

**Notice of Preparation
of an
Environmental Impact Report
for the
Pipeline Safety and Reliability Project –
New Natural Gas Line 3602 and De-rating Line 1600**

Application No. A.15-09-013

To: All Interested Parties
From: Robert Peterson, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC Energy Division
Date: May 9, 2017

Si usted necesita más información en español, por favor, llame al 1-844-312-4776, o envíe un correo electrónico a: SDgaspipeline@ene.com

A. Introduction

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will prepare a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that will discuss the environmental impact of the proposed Pipeline Safety and Reliability Project – New Natural Gas Line 3602 and De-rating Line 1600 (PSRP, or proposed project). San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) (the applicants) have filed an application with the CPUC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the proposed project.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being distributed to potential responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, interested parties, and members of the public. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of an EIR for the proposed project and to solicit information and guidance on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR and identify potential alternatives (see Section F of the NOP). This NOP includes a description of the project that SDG&E and SoCalGas propose to construct, information regarding project location, a summary of potential project-related impacts, the times and locations of public scoping meetings, and information on how to provide comments. **This NOP will be circulated for a public review and comment period beginning on May 9, 2017, and ending on June 12, 2017.**

This NOP can be viewed on the CPUC’s website for the proposed project at the following link: <http://sandiegopipeline-psrp.com>.

B. Project Background

The applicants state that the proposed project is needed to advance three fundamental objectives for the integrated SDG&E and SoCalGas natural gas transmission system in San Diego County:

- Implement pipeline safety requirements for existing Line 1600, thereby enabling the applicants to comply with their CPUC-approved Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan and modernize the system with state-of-the-art materials;
- Improve system reliability and resiliency by minimizing dependence on a single pipeline; and
- Enhance operational flexibility to manage stress conditions by increasing system capacity.

The PSRP would address these objectives by replacing the transmission capacity of the existing Line 1600 with a new 36-inch-diameter gas transmission pipeline, Line 3602.

On September 30, 2015, SDG&E and SoCalGas filed an application and Proponent’s Environmental Assessment (PEA) with the CPUC for a CPCN to construct, operate, and maintain the PSRP. On March 21, 2016, SDG&E and SoCalGas submitted a revised application and a Supplemental PEA for the proposed project. On August 23, 2016, the CPUC deemed the application complete and determined that an EIR would be required for the proposed project, but noted that information gaps in critical areas remained. One of the gaps identified was the lack of a federal lead agency for review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the approximately 3.5 miles of land crossed by the project within the United States Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (MCAS Miramar).

On March 17, 2017, MCAS Miramar notified the CPUC and the applicants that they would not serve as the federal lead agency for NEPA, nor would they participate in preparation of a joint CEQA/NEPA document for the proposed project. MCAS Miramar noted that, based on the existence of an off-base alternative (Rainbow to Santee Non-Miramar Alternative), the overall project does not depend on a federal action. However, MCAS Miramar will cooperate in the development of the portions of the EIR that address Miramar alternatives.

C. Project Description and Location

The PSRP includes a new San Diego Natural Gas Pipeline (Line 3602) and supporting facilities, as well as de-rating, or lowering the pressure of, the existing Line 1600 and converting it from transmission to distribution use. The major components of the proposed project are described below. The proposed project facilities are illustrated on Figure 1.

Construction and Operation of Line 3602

Line 3602 would consist of a new, approximately 47-mile-long, 36-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline that would carry natural gas from SDG&E's existing Rainbow Metering Station in Rainbow, California, to a tie-in with SDG&E's existing system within MCAS Miramar.¹ The new pipeline would also necessitate supporting facilities, which would require approximately 2 acres of land. Proposed facilities to support Line 3602 include:

- Construction of a pressure-limiting station;
- Construction of 10 main line valves;
- Construction of three cross-tie facilities for existing Line 1600, Line 1601, and Line 2010; and
- Construction or installation of minor operations support facilities, including pipeline inspection launching and receiving equipment (pig launcher and receiver), a cathodic protection system, and a fiber optic intrusion and leak detection system.

