
PacifiCorp Yreka-Weed Transmission Line Upgrade Project, Southern Portion and the Weed Segment

**California Public Utilities Commission
Public Scoping Meeting
for Preparation of an
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

**May 2, 2007
Weed, California**

Key Players and their Roles

- John Boccio, CPUC: Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Doug Cover, Environmental Science Associates (ESA): Environmental consultant for CPUC
- PacifiCorp: Applicant

Meeting Agenda

- CPUC Review Process
- Project Overview
 - Background
 - Project Objectives
 - Project Description
- Alternatives
- Next Steps
- Public Comment
 - Speaker cards
 - Comment forms

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) – Who does the CPUC regulate?

- The CPUC regulates investor owned utilities: electricity, telephone communications, natural gas, water, and some transportation and rail companies.
- The purpose of CPUC regulation is to ensure that these utility services are provided to the public in a safe and reliable manner and at a reasonable price.



CPUC – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

- When an investor owned utility (IOU) proposes to build additional infrastructure within the state of California, the IOU files an application with the CPUC either for a Permit to Construct (PTC) or for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).
- This project falls into the first category. The utility, PacifiCorp, is applying for a PTC for Yreka-Weed Transmission Upgrade Project.
- This is a discretionary decision which means the Commission can approve or disapprove this project.



CPUC Review Process is Two Fold

- Economic review, which looks at how the proposed project will affect rates, market competition, market structure and whether the proposed project will meet the needs of the people in California.
- Environmental review, which complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. The purpose of this review is to make the public aware of the possible environmental impacts of the proposed project, along with possible mitigation measures and a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. A no project alternative is used as the environmental baseline.



CPUC - Basic Application and Environmental Review Processes

1. Once a utility submits an application, the CPUC staff reviews the application for completeness. In addition, CPUC staff hires an environmental consultant with appropriate qualifications to assist with the review and preparation of environmental documents.
2. When the application is deemed complete, the environmental review begins.
3. The first major step in this process is the scoping meeting where we receive information from the public in order to help us determine the range of issues and project alternatives.



CPUC - Basic Application and Environmental Review Processes (Continued)

4. Based on this input from the scoping meeting, environmental review in the field, and agency consultation, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared. The Draft EIR will identify an “environmentally superior” alternative from the proposed project and range of alternatives. The environmentally superior route is the route that has the least overall environmental impact based upon the studies conducted during the environmental review. However, the Commission is not required to approve the environmentally superior route.
5. Once produced, the Draft EIR is circulated to the public for 45 days for review and comment.



CPUC - Basic Application and Environmental Review Processes (Continued)

6. At the conclusion of this review period, all substantive comments on the Draft EIR are considered, and responses to all such comments are incorporated in a Final EIR.
7. The Final EIR is forwarded to the Commission's Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) who incorporates the major findings from, and the environmental mitigation measures identified in, the Final EIR into a proposed Commission decision. Along with routing, this proposed decision addresses other issues, such as economics, social impacts, and the need for the proposed project. If a route with unmitigable significant impacts is selected, the Commission must write a "statement of overriding considerations" that balances benefits of the project against unavoidable effects.



CPUC - Basic Application and Environmental Review Processes (Continued)

8. The ALJ's draft decision is circulated for 30 days to parties on the Commission's service list for the proceeding.
9. Comments on the proposed decision from parties to the proceeding are considered and addressed in a proposed final decision.
10. Individual Commissioners have the option to write an alternate decision.
11. The Commissioners vote on the proposed decision in a Commission public meeting.
12. If the decision is approved, the decision goes into effect in 30 days.





For Additional Information
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>



Project Overview - Background

- Original Project:
 - Upgrade approximately 17 miles of existing 69kV line to 115kV (existing ROW)
 - Install approximately 1.6 miles of new 115kV line (new ROW)
 - Weed Segment: Substation upgrade and approximately 1.5 miles of existing 69kV line to double circuit 115kV (existing ROW)
- Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND)
 - Adopted by CPUC in October 2006
 - Construction approved only for “Northern Portion”

Project Overview - Background

- Commission Decision March 15, 2007
 - Ordered EIR for “Southern Portion”
 - Specifically directed evaluation of alternatives to new ROW
- Commission Scoping Memo April 4, 2007
 - Required that EIR also include the Weed Segment
- Current Status
 - Construction complete for “Northern Portion”
 - Initiating the EIR for “Southern Portion” and the Weed Segment

PacifiCorp's Project Objectives

□ Proposed Project

- Meet electric system demand in the area
- Ensure transmission system reliability

