

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



To: Interested Parties

From: Michael Rosauer, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Sierra Pacific Power Company's Hirschdale Power Line Project (A.06-04-017)
SCH# 2007022078**

Date: June 1, 2007

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Sierra Pacific Power Company's Application to Construct the Hirschdale Power Line Project (A.06-04-017). The Final MND details the Proposed Project, evaluates and describes its potential environmental impacts, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

Description of the Proposed Project. Sierra Pacific, in its CPUC application (A.06-04-017), filed on April 19, 2006, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) an approximately 3,500-foot power line of new 60 kilovolt (kV) circuit on an existing 12.5 kV distribution line in unincorporated Nevada County, near the town of Hirschdale, pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. The Proposed Project would include the removal and installation of 19 poles, string of new conductor and relocated of existing distribution to the new poles. The entire proposed route would be located on an existing Sierra Pacific easement on private property connecting two existing single-circuit 60 kV electric power lines (Line 621 and Line 608) that Sierra Pacific currently operates.

The objective of the Proposed Project is to provide an alternative to the aging and difficult to maintain primary transmission path now serving the Glenshire Substation, thereby assuring continued safe and reliable electric service to customers in the area while also meeting planning criteria.

Contents of the Final MND. The Final MND consists of three chapters plus Appendices. Chapter 1 contains an introduction to the Final MND, including descriptions of the CEQA and public review processes and an overview of the comments received on the Draft MND. Chapter 2 contains the comments on the Draft MND as well as the CPUC's responses to the comments. Chapter 3 contains the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program. A compact disc (CD), located inside the back cover of the Final MND, contains the full document, including the text of the Draft MND as modified from the published Draft MND, with revised text shown in underline (for insertions) and deleted text shown in ~~strikeout~~ (for deletions).

CPUC Actions After Final MND Publication. There is no comment period following issuance of the Final MND. The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final MND, and, if adequate, will adopt the document as being compliant with CEQA. If adequate, the CPUC will issue a Decision on the Application, which will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. After the Commission makes the decision on the Application, a Notice of Determination will be mailed to the State Clearinghouse within 5 days of the Decision. After the Notice of Determination is filed, the 30 day statute of limitations for court challenges begins to run. For further information on the CPUC's decision-making process, please call the CPUC Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074.

SIERRA PACIFIC'S APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT HIRSCHDALE POWER LINE PROJECT INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Availability of Final MND. Copies of the Final MND will be available for public review at the Truckee Branch of the Nevada County Library, and on the project website: <http://www.sppc-hirschdale.com>. Hard

copies or CD copies of the Final MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8409 or by e-mail at hirschdale@esassoc.com.

Truckee Branch Library
10031 Levon Avenue
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 582-7846
Hours: M & Th: 10AM to 8PM
T, W, F, & Sa: 10AM to 6PM
Closed Sunday.

Map of the Proposed Project Location:

