

# California Public Utilities Commission Virtual Scoping Meeting

LS Power Grid California, LLC's  
Collinsville 500/230 kilovolt Substation Project

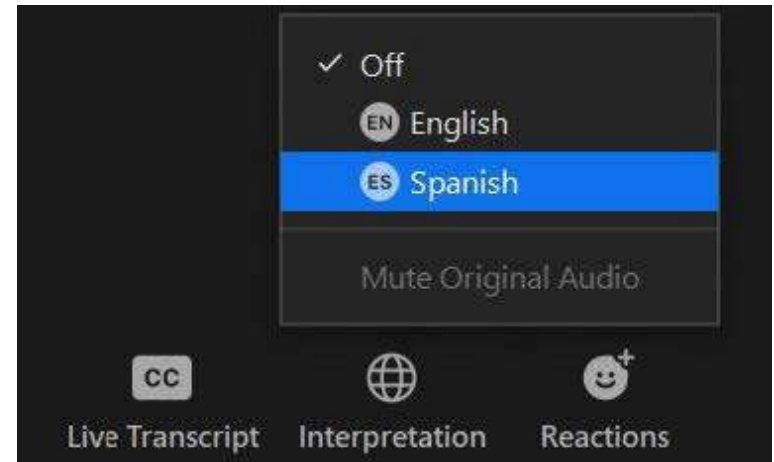
APPLICATION NO. A2407018

January 21, 2025



# Zoom Spanish Interpretation Option

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



# Meeting Overview

- Key Project Roles & the CPUC's Project Team
- Purpose of Scoping
- LSPGC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
- CPUC Project Review Process and Proceeding
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
  - Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
  - Environmental Review Topics and Analysis
- Proposed Project Overview
- Project Alternatives Screening and Analysis
- Opportunity for Comments



# Key Project Roles



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
*Lead Agency under CEQA*



Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
(Panorama) & Subconsultants  
*CPUC's Third-Party Consultants*



LS Power Grid California, LLC's (LSPGC)  
*Project Applicant*



Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
(PG&E)  
*Project Participant*



# CPUC's Project Team

- CPUC Energy Division
  - Connie Chen, CPUC Project Manager
- CPUC's Third-Party Consultants
  - Panorama Environmental, Inc. (CEQA/EIR Preparation)
    - Susanne Heim, Project Director
    - Aaron Lui, Project Manager
    - Kate Thompson, Deputy Project Manager
  - Piñon Heritage Solutions LLC (Cultural/Tribal Resources)
  - Baseline Environmental Consulting (Noise and Air Quality)
  - Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. (Terrestrial Biology)
  - Boudreau Associates LLC (Marine Biology)
  - Kevala Inc. (Transmission Planning)
  - The Sohagi Law Group, PLC (Legal Counsel)





# CPUC Project Review Process and Proceeding



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



# Purpose of Scoping

- Inform the public and responsible agencies about a project for which an EIR will be prepared
- Inform the public about the environmental review process
- Solicit input regarding:
  - Scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR
  - Potential alternatives to the proposed project
- Identify issues of concern and areas of potential controversy
- A Scoping Report will be prepared and published on the project website





# CPUC Project Review Process per PRC Section 21000 et seq. CEQA and CEQA Guidelines





# CPUC General Proceeding for a CPCN

- Application Proceeding (A2407018) led by:
  - Assigned Commissioner – Matthew Baker
  - Administrative Law Judge – Robert Haga
- Scope (defined by Public Utilities Code Section 1002)
  - Determine need for the project (facilities are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of the public)
  - Consider community values, recreational and park areas, historic and aesthetic values
  - Influence on the environment
    - Review environmental impacts as required by CEQA