Illustrations of typical right-of-way cross-sections for urban and cross-country areas are included as Figures 2 and 3, and an illustration of typical horizontal directional drill installation is included as Figure 4.

The pipeline would be designed to operate at a maximum of 800 pounds per square inch. The proposed pipeline and associated aboveground facilities would be operated and maintained in accordance with Title 49, Part 192 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. The applicants' existing staff would operate and maintain the pipeline; perform routine maintenance of the pipeline, valves, and pressure-limiting and metering equipment; and respond to emergency situations in accordance with the applicants' operation and maintenance procedures used for existing facilities and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

De-rating Line 1600

SDG&E's Line 1600 is an existing approximately 50-mile-long natural gas transmission pipeline constructed in 1949 that begins at the existing Rainbow Metering Station and terminates in Mission Valley, San Diego. The applicants propose to de-rate, or lower the pressure of, approximately 45 miles of existing Line 1600 to convert it from a transmission pipeline into a distribution line. This conversion would require system modifications at various locations along existing Line 1600, including:

- Removal of eight existing regulator stations that would not be replaced;

¹ If approved as proposed, the new pipeline would terminate within MCAS Miramar. One or more off-base alternatives will also be considered as described in sections B and E of this NOP.

- Removal of two existing regulator stations that would be replaced with check valves;
- Removal of one existing regulator station that would be replaced with a new regulator station;
- Construction of three new regulator stations and connection pipelines;
- Construction of the Mira Mesa Pipeline Extension (0.88-mile-long, 8-inch-diameter pipe) to maintain the high-pressure distribution system for the community of Mira Mesa;
- Line 49-31B Replacement – In-place replacement of an existing 0.70-mile-long segment of 4-inch-diameter pipe along Line 49-31B with a 6-inch-diameter pipe to maintain service to the Mira Mesa high-pressure distribution system; and
- Line 49-31C Prelay Segment Replacement – Installation of 1.08 miles of 8-inch-diameter pipe in a segment in Pomerado Road.

Location of the Project

The proposed project would be located in San Diego County, California, and cross the cities of Escondido, San Diego, and Poway; unincorporated communities in San Diego County; and federal land (MCAS Miramar). Approximately 87 percent (approximately 41 miles) of the proposed pipeline would be installed in urban areas within existing roadways and road shoulders; the majority of the new pipeline would generally follow the alignments of U.S. Route 395, Interstate 15, and Pomerado Road. The remaining 6 miles would be installed cross-country on federal and privately owned land. The proposed project facilities are illustrated on Figure 1.

D. Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15000), the CPUC intends to prepare an EIR to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects of the PSRP and identify mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects identified. The EIR will identify feasible alternatives, compare environmental impacts of the alternatives to the proposed project, and evaluate mitigation to reduce the effects of those alternatives.

Based on preliminary analysis of the proposed project and review of documents submitted by SDG&E and SoCalGas, construction and operation of the proposed project may have a number of environmental effects. Potential issues and significant environmental impacts on the existing environment include those listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

Environmental Issue Area	Potential Issues or Impacts
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary conflicts with applicable air quality plans • Temporary contributions to air quality standard violations