□ Weed Segment

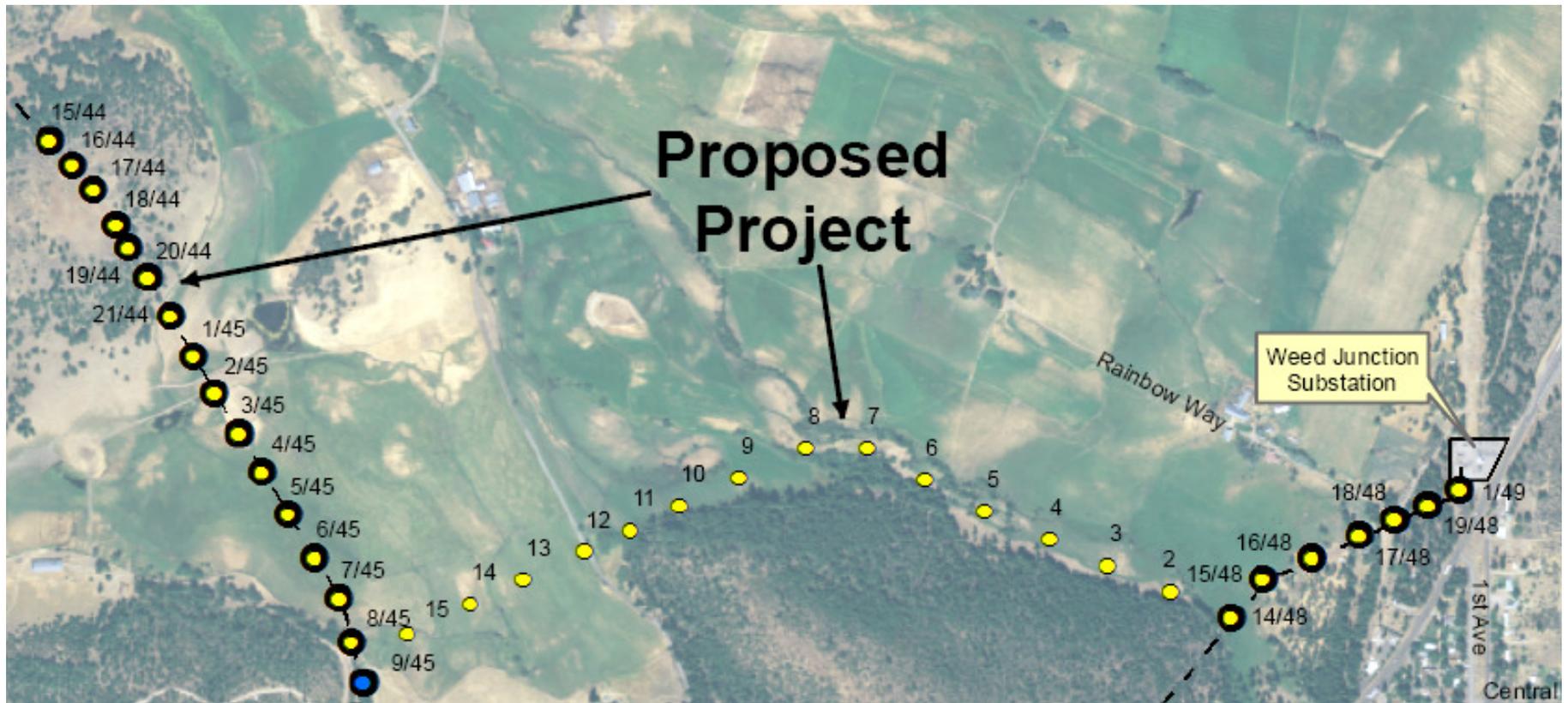
- Handle increased load
- Provide transmission capacity

Project Description

“Proposed Project”

- Upgrade approximately 0.7 miles of existing 69kV line to 115kV (existing ROW)
 - Pole-for-pole replacement (~10 feet taller)
 - Approximately 15 wood poles
- Install approximately 1.6 miles of new 115kV line (new ROW)
 - “Tap point” is Pole 8/45
 - Approximately 18 new wood poles and 3 self-supporting steel poles

