae Terminal Site



Weber Road – Looking north

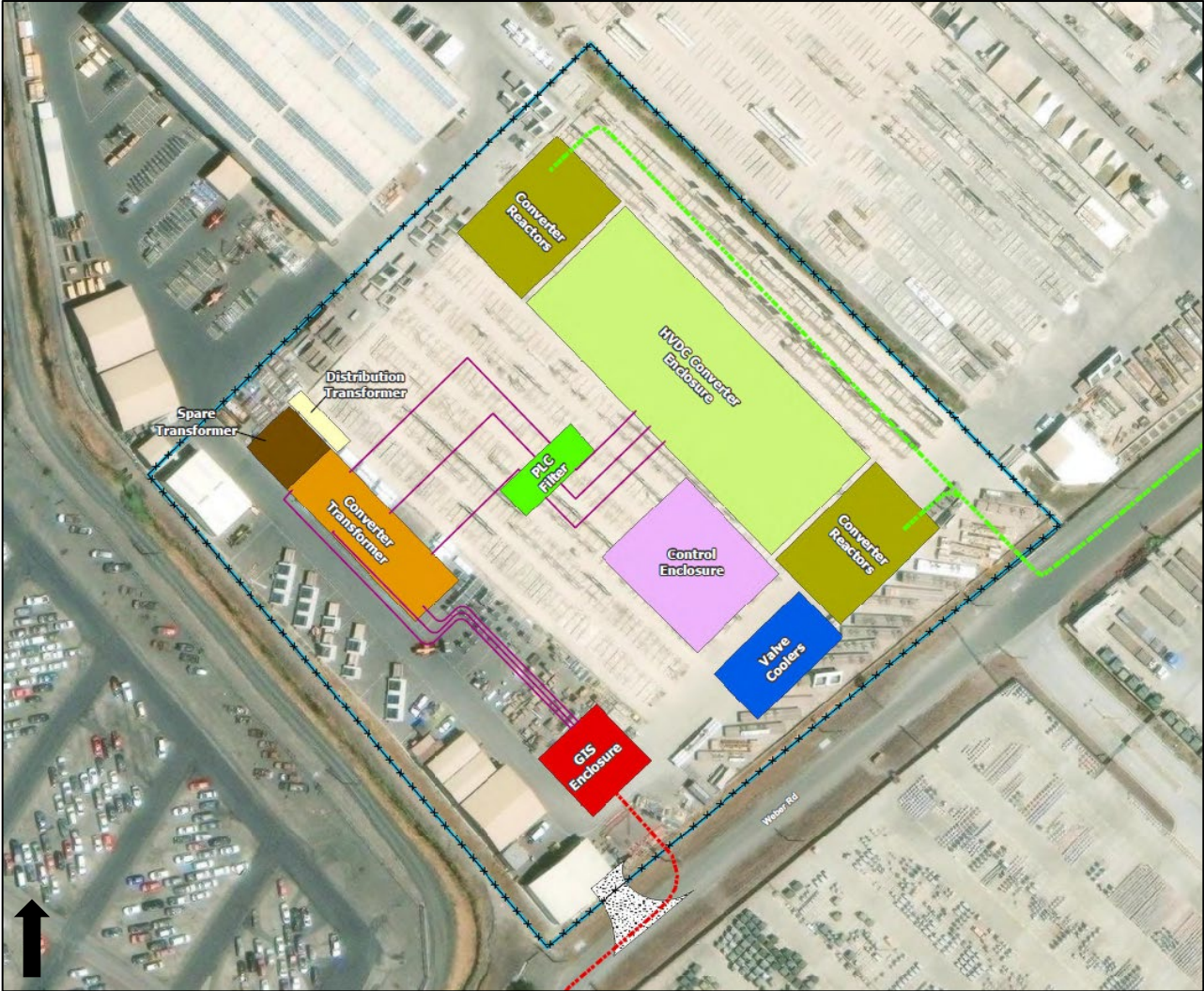
Weber Road – Looking west



Proposed – Albrae Terminal General Arrangement



Proposed – Albrae Terminal General Arrangement



Existing - Baylands Terminal Site

Looking north



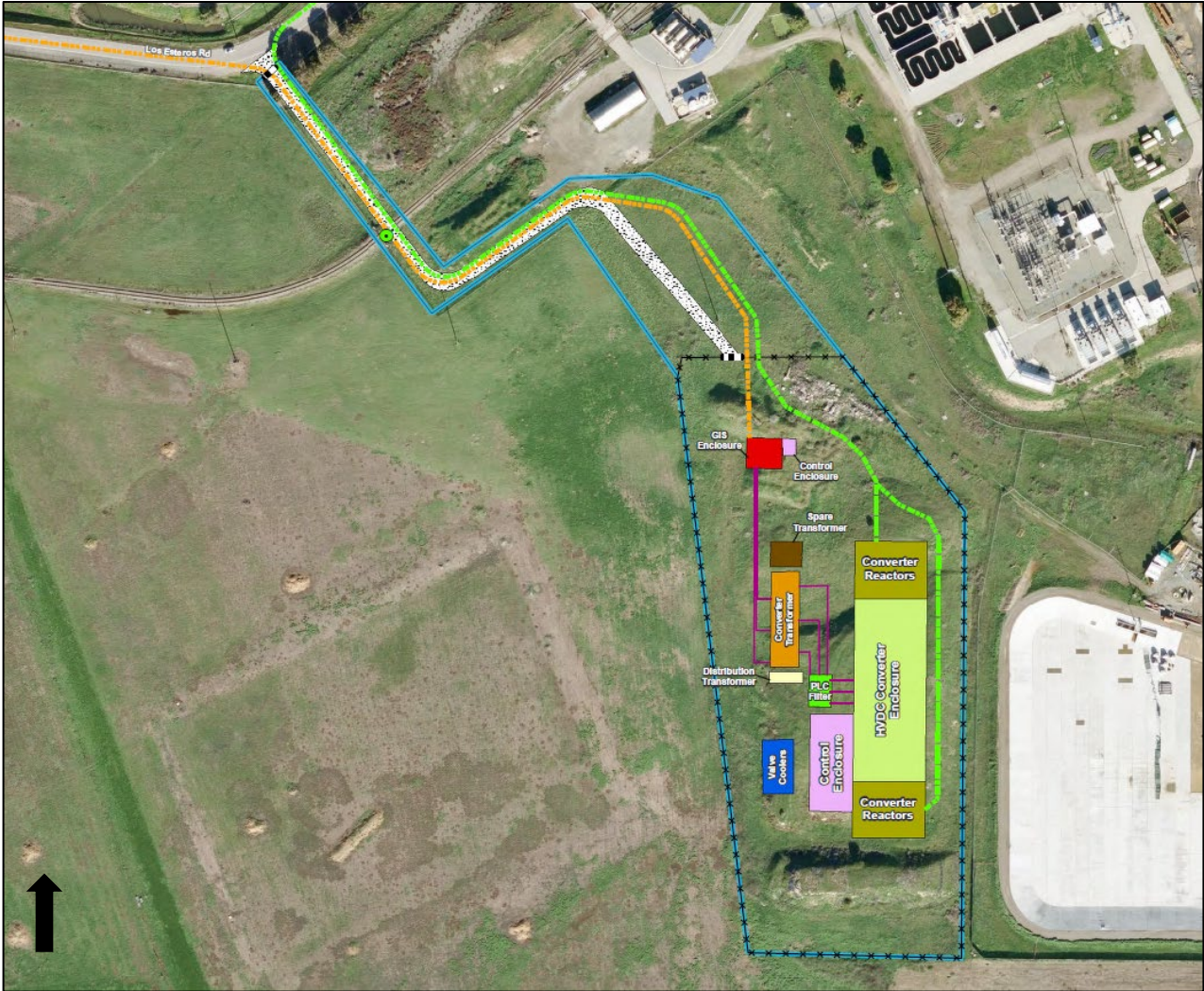
Looking south/southwest



Proposed – Baylands Terminal General Arrangement



Proposed – Baylands Terminal General Arrangement





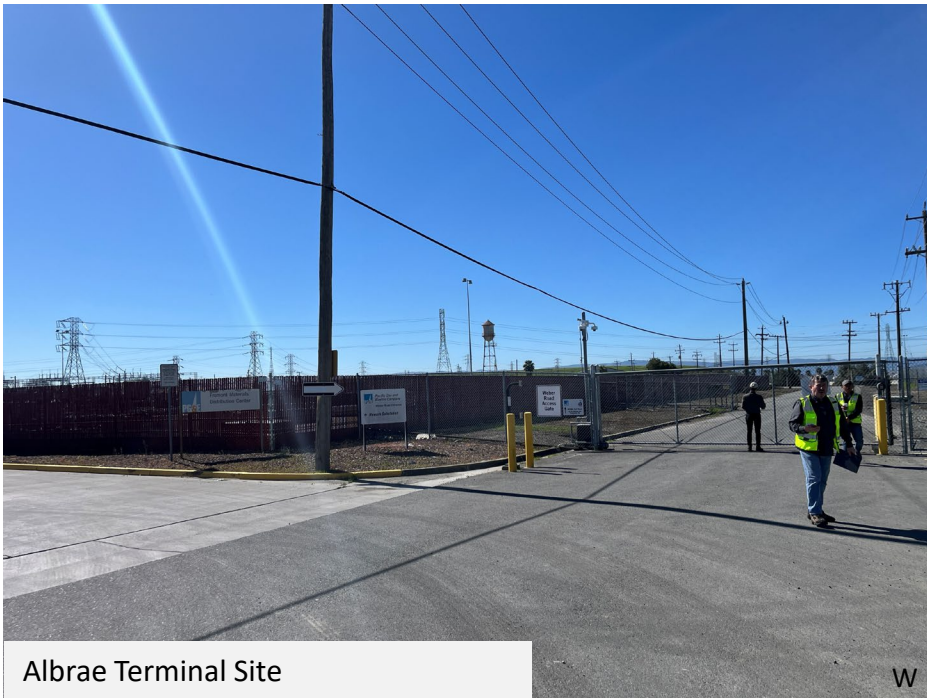
Adjacent to Cushing Parkway bridge

SE



Adjacent to Coyote Creek Lagoon Trail

E



Albrae Terminal Site

W



SVP NRS Receiving Station

W

CEQA: Environmental Resource Areas

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- 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
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire



For Each Resource Area . . .

- Define and Describe Existing Setting
 - Environmental setting
 - Regulatory setting
- Establish Thresholds of Significance
 - What defines a “significant” impact
- Identify Project Impacts and Mitigation
 - CPUC Mitigations
 - Significance after mitigation
- Evaluate Cumulative Impacts
- Impacts of Alternatives



CEQA: Project Alternatives

- Identify a range of reasonable alternatives to avoid or substantially lessen significant effects of the project
- Feasible
 - Legal, regulatory, technical
- Meet most basic project objectives



Project Objectives

LSPGC has identified the following objectives for the Project:

- **Meet the CAISO's reliability-driven need** by addressing multiple near-, mid-, and long-term reliability issues in the existing San José 115 kV system;