# California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)



COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING

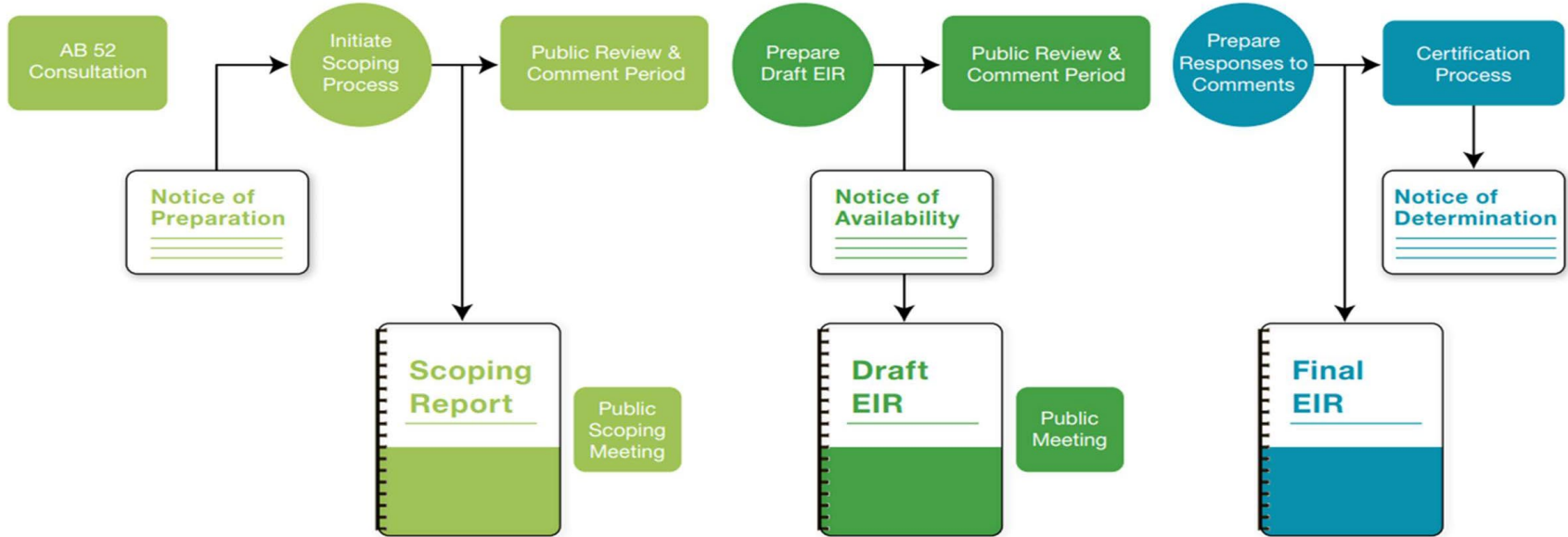


# CEQA Overview

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
  - Inform decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of a proposed project
  - Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or reduced
  - Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through alternatives or mitigation measures
  - Provide opportunities for public input
  - Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved
- Focus is on “physical impacts” – how a proposed project would alter physical conditions



# CEQA EIR Process



Highlighted Steps	Description	Timeframe
Scoping Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect comments from the public</li> </ul>	30 Days
Prepare Draft EIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the analysis of environmental effects</li> <li>Develop and analyze alternatives</li> </ul>	~12 Months
Publish Draft EIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public reviews the Draft EIR and provides comments</li> <li>Additional public meeting</li> </ul>	45 Days
Respond to Comments and Final EIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to public comments on Draft EIR</li> <li>Make any changes needed to the EIR</li> </ul>	~3 Months







# Proposed Project Overview



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



# LSPGC's Project Components

- New Collinsville 500/230 kV Substation
  - 11-acre initial footprint
  - 4-acre potential future buildout
- New 230 kV Transmission Line
  - 6 miles total – Collinsville Substation to Pittsburg Substation
  - 1 mile overhead – Collinsville Substation to Delta
    - Installed on Tubular Steel Poles (TSPs)
  - 4.5 miles submarine – crossing the Delta
  - 0.5 mile underground – Delta to Pittsburg Substation
- New Telecommunication/Fiber Cables
  - Along the 230 kV transmission line
  - Pittsburg Substation to termination point 1 mile southeast



# PG&E Interconnection Components

- New 500 kV Interconnection Loop
  - 1.2 miles – Vaca-Dixon Line to Collinsville Substation
  - 1.2 miles – Collinsville Substation to Vaca-Dixon Line
  - Installed on Lattice Steel Towers (LSTs)
- New communication yard with a microwave tower outside Collinsville Substation
- New 12 kV distribution extension to Collinsville Substation
- Modify existing Pittsburg, Vaca-Dixon, and Tesla Substations
- Modify or install four transposition structures along the Vaca-Dixon Line