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Environmental Issue Area	Potential Issues or Impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary increases in criteria pollutant concentrations above established thresholds
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on sensitive species and sensitive species habitat • Impacts on sensitive natural communities • Impacts on wetlands and streams
Cultural, Paleontological, and Tribal Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on archaeological and historical resources resulting from potential damage during construction • Impacts on unique paleontological resources, site, or geologic feature during construction • Impacts on tribal cultural resources • Temporary disturbance of human remains (if found to be present) during construction
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary noise levels in excess of standards • Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels
Population and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary population growth in the area as a result of the relocation of approximately 300 construction workers to the proposed project area from outside the county
Traffic and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary changes in the flow of traffic based on Level of Service standards • Temporary conflicts with traffic plans or policies during construction within roadways • Temporary increases in hazards during construction within roadways • Temporary interference with emergency access and alternative transportation during construction within roadways
Other Analysis Areas	
Aesthetics	See Attachment 1
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	See Attachment 1
Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	See Attachment 1
Hazardous and Hazardous Materials	See Attachment 1
Hydrology and Water Quality	See Attachment 1
Land Use and Planning	See Attachment 1
Public Services and Utilities	See Attachment 1
Recreation	See Attachment 1
Cumulative Impacts and Growth Inducing Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or economic growth rate in the area as a result of the proposed project or

Table 1 Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

Environmental Issue Area	Potential Issues or Impacts
	impacts from the removal of barriers to development or the extension of infrastructure to a previous unserved or under-served area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective impacts of the proposed project when combined with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions

Determinations regarding the significance of these potential impacts will be made in the environmental analysis conducted as part of the EIR after the issues are thoroughly considered. To assist the public’s understanding of the range of impacts that could be considered in the EIR, and to provide a guide for scoping comments, a checklist of CEQA questions typically evaluated in an EIR are included as Attachment 1. In addition to the issues listed in Attachment 1 and any other issues raised in the scoping process, the EIR will include an evaluation of cumulative impacts and growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project in combination with other past, present, and planned projects in the area.

Mitigation Measures

SDG&E and SoCalGas have proposed measures to reduce, avoid, or eliminate potential environmental impacts of the proposed project (called “Applicant Proposed Measures,” or “APMs”). The APMs will be evaluated in the EIR as potential mitigation measures, and additional mitigation measures will also be identified and considered to reduce, eliminate, or avoid potential environmental impacts, as necessary. As part of its decision on the proposed project, the CPUC will identify the mitigation measures to be adopted as a condition of the project’s approval and require implementation of these measures through a mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

E. Alternatives

In addition to the analysis of potential effects for the proposed PSRP, the EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the PSRP that could achieve all or most of the objectives of the proposed project, while avoiding or reducing one or more of its significant environmental impacts. Alternatives will include a “no project” alternative.

In the PEA for the PSRP, SDG&E and SoCalGas evaluated a variety of project alternatives, including not constructing a new pipeline, constructing a new pipeline in other areas of the service territory, multiple routes in the general vicinity of the existing Line 1600, co-locating a new pipeline near other existing infrastructure, and route variations. Alternatives and route variations evaluated by SDG&E and SoCalGas are depicted on Figures 5-1 and 5-2.

As part of the environmental review process for the PSRP, the CPUC will re-evaluate the feasibility of SDG&E and SoCalGas’s alternatives and determine whether or not to carry them forward for further analysis in the EIR. The CPUC may develop additional alternatives for consideration and analysis based on input received during the scoping period or in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during development of the EIR.

Agencies and the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the project alternatives considered following publication of the Draft EIR. A Notice of Availability will be issued at the time of the publication of the Draft EIR to inform the public and agencies that the comment period for the Draft EIR has been initiated.

F. Public Scoping Meetings and Comments

As required by CEQA, this NOP is being sent to potential responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, interested parties, and members of the public. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning the preparation of an EIR for the proposed project and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process.

Public Scoping Meetings

The CPUC is conducting six public scoping meetings on three dates during the EIR scoping period (see Table 2). All interested parties, including the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies, are invited to attend the public scoping meetings to learn more about the proposed project, ask questions, and provide comments in person about the PSRP and the scope and content of the EIR. The CPUC will also present information about the proposed project and its decision-making process at each meeting.