- **Meet the technical specifications set forth by CAISO for a Voltage-Sourced Converter (VSC)-HVDC link in the San José area** located near or adjacent to the existing PG&E Newark substation and SVP NRS substation. Adjacency to the existing PG&E Newark and SVP NRS substations would reduce the length of the interconnection (230 kV) transmission lines, thereby reducing the right-of-way requirements and potential for significant environmental impacts;
- **Improve and maintain the reliability of the transmission grid** by providing dynamic reactive power support and increase deliverability of renewable power, by building and operating a facility that would help keep transmission voltages within specified parameters, reduce transmission losses, increase reactive margin for the system bus, increase transmission capacity, provide a higher transient stability limit, increase damping of minor disturbances, and provide greater voltage control and stability;
- **Facilitate deliverability of energy from existing and proposed renewable generation projects** to the Greater Bay Area and corresponding progress toward achieving California's RPS goals in a timely and cost-effective manner by California utilities;
- **Comply with and assist CAISO in meeting applicable Reliability Standards and Criteria** developed by North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, and CAISO; and,
- **Design and construct the Proposed Project in conformance** with LS Power's standards, the National Electric Safety Code, and other applicable national and state codes and regulations.



Alternatives may include . . .

- Those considered or suggested by:
 - LS Power Grid California
 - Public/Agencies
 - Developed by CEQA team
- Project Alternatives:
 - Locations
