



Notification of Availability
Joint Draft Environmental Impact Report
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS)
East County Substation/Tule Wind/Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects



State Clearinghouse No. 2009121079

DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2010-0027-EIS (ECO Sub)
DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2008-0040-EIS (Tule Wind)

Lead Agencies:

California Public Utilities Commission
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating /Responsible Agencies:

County of San Diego, California State Lands Commission
Bureau of Indian Affairs / Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

ABSTRACT

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared a Joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for consideration of San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E's) application to build and operate the East County (ECO) Substation Project. In addition, the Joint DEIR/DEIS addresses Pacific Wind Development's application to build and operate the Tule Wind Project and Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC's application to build and operate the Energia Sierra Juarez Generator Tie-Line (ESJ Gen-Tie) Project as "connected actions" under NEPA and "whole of the action" under CEQA. Therefore, the ECO Substation Project, Tule Wind Project, and ESJ Gen-Tie Project are collectively referred to as the Proposed PROJECT in the Joint DEIR/DEIS. In addition, the DEIR/DEIS also considers at a qualitative/program level the proposed Campo, Manzanita, and Jordan wind energy projects, which would connect into the proposed Boulevard Substation Rebuild component of the ECO Substation Project. The CPUC and BLM have determined that these three wind energy projects are sufficiently developed to analyze impacts where feasible. Therefore, for purposes of this EIR/EIS, the Campo, Manzanita, and Jordan projects are qualitatively evaluated at a programmatic level because sufficient project-level information has yet to be developed. The proposed Campo, Manzanita, and Jordan wind energy projects will still require project-specific environmental review and evaluation under all applicable environmental regulations once sufficient project-level information is developed. By including these nascent wind projects as components of the proposed wider PROJECT, it allows the lead agencies to further consider broad impacts, mitigation and consequences of the ECO substation project specifically, and the wider PROJECT as a whole.

The Proposed PROJECT would be located near the unincorporated communities of Jacumba and Boulevard, approximately 70 miles east of downtown San Diego, in the southeastern portion of San Diego County. If approved, the Proposed PROJECT would construct and operate 1) the ECO Substation Project including a new 500/230/138-kilovolt (kV) ECO Substation, a new 13.3-mile 138 kV transmission line (connecting the ECO Substation with the Boulevard Substation Rebuild), and would rebuild the existing Boulevard Substation to operate at 138/69/12 kV; 2) the Tule Wind Project, including up to 134 wind turbines and associated facilities, including an aboveground and underground cable collection system, collector substation, and an operations and maintenance facility, and an approximate 9.7-mile 138 kV transmission line to interconnect with the proposed Boulevard Substation Rebuild; 3) and the ESJ Gen-Tie Project including an approximate 1-mile 500 kV (or 230 kV) gen-tie from the U.S.–Mexico border approximately 4 miles southeast of the community of Jacumba to interconnect with the proposed ECO Substation. Approval of the Campo, Manzanita, and Jordan wind energy projects will require project level environmental review.

The Joint DEIR/DEIS describes the Proposed PROJECT, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed PROJECT, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Joint DEIR/DEIS also evaluates alternatives to the Proposed PROJECT, including the No Project/No Action Alternative, as required by CEQA and NEPA.

AVAILABILITY OF JOINT DEIR/DEIS

Copies of the Joint DEIR/DEIS are available for review at the following local libraries: Jacumba Public Library, located at 44605 Old Highway 80, Jacumba, California 91934; Campo-Morena Village Branch Library, located at 31356 Highway 94, Campo, California 91906; Potrero Branch Library, located at 24883 Potrero Valley Road, Potrero, California 91963. The DEIR/DEIS is also available on the CPUC and BLM websites at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/ECOSUB.htm>

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/tule.html>

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

In order to help affected communities understand the Proposed PROJECT and the Joint DEIR/DEIS, and to explain how the public can participate in the CPUC's, BLM's, and County of San Diego's decision-making process, the CPUC, BLM, and County will hold informational meetings on January 26, 2011 and February 2, 2011. At these informational workshops, the EIR/EIS Team and CPUC/BLM staff will be available to respond to questions and provide clarification regarding the impact analysis and conclusions presented in the DEIR/DEIS. Details on the CPUC/BLM informational meetings are as follows:

Location	Date and Time
Jacumba Highland Center 44681 Old Highway 80, Jacumba, California 91934	January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department 39223 Highway 94, Boulevard, California 91905	February 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations are being conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

By this notice CPUC and BLM are announcing the opening of the comment period. The Joint DEIR/DEIS was released for public review on December 24, 2010. Recognizing that the public review period begins during the holidays, it will be extended past the typical 45-day public review period and will end on February 16, 2011 (54 days total).

To ensure that comments will be considered, the CPUC/BLM must receive written comments on the DEIR/DEIS by the close of the public review period (February 16, 2011). Written comments on the Joint DEIR/DEIS must be postmarked and received no later than February 16, 2011. Written comments on the Joint DEIR/DEIS can be submitted via:

Mail: Iain Fisher, CPUC/Greg Thomsen, BLM, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, California 92024

Email: ecosub@dudek.com (CPUC project email) OR catulewind@blm.gov (BLM project email)

Fax: (800) 371-8854 (to send a fax, please press "2")

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.