

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



To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners & Interested Parties

From: Monisha Gangopadhyay, Environmental Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: Mascot Substation Project (A.09-11-020)

Date: August 30, 2010

Description of the Proposed Project.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for consideration of Southern California Edison's (SCE) application filed on November 25, 2009 (A.09-11-020) for a permit to construct the Mascot Substation Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would include the following major elements:

- 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. More specifically, the Goshen-Hanford 66 kV subtransmission line would be looped into Mascot Substation and the Hanford-Liberty 66 kV subtransmission line, approximately 2 miles away, would be tapped and connected to the Mascot Substation with a new single-circuit 66 kV subtransmission line segment;
- Construction of four new 12 kV distribution circuits; and
- Construction of facilities to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

Location of the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project would be located in unincorporated Kings County, California, just east of the City of Hanford, The Mascot Substation would be in the eastern portion of Kings County approximately 6.5 miles west of the jurisdictional boundary of Tulare County. Specifically, the subtransmission line alignment would originate at the Goshen-Hanford 66 kV subtransmission line which runs parallel to Grangeville Road and would be looped into the proposed Mascot Substation at the intersection of Grangeville Boulevard and 7 1/2 Avenue in Kings County. From the proposed substation site, another subtransmission line segment would traverse directly south from the substation along private property to connect with the Hanford-Liberty 66 kV subtransmission line. The line would parallel a dirt road extension of 7^{1/2} Avenue and cross agricultural lands.

Issues Addressed in the Draft IS/MND.

The Draft IS/MND details the Proposed Project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project; identifies those impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures which would avoid or minimize these impacts.

Public Comment on the Draft IS/MND.

The Draft IS/MND is available for a 30-day public comment period August 30, 2010 through September 30, 2010. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Project and the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND.

Written comments on the Draft IS/MND must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than **September 30, 2010**. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be sent to:

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Mascot Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207
Fax: (415) 896-0332
E-mail: mascot@esassoc.com

The CPUC will also hold a public information meeting to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. Following the end of the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND and submitted within the specified 30-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft IS/MND, will constitute the Final IS/MND for the Proposed Project. The public meeting will be held:

Thursday September 9, 2010
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Kit Carson Elementary School
9895 7th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230

Availability of Draft IS/MND.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for public review at the Hanford Main Library and the Tulare County Library in Visalia, and on the project website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/mascot/mascot.html>. This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft IS/MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8430 or by e-mail at mascot@esassoc.com.

Project information repositories include the following libraries:

Hanford Main Library 401 N. Douty Street Hanford, CA 93230 Phone : (559) 582-0261	Tulare County Library 200 West Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291 Phone : (559) 713-2700
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REMINDER: Draft IS/MND comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through September 30, 2010. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.