

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



To: Interested Parties
From: John Boccio, Environmental Project Manager
**Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION –
Sierra Pacific Power Company's Hirschdale Power Line Project (A.06-04-017)**
Date: February 16, 2007

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Sierra Pacific Power Company's (Sierra Pacific) Application to Construct the Hirschdale Power Line Project (A.06-04-017). The Draft MND details the proposed project, evaluates and describes its potential environmental impacts, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

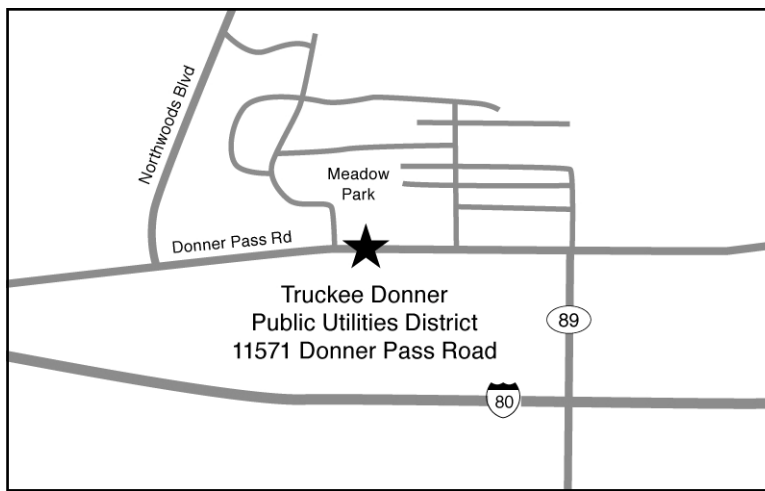
Description of the Proposed Project. Sierra Pacific, in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.06-04-017), filed on April 19, 2006, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) an approximately 3,500-foot power line of new 60 kilovolt (kV) circuit on an existing 12.5 kV distribution line in unincorporated Nevada County, near the town of Hirschdale, pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. The Proposed Project would include the removal and installation of 19 poles, string of new conductor and relocated of existing distribution to the new poles. The entire proposed route would be located on an existing Sierra Pacific easement on private property connecting two existing single-circuit 60 kV electric power lines (Line 621 and Line 608) that Sierra Pacific currently operates.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to provide an alternative to the aging and difficult to maintain primary transmission path now serving the Glenshire Substation, thereby assuring continued safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area while also meeting planning criteria.

CPUC Actions After Draft MND Publication. The Draft MND is available for a 30-day public comment period February 16, 2007 through March 19, 2007. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Project and the adequacy of the Draft MND. Written comments on the Draft MND must be postmarked through March 19, 2007 or received by fax or e-mail no later than **March 19, 2007**. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence. Written comments on the Draft MND should be sent to:

Mr. John Boccio
Hirschdale Power Line Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Fax: (415) 896-0332
E-mail: hirschdale@esassoc.com
Telephone: (415) 962-8405

The CPUC will also hold a public information meeting on **Thursday, March 1, 2007 at the Truckee Donner Public Utilities District, 11571 Donner Pass Road, Board Room, Truckee, California (see map below), between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.** Following the end of the public comment period, the CPUC will prepare a Final MND that will consider comments received on the Draft MND.



Availability of Draft MND. Copies of the Draft MND will be available for public review at the Truckee Branch of the Nevada County Library, and on the project website: <http://www.sppc-hirschdale.com>. This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies of the Draft MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8409 or by e-mail at hirschdale@esassoc.com.

PROJECT INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Truckee Branch Library
 10031 Levon Avenue
 Truckee, CA 96161
 (530) 582-7846
 Hours: M & Th: 10AM to 8PM
 T, W, F, & Sa: 10AM to 6PM
 Closed Sunday.

Further library information is available at <http://new.mynevadacounty.com/library/index.cfm>.

REMINDER: Draft MND comments will be accepted by fax, telephone, e-mail, or postmark through March 16, 2007. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.

Map of the Proposed Project Location:

