
Mascot Substation Project

**California Public Utilities Commission
Public Comment Meeting
Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative
Declaration (Draft IS/MND)**

**September 9, 2010
Hanford, California**

Participants and their Roles

- Monisha Gangopadhyay, CPUC: Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Michael Manka, Environmental Science Associates (ESA): Environmental consultant for CPUC
- Southern California Edison: Applicant

Meeting Agenda

- CPUC Review Process
- Project Overview
 - Project Description
 - Project Location Map
- Overview of Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigations
- Public Comment
 - Speaker cards
 - Comment forms

Basic Environmental Review Process (Step 1)

Utility Files Application

CPUC and its Environmental Consultant Review

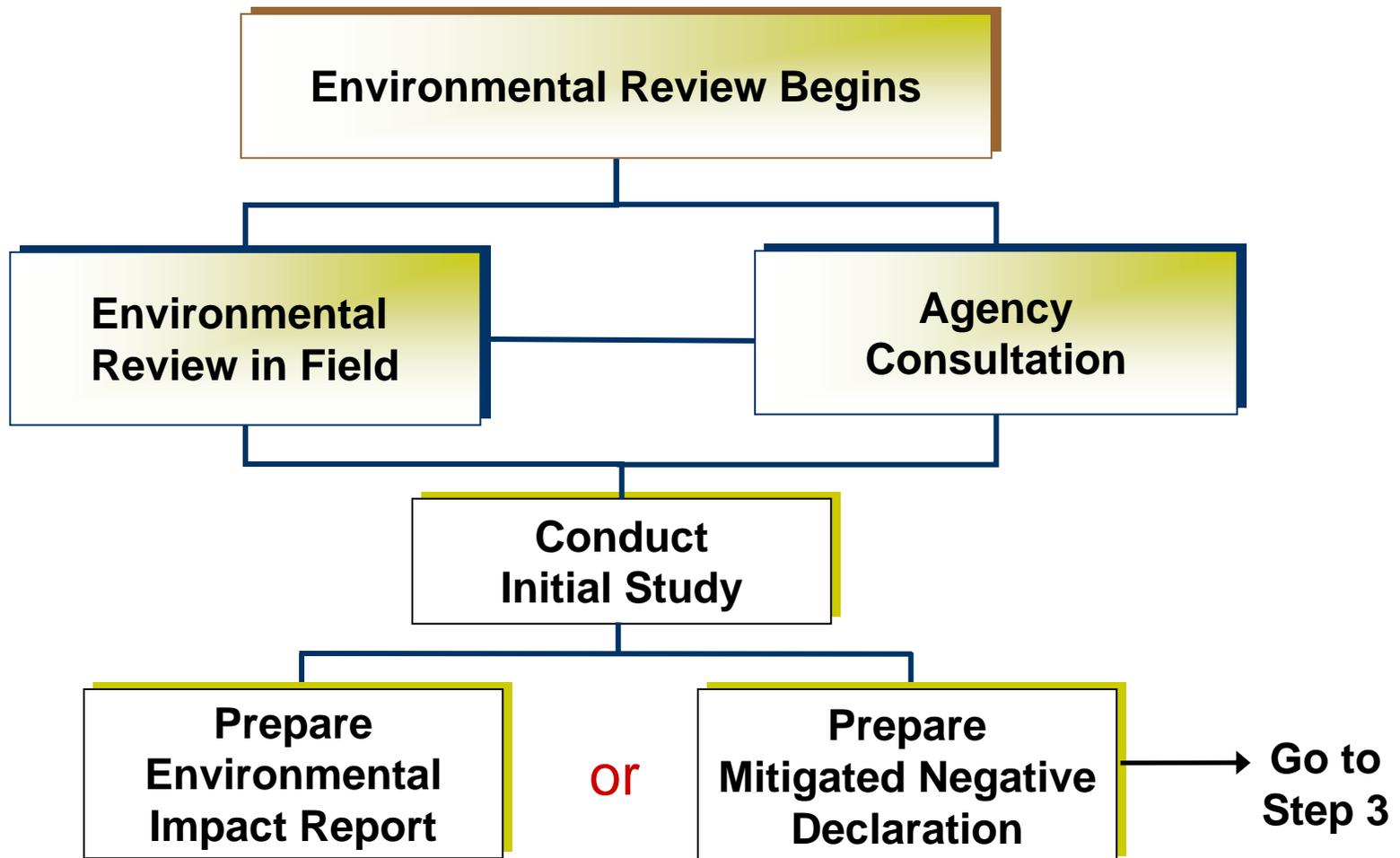
**Application
Deemed Complete**

**Environmental
Review Begins**

→ **Go to
Step 2**



Basic Environmental Review Process (Step 2)



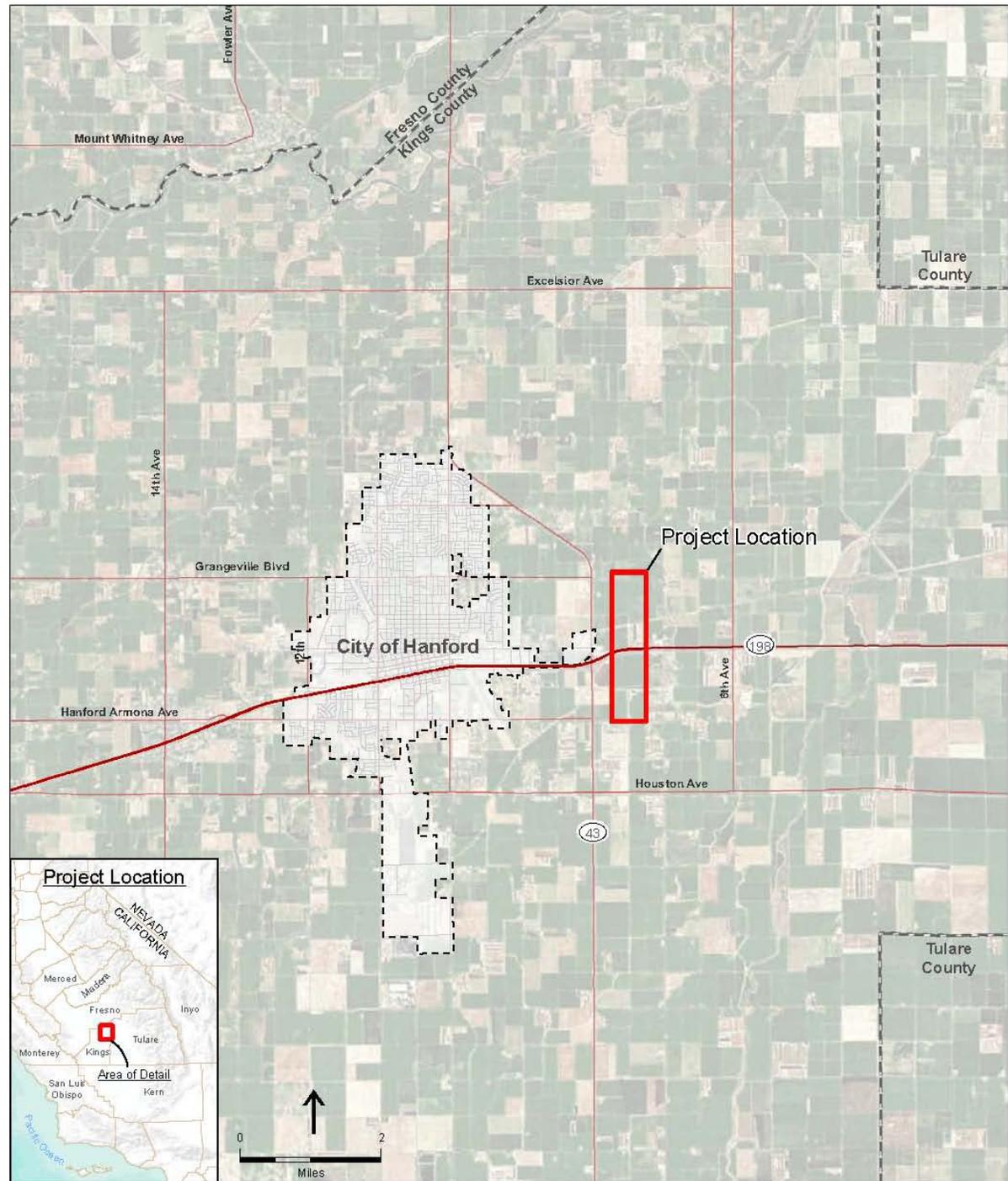
Basic Environmental Review Process (Step 3)