Proposed Project

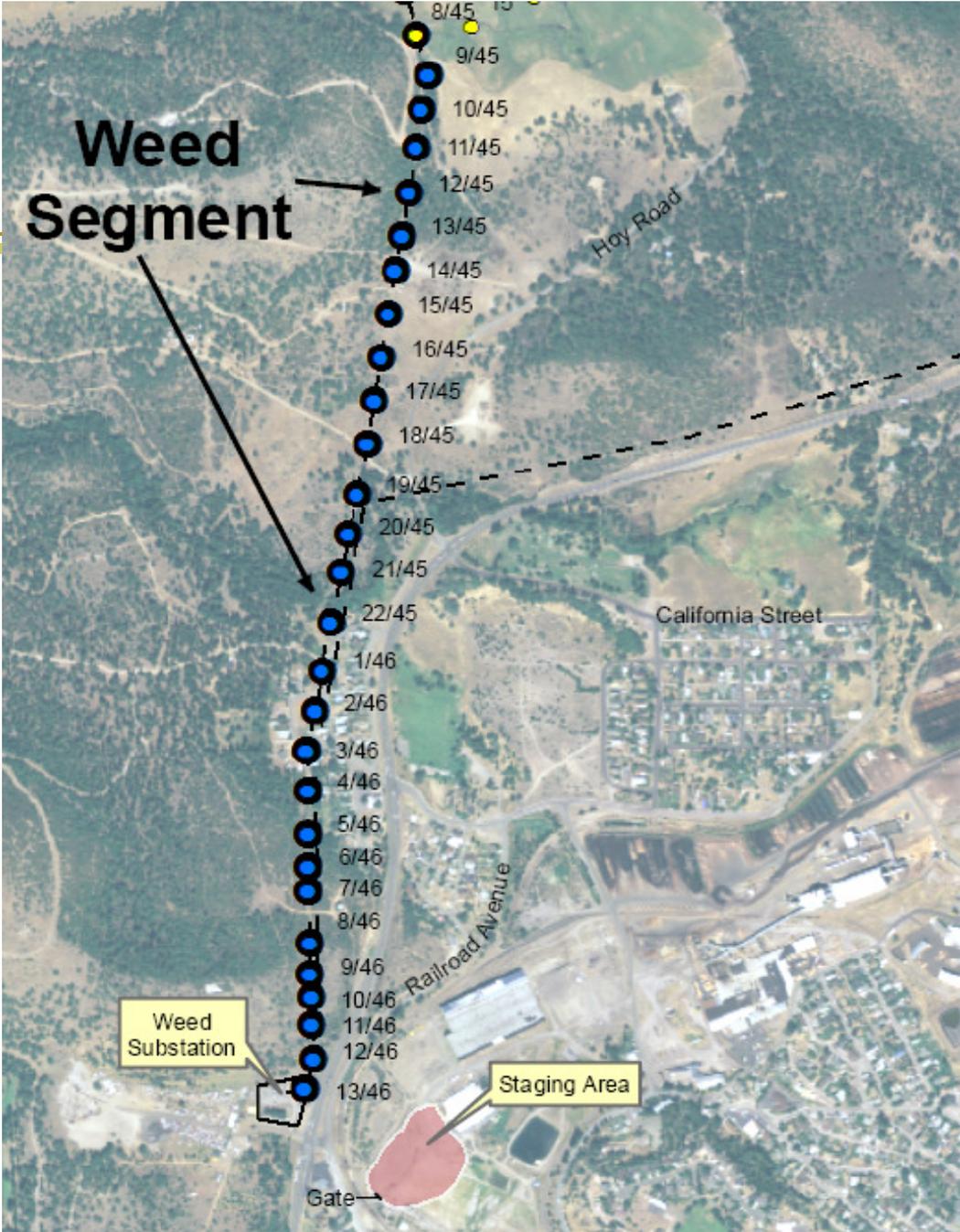


Project Description

“Weed Segment”

- Upgrade approximately 1.5 miles of existing 69kV line to double circuit 115kV (existing ROW)
 - Pole-for-pole replacement (~15 feet taller)
 - Approximately 27 wood poles
- Rebuild Weed Substation from 69 to 115kV
 - Build temporary substation on existing property
 - Construct new 115kV substation
 - Remove temporary substation

