

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 17, 2009

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

Susan Nelson, Project Manager
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

SUBJECT: Data Request No. 7 for the San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project (A.08-05-039)

Dear Ms. Nelson:

As the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceeds with our response to comments on the Draft EIR for the Southern California Edison (SCE) San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project, we have identified additional information required to adequately respond to comments submitted regarding Alternative 3. Specifically, PACE has submitted comments on the Draft EIR proposing a modification to Alternative 3 to reroute the transmission line around the Stone Corral Ecological Reserve to avoid significant biological impacts. Please refer to the attached figure that shows PACE's suggested alignment (called Alternative 3A).

At this time, the CPUC has not reached any conclusion regarding whether or not PACE's Alternative 3A – or some variation thereof – would be feasible or even whether it would reduce or eliminate the significant unmitigable impacts identified in the DEIR for Alternative 3. That assessment depends in part on how such a bypass around the Stone Corral Ecological Reserve would be constructed, and therein lies the reason for this data request. Based on the attached figure of Alternative 3A, please provide the information requested in items 1 through 3 on the attachment to this letter.

Understanding that items 1 through 3 of this data request may require the generation of new information, we would appreciate your response by September 9, 2009.

Please submit your response in hardcopy and electronic format to me and also directly to our environmental consultant, ESA, at the mail and e-mail addresses noted below. If you have any questions please direct them to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jensen Uchida
CPUC CEQA Project Manager
Energy Division
Phone: (415) 703-5484
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Data Request #7
San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project

Questions and Requests:

1. If Alternative 3A were to be constructed around the Stone Corral Ecological Reserve, approximately 1.8 miles of the existing Big Creek-Rector transmission line (including approximately 17 pairs of towers) would be bypassed.
 - a. Would the bypassed section of the existing Big Creek-Rector transmission line remain in service, such that the transmission line constructed in Alternative 3A would be just the new double circuit loop with a 100-foot ROW, or
 - b. Would the bypassed section of the existing Big Creek-Rector transmission line be taken out of service, such that the Alternative 3A construction would include a rebuild of the existing line plus the new double circuit loop with a 150-foot ROW?
 - c. Provide a brief technical justification for whichever approach (a) or (b) would be preferred.
2. If (b) above would be the preferred approach, would the bypassed tower structures be allowed to remain in place or would they be removed, and why?
3. If the bypassed structures would have to be removed, please describe the construction methods that could be used to minimize ground disturbance in the Reserve (e.g., could the towers be removed by helicopter with only minimal ground vehicle access, could the foundations be left in place, etc.). To the extent possible, listing whatever caveats or assumptions that may be appropriate, please provide the following information regarding removal of the bypassed tower structures:
 - a. Chronology and duration of construction-related activities
 - b. Ground equipment required
 - c. Type of helicopter and duration (flight-hours) of use
 - d. Any other special construction requirements or techniques.



Figure 2. Closer view of Stone Corral Ecological Reserve area outlined in blue, existing line path shown in white, and proposed preliminary Alternative 3A reroute shown in yellow.