Table 2 Public Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, May 23, 2017*	Wednesday, May 24, 2017*	Thursday, May 25, 2017*
2 PM – 4 PM 6 PM – 8 PM	2 PM – 4 PM 6 PM – 8 PM	2 PM – 4 PM 6 PM – 8 PM
Pala Mesa Resort, Ballroom	Park Avenue Community Center, Auditorium	Alliant International University – San Diego Campus, Green Hall
2001 Old Highway 395 Fallbrook, CA 92028	210 E. Park Avenue Escondido, CA 92025	10455 Pomerado Road San Diego, CA 92131

*Presentations will be held each day at 2:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

Agency and Public Scoping Comments

The CPUC is soliciting comments from all potential responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law over the proposed project, and members of the public regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR. **The scoping period will begin on May 9, 2017, and end on June 12, 2017.**

Interested parties may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by submitting a comment online at the CPUC’s PSRP website; (2) by email; (3) by U.S. mail; and (4) by making a verbal statement to a court reporter or handing in a written comment at the public scoping meetings (see times and locations in Table 2, above). All posted and emailed comments should include the

commenter’s name and mailing address at the bottom of the comment and note the “Pipeline Safety and Reliability Project.”

Online: Submit comments via an online form at: <http://sandiegopipeline-psrp.com>

By email: Email comments to: SDgaspipeline@ene.com

By U.S. mail: Mail hard copy comments to:

Robert Peterson
California Public Utilities Commission
RE: Pipeline Safety and Reliability Project
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111

Comments must be received, or postmarked if hardcopy, by June 12, 2017. Interested parties will have an additional opportunity to comment during the public review period for the Draft EIR.

All comments received during scoping, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be made part of the public record for the proposed project. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide CPUC with the ability to provide the commenter with subsequent notifications related to the environmental review process for the proposed project.

A Public Scoping Summary Report will be prepared to summarize comments (including verbal comments made at the public scoping meetings) submitted to the CPUC during the scoping period. This report will be available on the CPUC PSRP website: <http://sandiegopipeline-psrp.com>.

Additional Information

Information about the proposed project and the environmental review process is available at the following website: <http://sandiegopipeline-psrp.com>.

This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings. Requests to join the mailing list can be made via the website, as well. In addition, a copy of the applicants’ PEA and Supplemental PEA is available at this website, and the Draft and Final EIR will be posted to this website after they are published.

Requests for additional information may be made via email or phone, as follows.

Project email: SDgaspipeline@ene.com

Project voicemail: 1-844-312-4776 (toll free)

This NOP and the Draft and Final EIR will be made available at the locations listed in Table 3:

Table 3 Project Document Repository Locations

Repository	Address	Phone
Temecula Public Library	30600 Pauba Road Temecula, CA 92592	(951) 693-8900
Fallbrook Public Library	124 S. Mission Road Fallbrook, CA 92028	(760) 731-4650
Valley Center Branch Library	29200 Cole Grade Road Valley Center, CA 92082	(760) 749-1305
Vista Branch Library	700 Eucalyptus Ave. Vista, CA 92084	(760) 643-5100
San Marcos Branch Library	2 Civic Center Drive San Marcos, CA 92069	(760) 891-3000
Escondido Public Library	239 S. Kalmia St. Escondido, CA 92025	(760) 839-4684
Rancho Bernardo Branch Library	17110 Bernardo Center Drive San Diego, CA 92128	(858) 538-8163
4S Ranch Branch Library	10433 Reserve Drive San Diego, CA 92127	(858) 673-4697
Carmel Mountain Ranch Branch Library	12095 World Trade Drive San Diego, CA 92128	(858) 538-8181
Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library	13330 Salmon River Road San Diego, CA 92129	(858) 538-8159
Poway Branch Library	13137 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064	(858) 513-2900
Mira Mesa Branch Library	8405 New Salem St. San Diego, CA 92126	(858) 538-8165
Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library	10301 Scripps Lake Drive San Diego, CA 92131	(858) 538-8158
Tierrasanta Branch Library	4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA 92124	(858) 573-1384