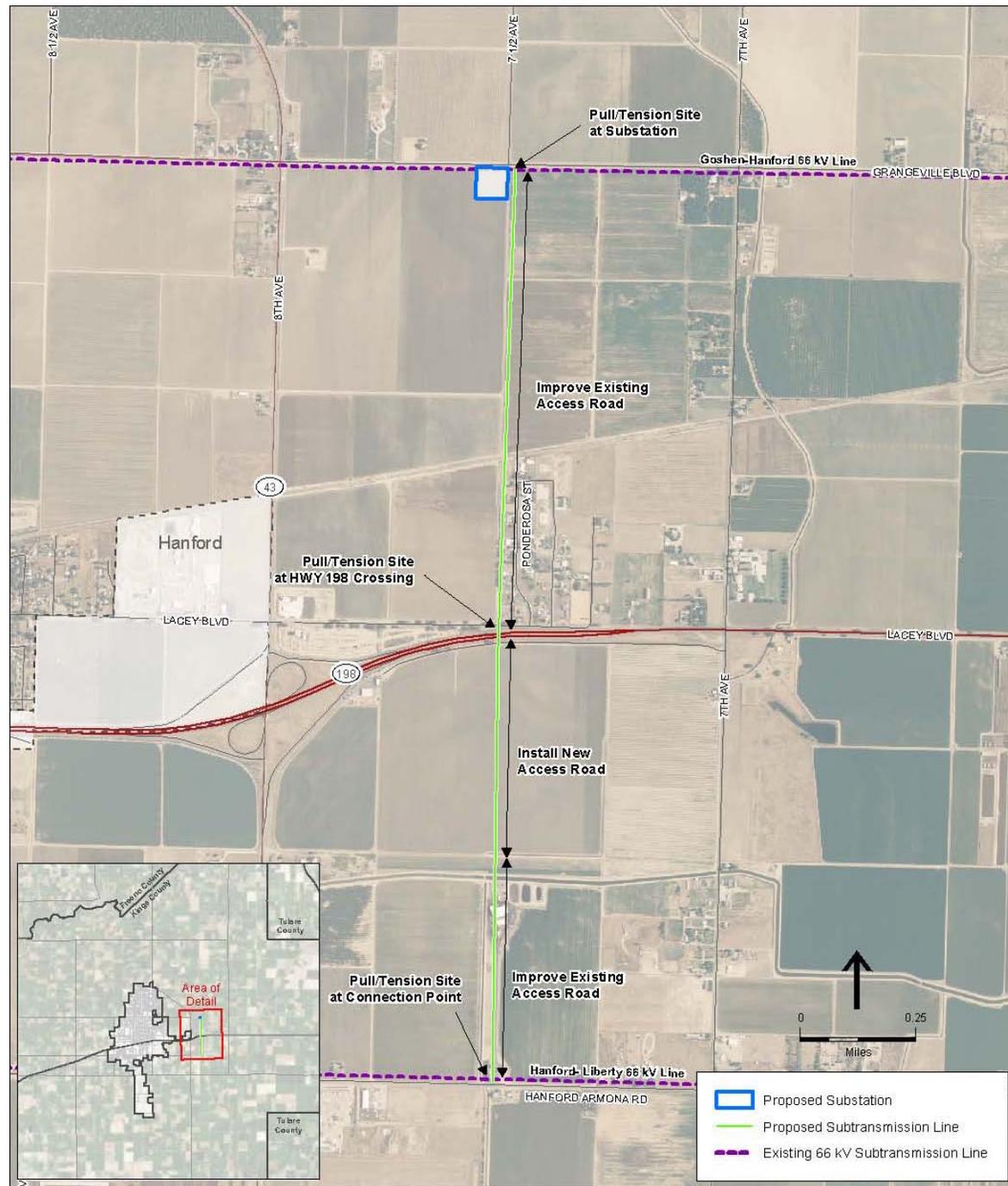
Project Description

- Construction of new 66/12 kV Mascot Substation
 - Construction of a new 66/12 kV distribution substation on an approximate five-acre site (Mascot Substation);
 - Construction of three new 66 kV single-circuit subtransmission line segments to serve the new Mascot Substation.
 - Construction of four new 12 kV distribution circuits; and
 - Construction of facilities to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

Proposed Project Location



Proposed Project Location



View from
Grangeville
Boulevard
looking east



Existing View from Grangeville Boulevard looking east



Visual Simulation of Proposed Project

SCE's Project Objectives

- Increase system reliability
- Ensure safety of maintenance crews
- Construct new substation:
 - That meets current design standards
 - That can serve the estimated needs area along with the Hanford Substation

The CEQA Review Process

- ❑ Information collected from SCE (the PEA) and independent sources
- ❑ Agencies, other stakeholders contacted to solicit input
- ❑ Potential environmental impacts identified in the Initial Study (IS)
- ❑ Mitigation measures developed
- ❑ Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared and circulated to the public
- ❑ This meeting is part of the public outreach process

Decision to Prepare a Draft IS/MND

- CPUC conducted Initial Study based on:
 - SCE's application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)
 - Independent research and analysis
- The analysis concluded that, after mitigation, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact
- SCE has agreed to all proposed mitigation measures
- Under CEQA, the CPUC can prepare an MND

Potential Impacts

- No or Less than Significant Impacts to:
 - Air Quality; Geology, Soils, and Seismicity; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; and Utilities and Service Systems

- Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation to:
 - Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Noise; Traffic and Transportation

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Aesthetics
 - Reduce construction night lighting impacts.

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
 - Compensate for conversion of Farmland
 - Incorporate measures into Project construction plans that would:
 - Ensure that existing drainage systems function as necessary
 - Ensure that construction does not impact irrigation and/or other ancillary farming systems to a degree that farming practices cannot be maintained
 - Maintain existing levels of water available to farmers
 - Or, SCE may negotiate agreements with any affected landowner(s)

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Biological Resources
 - Avoidance of special status species, e.g.:
 - western pond turtle
 - Swainson's hawk
 - western burrowing owl
 - nesting birds
 - San Joaquin kit fox
 - Avoid nesting season, or survey for avoidance
 - Minimize vegetation removal

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Cultural Resources
 - Archeological Surveys, cease work if archeological resources are discovered

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Hazards/Hazardous Materials
 - Implement Best Management Practices
 - Implement Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, a Health and Safety Plan, and a Workers Environmental Awareness Program
 - Ensure that oil-absorbent material, tarps, and storage drums shall be used to contain and control any minor releases

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

□ Noise

- Limit construction activities to daytime hours
- In the event that nighttime construction activity is determined to be necessary within 500 feet of an occupied residential dwelling unit, a nighttime noise reduction plan shall be developed

Mitigation Measure Highlights: Construction

- Traffic and Transportation
 - Implement Traffic Management and Control Plan
 - Avoid delays in freight train service

Next Steps

- ❑ Please submit comments no later than Thursday, September 30, 2010
- ❑ After consideration of public comments, the CPUC will issue a proposed decision regarding the project
- ❑ Final IS/MND (including a response to comments document) and final decision will be considered at CPUC meeting in November 2010 (tentative)



Public Comment

Discussion Guidelines

- ❑ One person to speak at a time
- ❑ Be concise
- ❑ Stay on topic
- ❑ Support everyone's participation
- ❑ Respect others' opinions
- ❑ Written comments are encouraged

Contact Information

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Mascot Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Fax: (415) 896-0332

E-mail: mascot@esassoc.com

Website:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/mascot/mascot.html>