

Notice of Preparation

of an Environmental Impact Report and
Notice of Public Scoping for the
Collinsville 500/230 Kilovolt Substation Project
Application No. A.24-07-018

A. Introduction

LS Power Grid California, LLC (LSPGC) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) (Application No. A.24-07-018) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Collinsville 500/230 Kilovolt (kV) Substation Project, referred to as the Proposed Project. The CPUC, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze environmental effects that would result from the Proposed Project if LSPGC's application is approved.

Additional information about the Proposed Project and CEQA review process is available on the CPUC's website: <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/collinsville/index.html>

What is the Notice of Preparation?

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of an EIR for the Proposed Project and to solicit information that will be helpful in determining the scope of the environmental review. As required by CEQA, this NOP is being sent to interested agencies and members of the public. This notice includes:

- A description of the Proposed Project (refer to Section B)
- Figures 1 and 2 identifying the locations of Proposed Project features (attached)
- A summary of the CEQA review process and the analysis of potential environmental effects (refer to Section C)
- A description of the CPUC's scoping process (refer to Sections D and E)

What is Scoping?

Scoping is the process of soliciting input regarding the scope and content of the EIR and project alternatives to consider. A virtual public scoping meeting will be held on January 21, 2025 (refer to Section D for details). Scoping comments may be submitted to the CPUC through February 6, 2025 (refer to Section E for details). The CPUC will prepare a Scoping Report to summarize comments submitted during the scoping period, which will be published on the project website once completed.

B. Project Description

The California Independent System Operators (CAISO) 2021-2022 Transmission Plan identified the Proposed Project as a needed upgrade to the California electric grid. The main components of the Proposed Project include the following (see Figures 1 and 2 attached):

- Constructing a new 500/230 kV substation (“Collinsville Substation”). The proposed substation site is located adjacent to Stratton Lane approximately 0.8-mile northeast of the unincorporated community of Collinsville.
- Constructing two self-supporting segments of new 500 kV conductor and structures roughly parallel along the approximately 1.2-mile interconnection route (or “loop”) between the proposed LSPGC Collinsville Substation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) existing Vaca Dixon-Tesla 500 kV Transmission Line, resulting in the addition of approximately 2.4 miles of new 500 kV transmission lines.
- Constructing a new approximately 6-mile-long, double-circuit 230 kV transmission line that would connect the proposed LSPGC Collinsville Substation to PG&E’s existing Pittsburg Substation, with approximately 4.5 miles of submarine cables running beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta waterways. The submarine cables would be buried to a depth of approximately 6 to 15 feet below the sediment surface between an in-river transition structure just off the northern shore of the Sacramento River and an underground utility vault on the southern shore of the Sacramento River near the Pittsburg Substation.
- Extending and connecting an existing PG&E 12 kV distribution line to the proposed substation (approximately 0.9 mile long and parallel to Stratton Lane).
- Constructing new telecommunications paths collocated with the new transmission lines, a new microwave tower immediately adjacent to the proposed substation, and a new fiber optic path between existing fiber in the City of Pittsburg and the proposed Collinsville Substation (approximately 1.2 miles).
- Modifying PG&E’s existing Pittsburg, Vaca Dixon, and Tesla substations to support the proposed substation interconnection. All PG&E substation modifications would occur within the existing substation footprints.

The proposed substation and 230 kV transmission line would be constructed by LSPGC. PG&E would construct the 500 kV transmission interconnection, 12 kV distribution line, and microwave tower, and modify their existing substations. Construction is proposed to begin in early 2026 and would take approximately 24 months to complete. The project’s proposed in-service date is June 1, 2028, per the CAISO’s technical specifications.

C. CEQA Review Process and Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects

Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

The CPUC intends to prepare an EIR to evaluate potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project as well as selected project alternatives, and to propose mitigation measures to address any significant effects that are identified. At a minimum, the EIR will evaluate impacts consistent with the criteria identified in CEQA Statute and Guidelines for the following topics:

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| ■ Aesthetics | ■ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ■ Public Services |
| ■ Agriculture and Forestry Resources | ■ Hazards and Hazardous Materials | ■ Recreation |
| ■ Air Quality | ■ Hydrology and Water Quality | ■ Transportation |
| ■ Biological Resources | ■ Land Use and Planning | ■ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ■ Cultural Resources | ■ Mineral Resources | ■ Utilities and Service Systems |
| ■ Energy | ■ Noise | ■ Wildfire |
| ■ Geology and Soils | ■ Population and Housing | ■ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The EIR will present impact significance determinations after the full and thorough consideration of all impacts. The EIR will evaluate the effectiveness of measures that are proposed by LSPGC and PG&E to avoid or minimize impacts. The EIR will also include an analysis of additional issues identified during the scoping process and the project's cumulative impacts (project impacts combined with other present and planned projects in the area).

Project Alternatives

The EIR will contain an evaluation of a range of alternatives to the Proposed Project that could potentially reduce, eliminate, or avoid one or more significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project. The EIR will also include an evaluation of the comparative environmental impacts of the alternatives, including the "No Project Alternative" pursuant to CEQA. The No Project Alternative will describe the conditions that would likely occur if neither the Proposed Project nor its alternatives were implemented.

D. Public Scoping Meeting

The CPUC will conduct a virtual public scoping meeting on January 21, 2025. Details about the meeting and how to participate are provided below. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to present information about the Proposed Project and the CPUC's CEQA review process.

Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Date/Time:	Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Link:	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85419431269
Meeting ID:	854 1943 1269
Call-In Number (Optional):	(669) 900-9128

E. Scoping Comments

The CPUC is soliciting scoping comments regarding environmental impacts to address in the EIR and potential project alternatives to consider. The scoping comment period is for 30 days from January 7, 2025, through February 6, 2025. The comment period closes on February 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Methods for submitting scoping comments include the following:

1. **Electronic Mail:** Email communications to collinsville@panoramaenv.com is the CPUC's preferred method for submitting comments. Please include your name and mailing address in the email message.
2. **U.S. Mail:** Written comments may be sent by U.S. mail to the address provided below. Please use first class mail and be sure to include your name and a return address.

Connie Chen (CPUC Project Manager)
Collinsville Substation Project
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc
717 Market Street, Suite 400,
San Francisco, CA 94103

3. **Public Scoping Meeting:** Verbal comments may also be accepted during the scoping meeting depending on the number of participants that wish to speak. Please submit your comment in writing to ensure it is received.

F. For Additional Project Information

- Project Website: <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/collinsville/index.html>
- Project Email: collinsville@panoramaenv.com
- Project Phone Line: (650) 290-7213

G. Issuance of NOP

The CPUC hereby issues this NOP of an EIR for the Collinsville 500/230 Kilovolt (kV) Substation Project on January 7, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at connie.chen@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (415) 703-2124.

Figure 1 Project Overview Map

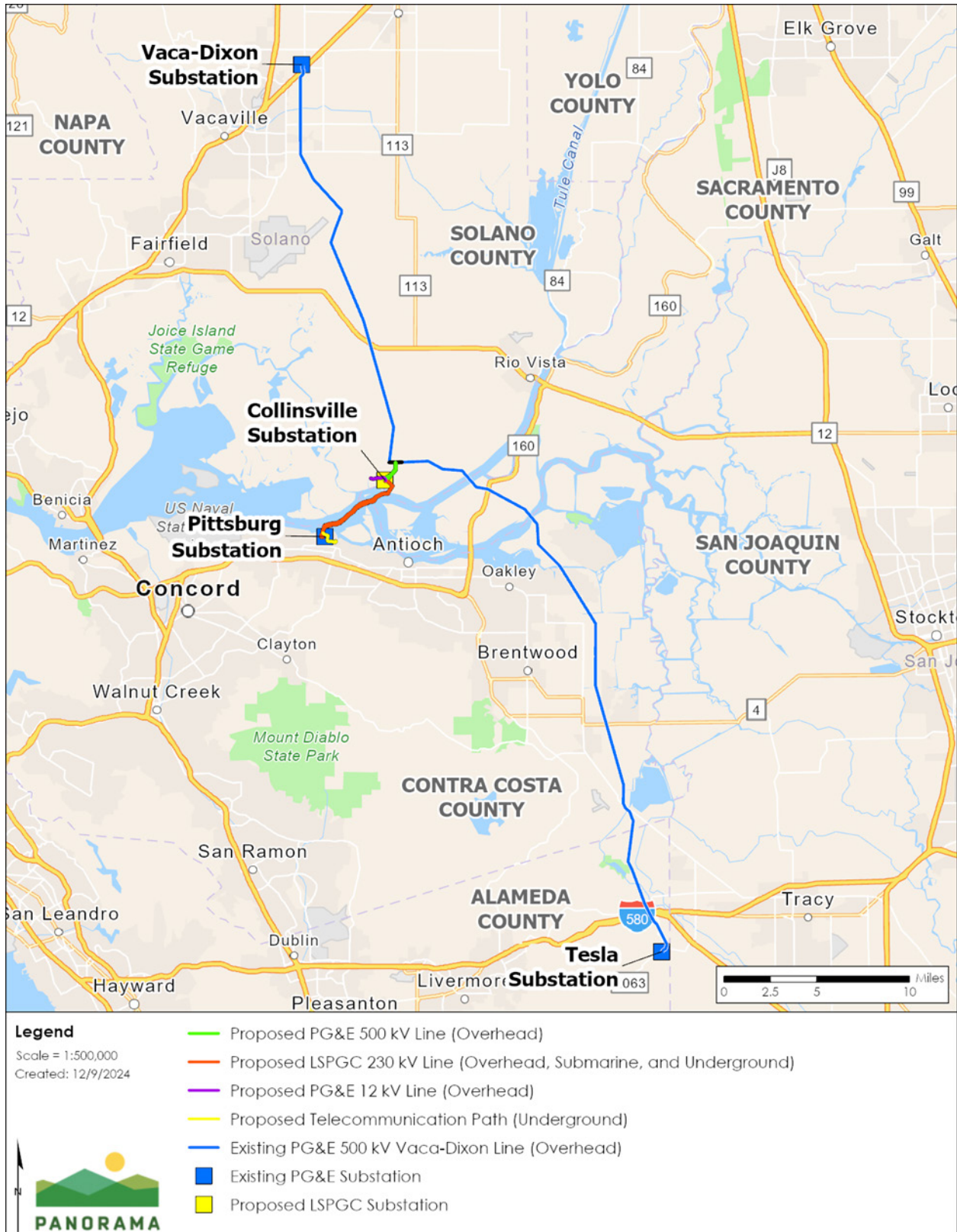


Figure 2 Project Layout Map