 - Routes
 - Technology (e.g., underground lines)
 - Others?
- “No Project” alternative



To Get Involved in the CEQA Process

- You're on the right track!
 - Please stay on and provide your scoping input
- Scoping Process
 - Notice of Preparation sent on July 29, 2024
 - Scoping Period closes on August 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
 - How to comment:
 - Verbally at this Scoping Meeting and/or by submitting a Comment Letter via Mail or E-mail
- Draft EIR
 - Anticipated release is April 2025

CPUC Project Webpage:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/psb/index.html>



How to Submit a Scoping Comment

Public Comment Mailing Address:

Tommy Alexander, CPUC Project Manager

c/o Environmental Science Associates, Attn. D. Davis

575 Market Street, Suite 3700, San Francisco, CA 94105

E-mail: PowertheSouthBay@esassoc.com

Scoping Comment Deadline: (5 p.m.) August 30, 2024



Public Comments



Discussion Guidelines

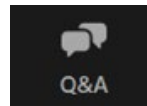
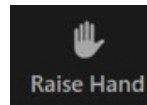
- Be concise
- Stay on topic
- Respect others' opinions
- Comments will be recorded
- Written comments are encouraged



Public Comments

Via the Zoom Platform

- Click the “Raise Hand” icon to be called on
- Submit comments in the Q&A box



By Telephone

- Dial *9 to request to raise hand



Thank you for joining!

Mailing Address:

Tommy Alexander, CPUC Project Manager

c/o Environmental Science Associates, Attn. D. Davis

575 Market Street, Suite 3700, San Francisco, CA 94105

E-mail: PowertheSouthBay@esassoc.com

Scoping comments will be accepted through August 30, 2024

Webpage: <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/psb/index.html>

