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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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The City of Riverside (City), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP or Proposed Project). This FEIR contains all of the required contents as described in Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, including:

- A revision of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), with changes shown in underline/strikethrough format;
- comments and recommendations received on the DEIR;
- a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the DEIR; and
- the responses of the lead agency to significant environmental points raised in the review process

This FEIR contains comments received during the public review period as well as comments received after the close of the public review period, responses by the City to comments received, an accounting of revisions made to the DEIR, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan. This FEIR is intended to be used in conjunction with the DEIR, which is incorporated by reference and bound separately. The DEIR and all appendices are available for review at <http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities/rtrp-deir.asp>.

Resource-specific technical reports, contained in Volume II of the DEIR, were developed to inform the analysis contained in the DEIR and have not been updated or reprinted.

The following new attachments are included to support responses to comments in this FEIR (see Chapter 2), and are printed in full:

- Attachment A: Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission Development Review
- Attachment B: Airspace Analysis conducted by Aviation Systems, Inc.
- Attachment C: Preliminary Geology and Geotechnical Evaluation
- Attachment D: Detailed project layout with preliminary structure locations and access
- Attachment E: Biology map books
- Attachment F: Eastern Route constraints map

The intent of the FEIR is to provide a forum to disclose and address comments pertaining to the analysis contained in the DEIR, and to provide an opportunity for clarification, corrections, or revisions to the DEIR, as needed.

### 1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Proposed Project would consist of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new approximately 10-mile double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, a new 230 kV substation (Wildlife Substation), a new 230/69 kV substation (Wilderness Substation), and five new 69 kV subtransmission line segments integrated into the City of Riverside Public Utilities' (RPU's) existing subtransmission system. Total length of the new 69 kV subtransmission lines would be approximately 11 miles. In addition to these primary Proposed Project components, the Proposed Project would include:

- Improvements to existing 69 kV substations to accommodate the proposed 69 kV subtransmission lines,
- Protective relay improvements at Mira Loma and Vista Substations,
- Relocation and undergrounding of some existing distribution lines, and
- Installation of several new telecommunication line pathways for control and integration of both the new transmission and subtransmission lines.

## **1.2 PROJECT CHANGES IN THE FINAL EIR**

In response to public comments on the DEIR and to avoid significant impacts of the Proposed Project, RPU and SCE have made modifications to the Proposed Project as described in Chapter 2, Proposed Project Description, of Volume II. Project modifications resulted in a slightly shorter 230 kV transmission line, fewer severe angles in the transmission line centerline, fewer total overhead structures, and fewer lattice towers. Following review of all resources, additional environmental analysis associated with these changes has been added, where relevant, throughout Chapter 3, Environmental Analysis, of Volume II. (For details see Sections 3.2.1 Aesthetics; 3.2.3, Air Quality; 3.2.5, Cultural Resources; 3.2.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials; 3.2.8 Hydrology and Water Quality; and 3.2.15, Transportation and Traffic of the FEIR.) Changes to the Proposed Project do not increase the significance of any impact levels as determined in the DEIR. These changes are summarized below.

- The 230 kV transmission line route has been modified to avoid the Vernola Marketplace parking lot by following I-15 roughly south and to the east of the California Department of Transportation's right-of-way. Additionally, the route along the Goose Creek Golf Club and Santa Ana River crossing has been slightly modified to utilize one double-circuit structure on each side of the river, instead of the previously presented two single-circuit structures. Finally, the route's path through the City of Riverside Water Quality Control Plant has been shifted to the north side of the plant property to reduce potential conflicts with current operations and possible future development at the plant. These routing changes are described in Section 2.3.1 in Chapter 2 of the DEIR (Volume II of this FEIR).
- The 69 kV subtransmission line will be placed underground in Segment A of the Riverside Energy Resource Center to Harvey Lynn/Freeman route in order to reduce potentially significant aircraft hazard and inconsistency with the Riverside County Airport Land Use Consistency Plan, as described in Section 2.3.2 in Chapter 2 of the DEIR (Volume II of this FEIR).

## **1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The City prepared a DEIR for the Proposed Project and originally circulated it for a 60-day public review period commencing August 1, 2011 and concluding on September 30, 2011. The City mailed a Notice of Availability (NOA) to various agencies, organizations, individuals who had previously requested such notice, and owners of property adjacent to the Proposed Project and alternative route. Additionally, the NOA was posted at the Riverside County Clerk's office. Further, a Notice of Completion was filed with the California Office of Planning and Research as required by CEQA. Subsequently, in a letter dated August 29, 2011, the City of Jurupa Valley requested an extension of the public review period, and the City of Riverside extended the public

review period to conclude on November 30, 2011, for a total of 122 days. The City filed a notice with the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) State Clearinghouse on September 12, 2011, and the State Clearinghouse issued a memorandum to all reviewing agencies on the same day, to announce the extension. The City then filed a formal Project Update to announce the extension of the review period with the Riverside County Clerk on September 19, 2011 and mailed a postcard update to the Proposed Project mailing list.

In addition to this extended public review period, the DEIR was available for review on the City's website at <http://www.riversidepublicutilities.com/rtrp> and at the following locations:

City of Riverside Public Utilities Department  
3901 Orange Street  
Riverside, CA

Riverside City Hall Planning Division  
3900 Main Street, Third Floor  
Riverside, CA

Rubidoux Library  
5840 Mission Boulevard  
Riverside, CA

La Sierra Branch Public Library  
4600 La Sierra Avenue  
Riverside, CA

Glen Avon Library  
9244 Galena  
Riverside, CA

Written and oral comments were received during and after the public review period. Pursuant to Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City has reviewed all comments received on the DEIR. Responses to these comments are contained within Chapter 2 of this FEIR. The Riverside City Council, prior to making a decision on the Proposed Project, must consider these responses to comments and FEIR in conjunction with the DEIR. CEQA Guidelines Section 15088 stipulates that the response to comments may take the form of a revision to the draft EIR or may be a separate section in the final EIR. Where the response to comments makes important changes in the information contained in the text of the draft EIR, the Lead Agency should either: (1) Revise the text in the body of the EIR, or (2) Include marginal notes showing that the information is revised in the response to comments. As such, this FEIR contains revisions made in response to comments in Volume II, as well as outlining and quantifying those revisions in Chapter 2, Comments Received and Responses to Comments. No significant new information that would merit recirculation of the EIR, as defined by 15088.5 of Title 14 of CEQA, was added to the Proposed Project or analysis after public comment. Recirculation is not required when new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR.

## 1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL EIR

The FEIR is organized as follows:

### Volume I:

Chapter 1 (Introduction) contains background information on the Proposed Project and the environmental review process.

Chapter 2 (Comments Received and Responses to Comments) outlines the format of the comments and responses, provides a list of commenters, provides Master Responses for comments of general concern, and then provides copies of all of the written and oral comments, each followed by responses.

Chapter 3 (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program) describes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the RTRP, outlining all of the proposed mitigation measures and assigning responsibility for implementation and monitoring, along with timing for verification.

### Volume II:

Complete revised DEIR, with additions shown in underline and deletions shown in ~~strike through~~ formats. All revisions were made to add clarification in response to a comment received or to refine the Proposed Project description and do not identify any new significant impacts from those presented in the DEIR.