# Summary of LSPGC's Primary Project Objectives\*

- Meet the California Independent System Operators' (CAISO) policy-driven need established for the project in their 2021-2022 Transmission Plan:
  - Address identified transmission constraints on the 230 kV system
  - Provide additional supply from the 500 kV system
- Improve and maintain the reliability of the transmission grid by addressing overloads
- Facilitate deliverability of load from existing and proposed renewable energy projects, and progress California's renewable energy goals
- Achieve commercial operation by June 2028

\*Complete project objectives provided in PEA Section 2.1.1



# Proposed Project Location Overview

**Substations**

- Existing PG&E Substation
- Proposed LSPGC Substation

**Key Project Alignments**

- Proposed PG&E 500 kV Line (Overhead)
- Proposed LSPGC 230 kV Line (Overhead, Submarine, and Underground)
- Existing PG&E 500 kV Vaca-Dixon Line (Overhead)
- PG&E Transposition Site

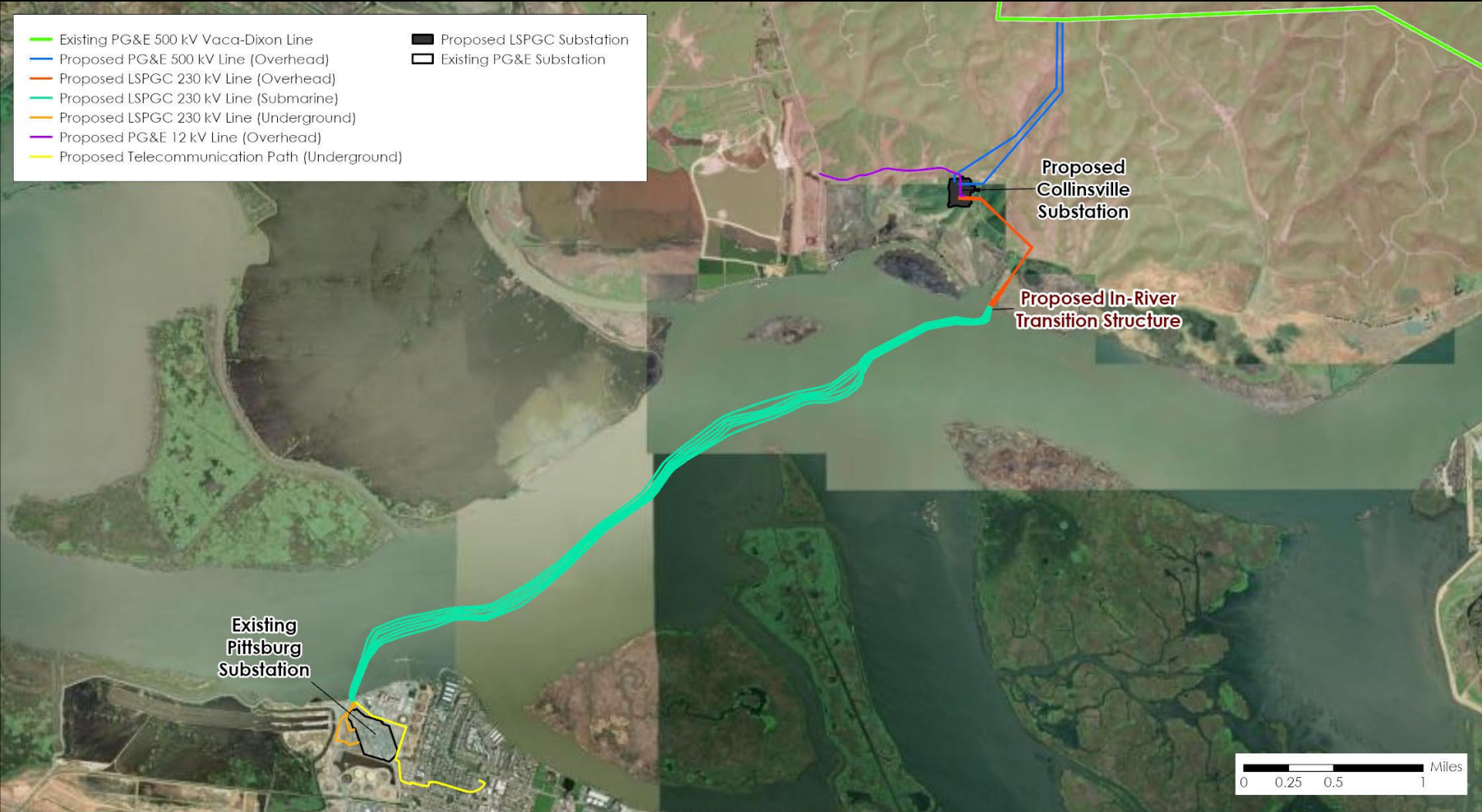


**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



# Proposed Project Layout

- Existing PG&E 500 kV Vaca-Dixon Line
- Proposed PG&E 500 kV Line (Overhead)
- Proposed LSPGC 230 kV Line (Overhead)
- Proposed LSPGC 230 kV Line (Submarine)
- Proposed LSPGC 230 kV Line (Underground)
- Proposed PG&E 12 kV Line (Overhead)
- Proposed Telecommunication Path (Underground)
- Proposed LSPGC Substation
- Existing PG&E Substation