Weed Segment



Alternative Alignments

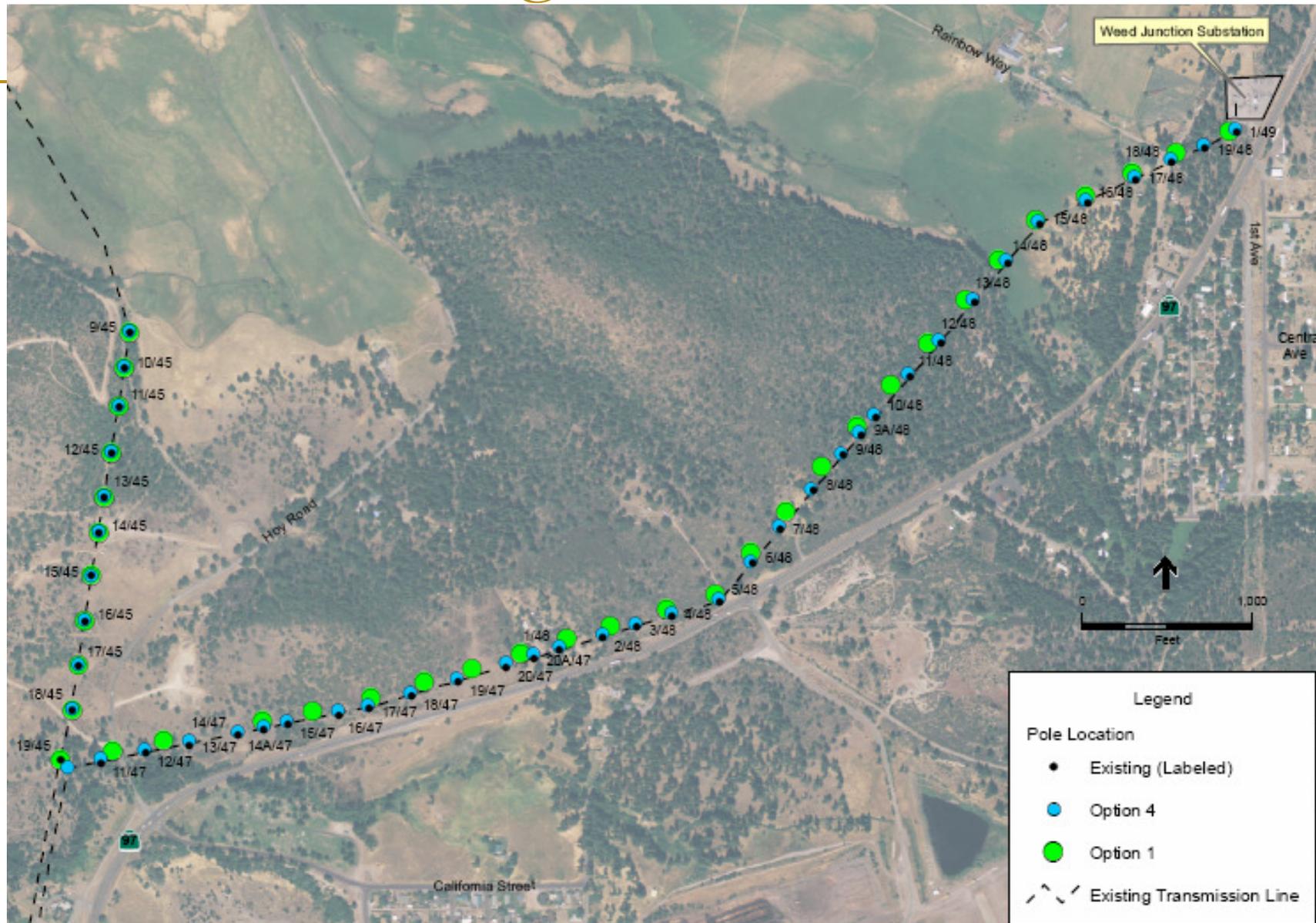
□ PacifiCorp “Option 1”

- Rebuild existing line south to Pole 19/45
- Parallel existing line along Hwy 97
- New poles approximately 50’ north
- Results in two sets of poles, larger ROW

□ PacifiCorp “Option 4”

- Rebuild existing line south to Pole 19/45
- Parallel existing line along Hwy 97
- New poles approximately 15’ north
- Transfer existing line to new poles
- Results in one set of poles, move ROW

Alternative Alignments



Other Alternatives

- “Option 5”
 - Similar route as Option 1
 - Upgrade existing 69kV line to 115kV in existing ROW
 - Additional upgrades at Weed Substation
- “ALJ3”
 - Similar route as Option 1
 - Demolish 69kV line, rebuild and add new 115kV line in existing ROW
 - Additional upgrades at Weed Substation
- “No Project”

Next Steps

- Notice of Preparation was circulated to solicit input from agencies and the public
- This meeting is part of the scoping process
- A Draft EIR will be prepared and circulated for agency and public comment
- Comments will be considered and addressed in a Final EIR
- CPUC considers EIR / other factors and issues a draft decision for the Proposed Project
- CPUC considers comments on draft and alternate decisions and votes on the Project

How to Comment

- Please submit scoping comments no later than Tuesday, May 15, 2007:

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Public Comment

Discussion Guidelines

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