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



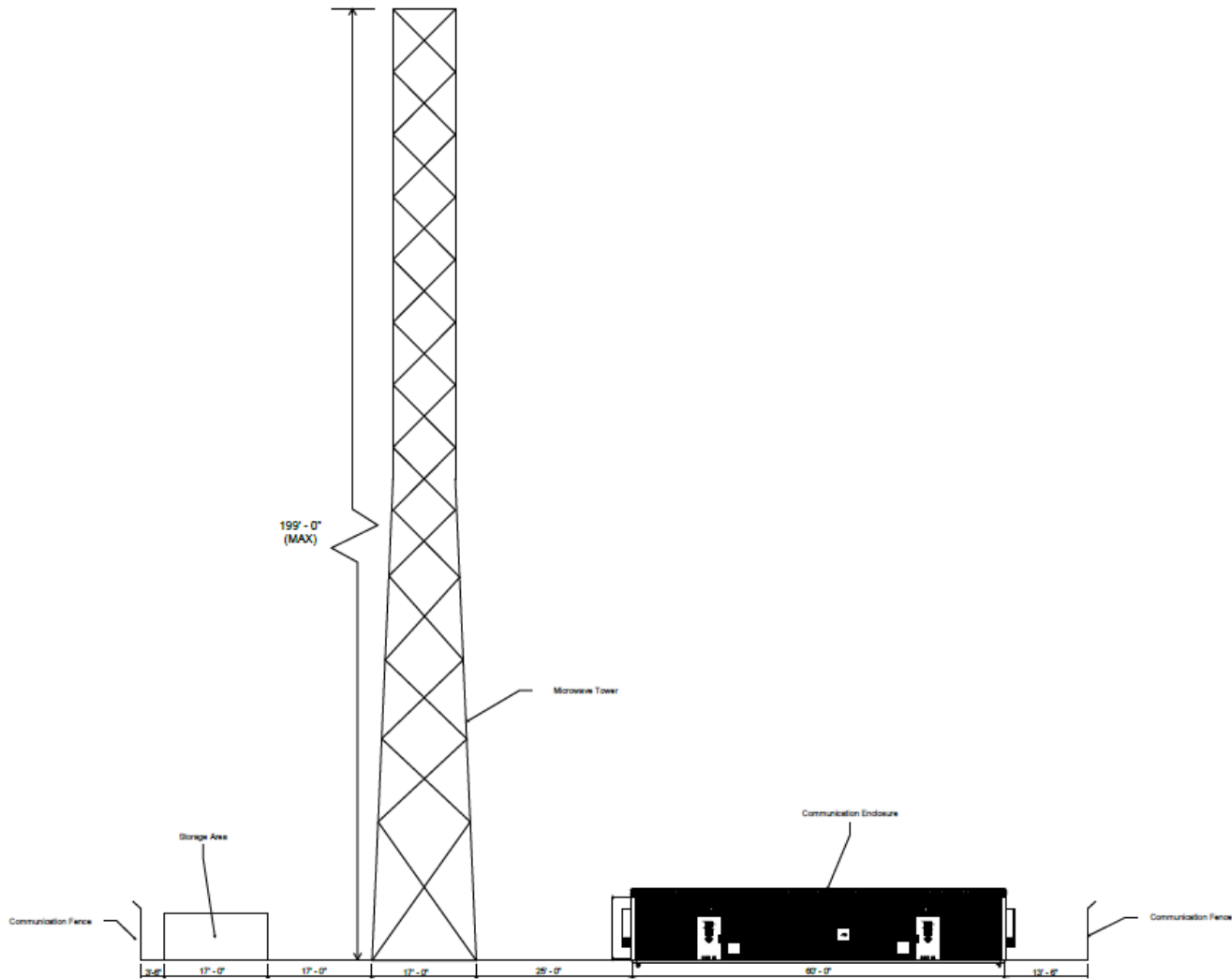


# Proposed Project Layout – North of Delta



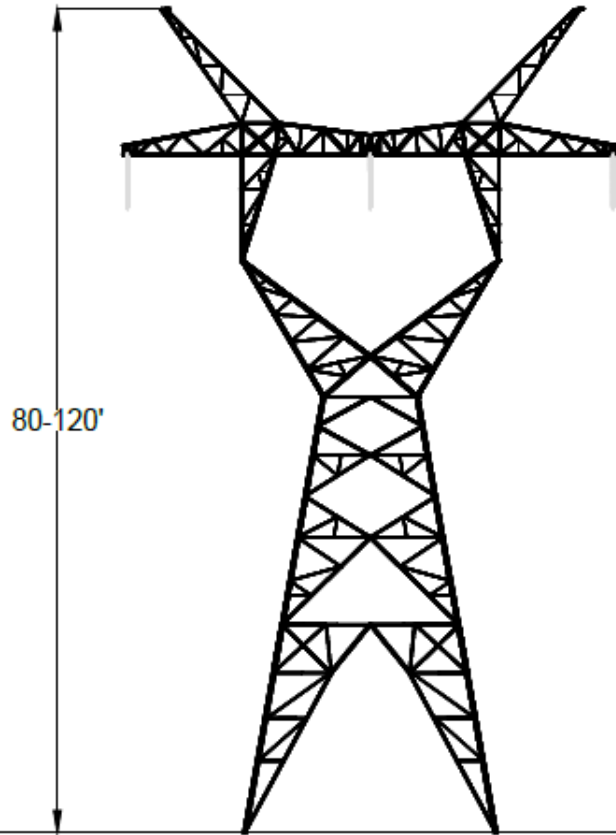


# Proposed Communication Yard – Equipment Profile

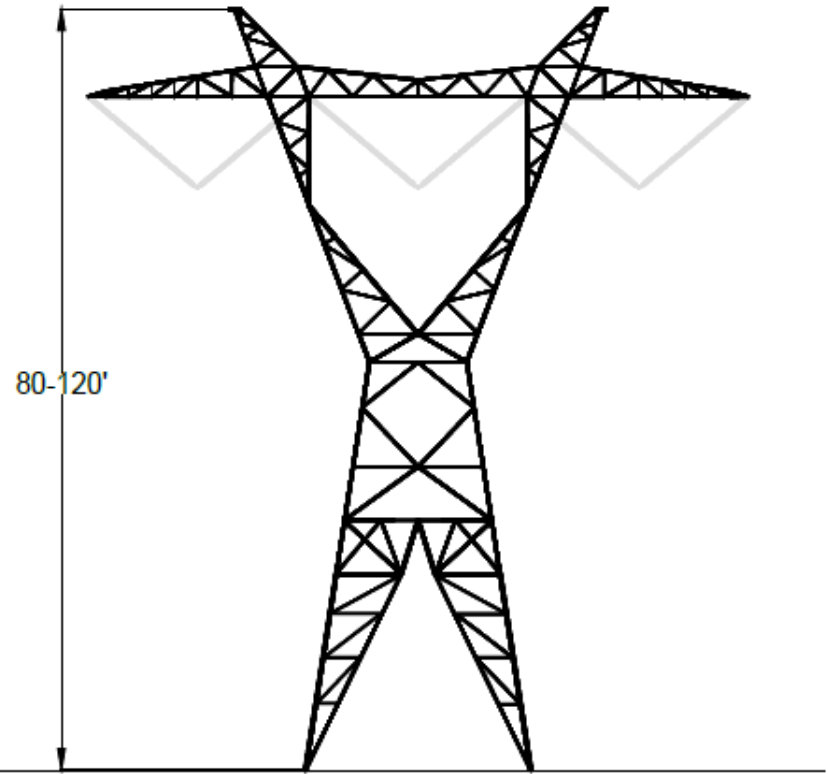


# 500 kV Line Interconnection Structures

TYPICAL LATTICE  
DEADEND



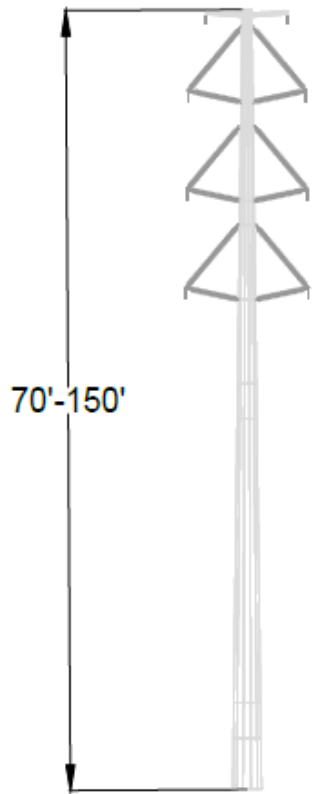
TYPICAL LATTICE  
TANGENT





# 230 kV Line Structures

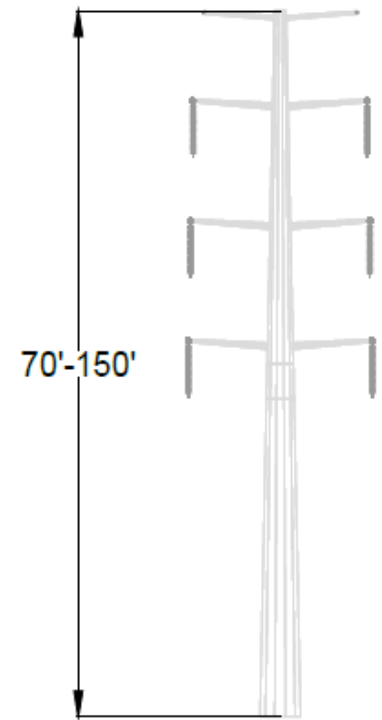
TYPICAL 230KV  
TANGENT



TYPICAL 6-POLE  
230KV DEADEND



TYPICAL 230KV  
DEADEND



# Proposed Substation – Existing View from Collinsville Road



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**





# Proposed Substation – Simulated View from Collinsville Road



COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING





# Proposed Substation – Existing View from Stratton Lane

EAST-SOUTHEAST



COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING





# Proposed Substation – Simulated View from Stratton Lane



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**





# Proposed Project Layout – South of Delta





# Construction Overview

- Proposed Schedule
  - LSPGC: May 2026 – November 2027
  - PG&E: May 2027 – May 2028
  - Testing and Commissioning: November 2027 – June 2028
  - Restoration: February – July 2028
  - Approximately 24 Months
- Typical Workdays
  - Terrestrial Work
    - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday
    - Up to 30 days of nightwork during substation construction, or to respond to emergency situations
  - Submarine Work
    - Periodic work over 7 months (20 to 25 days for each cable)
    - 24/7 while cables are pulled (7 to 10 days for each cable)
- Daily Workforce
  - Maximum: 160 workers (during peak activities)
  - Average: 63 workers





# Construction Overview – Continued

- Equipment
  - Various general construction and earth moving equipment
  - Helicopters used to facilitate transmission construction
  - Submarine cables installed using boats and a hydro plow within trenches (6-15 feet deep)
- Work Areas and Access
  - Temporary work areas and staging yards established to facilitate construction activities
  - Equipment access would occur along existing and temporary overland routes
  - No permanent access roads proposed
- Restoration
  - Following construction, all temporarily disturbed areas would be restored



# Operation and Maintenance Overview

- Substation operated remotely
- Inspections and maintenance of facilities as required by state and federal regulations, including vegetation management requirements
- Local staff and contractors would conduct inspections and maintenance, and respond to any emergency situations





# Environmental Impact Report



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**





# General EIR Contents and Purpose

- Contents
  - Describe the project and alternatives
  - Describe the environmental setting of the project area
  - Disclose the potential environmental impacts of the project and alternatives
  - Identify proposed measures to reduce or avoid potential environmental impacts (APMs and Construction Measures)
  - Identify additional measures required to reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures)
- Purpose
  - Provide technically sound information for decision-makers to consider in evaluating the proposed project



# Environmental Review Topics and EIR Sections

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Public Safety
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance
- Comparison of Alternatives
- Cumulative and Other CEQA Considerations



# Analysis of Environmental Review Topics

- Define and Describe Existing Setting
  - Environmental Setting
  - Regulatory Setting
- Establish Thresholds of Significance
  - What defines a “significant” impact?
- Analyze Project Impacts and Mitigation
  - LSPGC’s Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)
  - PG&E’s Construction Measures (CMs)
  - Mitigation Measures (MMs)
  - Identify impact significance after mitigation
- Evaluate cumulative impacts
- Evaluate and compare impacts of alternatives





# Alternatives Screening Process

- Identify a range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Project, that:
  - Achieve main objectives
  - Reduce or avoid one or more significant environmental effect
- Alternative Considerations
  - Proposed Project design and location alternatives (e.g., alternative locations of the substation or interconnection lines)
  - Reconsideration of applicant alternatives identified in PEA
  - Alternatives developed by CPUC technical staff based on impact analysis
  - Alternatives suggested in scoping comments



# Alternatives Screening Process – Continued

- Alternatives need to be feasible
  - Technical feasibility (can it be built?)
  - Regulatory feasibility (could it be permitted?)
  - Legal feasibility (would it be allowed under law?)
- “No Project Alternative”
  - Scenario where the Proposed Project is not built
  - Existing environmental conditions remain unchanged
  - Proposed Project objectives are not achieved



# After EIR Completion

- Commission will vote on the project and either approve as proposed, approve an alternative, or deny
- EIR is referenced in the Decision
- If the Proposed Project or an alternative is approved, the Decision will require monitoring in accordance with Mitigation Monitoring and Compliance Reporting Procedures (MMCRP)



# For Additional Information

- Visit the CPUC's project website:  
[https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/  
environment/info/  
panoramaenv/  
collinsville/index.html](https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/collinsville/index.html)

Or

- Email us at:  
[collinsville@panoramaenv.com](mailto:collinsville@panoramaenv.com)

Website QR Code







# Scoping Comments



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



# Ways to Comment

- Provide written or oral comments tonight
- Submit comments after this meeting by mail or email

Mail	Email
Connie Chen (CPUC Project Manager) Collinsville Substation Project c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc 717 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103	<a href="mailto:collinsville@panoramaenv.com">collinsville@panoramaenv.com</a>

- Comments are due by 5:00 pm on February 6, 2025



# Effective Scoping Comments and Questions

Suggestions for providing effective comments:

- Specify potential impacts that you are concerned about
- Identify environmental resources of concern
- Suggest mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid impacts
- Suggest alternatives to the Proposed Project to reduce or avoid impacts

Questions?

- We will address process questions
- Project details and impact questions will be addressed in the EIR



# Comment Guidelines

- To speak raise your hand:
  - Via Zoom App; or
  - Press \*9 (if calling in via phone)
- Or put your comment in the Q&A chat dialogue
- Only speak when directed to by a meeting host
- Speak into your microphone and state your name (including spelling) and affiliation
  - Be concise (3 minutes or less)
  - Stay on topic
  - Respect others' opinions
  - Comments will be recorded
- Written comments via email are encouraged
  - [collinsville@panoramaenv.com](mailto:collinsville@panoramaenv.com)





# Comment Session



**COLLINSVILLE SUBSTATION SCOPING MEETING**



# Timer

00 : 03 : 00

Change Clock Type

Digital

Duration: 00 03 00

TimeUp Reminder (Optional): -- --

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Choose Sound Effect Tick

Choose TimeUp Sound Alarm

Enable Count Up  Combine With Bar  
Clock

Start

Pause

Stop

Reset

