

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S DEVERS-MIRAGE 115 KV SUBTRANSMISSION SYSTEM SPLIT PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Report

CPUC A.08-01-029

SCH#: 2008041087

Prepared for  
California Public Utilities Commission

January 2010



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Prepared for:  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

January 2010

225 Bush Street  
Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
415.896.5900  
[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

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



**To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners,  
& Interested Parties**

**From: Eric Chiang, Environmental Project Manager**

**Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
AND PUBLIC MEETING:  
Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project (A.08-01-029)  
SCH No. 2008041087**

**Date: January 7, 2010**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Southern California Edison's (SCE) application to construct, operate, and maintain the Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project (Proposed Project). The Draft EIR details the Proposed Project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures which, if adopted by the CPUC, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft EIR also evaluates alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA.

#### **Description of the Proposed Project.**

The Proposed Project is located within central Riverside County, including portions of the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, and Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the community of Thousand Palms. See the map that follows this notice for an illustration of the project area. The Proposed Project includes the following major elements:

- replacement of approximately 5.3 miles of existing 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit subtransmission line with new higher capacity double-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and replacement of support structures within existing SCE rights-of-way (ROWs), franchise locations (public ROWs), and private property between Farrell and Garnet Substations in the City of Palm Springs;
- construction of a new 115 kV subtransmission line from Mirage Substation south to Interstate 10, adjacent to the east side of Tri-Palm Estates and within SCE's existing ROWs or franchise locations;
- looping the existing Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV transmission line from an existing ROW to the south for approximately 0.8 mile on double-circuit lattice steel towers to Mirage Substation, located near the community of Thousand Palms;
- installation of a new 280 megavolt amperes (MVA) 200/115 kV transformer, two new 220 kV circuit breakers, and five new 115 kV circuit breakers at SCE's existing Mirage Substation; and
- subtransmission line reconfigurations at the intersections of Bob Hope Drive and Dinah Shore Drive, Portola Avenue and Gerald Ford Drive, and Varner Road and Date Palm Drive.

The Proposed Project would also include additional equipment and relay installations at Mirage, Concho, Indian Wells, Santa Rosa, Eisenhower, Farrell, Garnet, Thornhill, and Tamarisk Substations located in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the community of Thousand Palms. The Proposed Project would also include the transfer of existing fiber optic cable to new support structures and installation of new fiber optic and digital telecommunications equipment.

The objectives of the Proposed Project are to maintain electric system reliability, enhance operational flexibility, and serve projected electrical demand in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City,

Palm Desert, Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the community of Thousand Palms. Construction of the project is proposed to begin in the second quarter of 2010 and be operational by mid-2011.

**Public Comment on the Draft EIR.**

The Draft EIR is available for a 45-day public comment period from January 8, 2010 through February 22, 2010. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than **February 22, 2010**. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be sent to:

**Mr. Eric Chiang**  
**Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project**  
**c/o Environmental Science Associates**  
**1425 N. McDowell Boulevard, Suite 200**  
**Petaluma, CA 94954**  
**Voicemail: (707) 795-0940; Fax: (707) 795-0902**  
**E-mail: [devers-mirage@esassoc.com](mailto:devers-mirage@esassoc.com)**

The CPUC will also hold a public comment meeting to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. Following the end of the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft EIR and submitted within the specified 45-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft EIR, will constitute the Final EIR for the Proposed Project. The public meeting will be held:

**Friday January 29, 2010**  
**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, Mary Stuart Rogers Gateway Building (Classroom RG-303)**  
**37-500 Cook Street (b/w Gerald Ford Dr. and Frank Sinatra Dr.)**  
**Palm Desert, CA 92211**

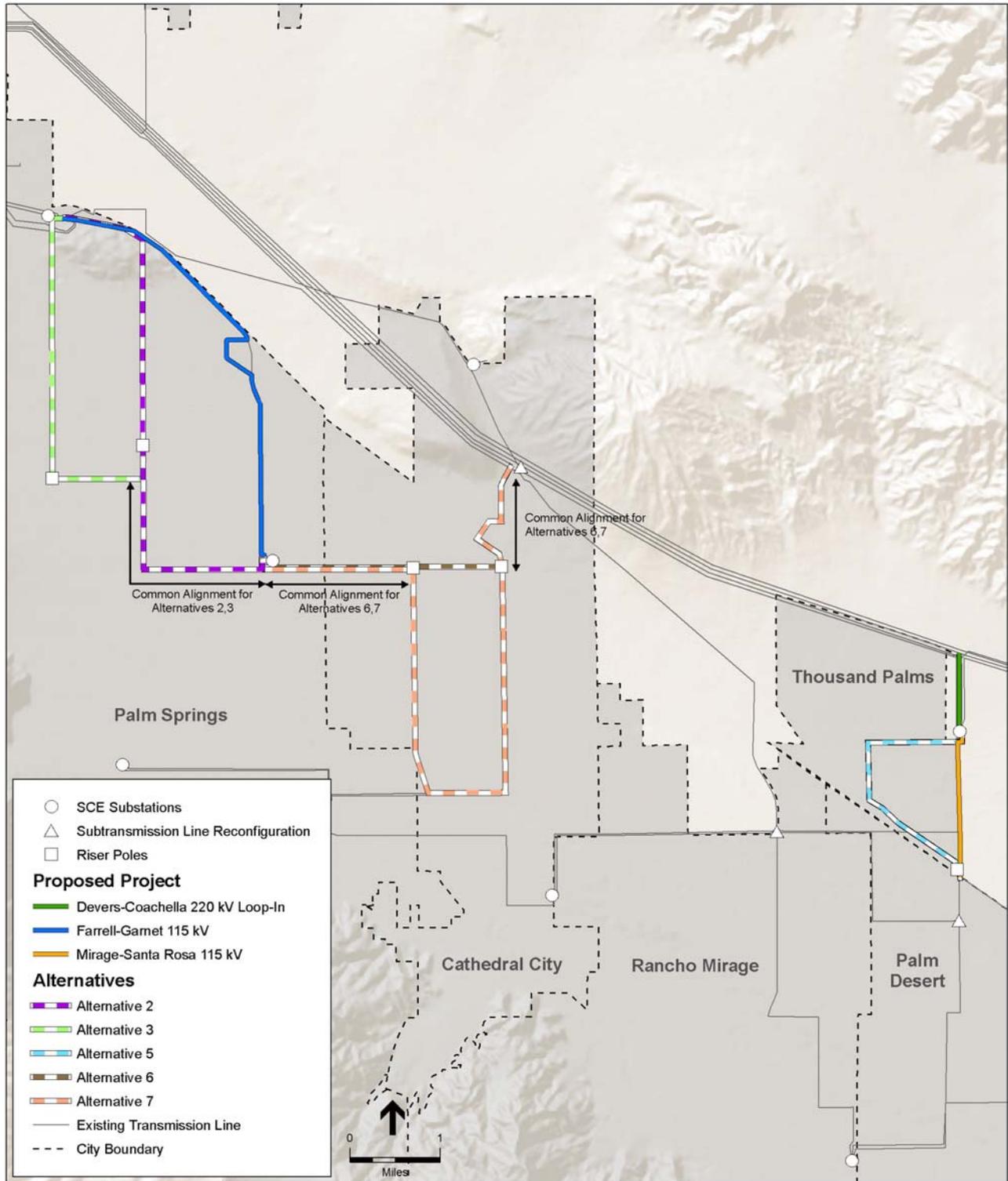
**Availability of Draft EIR.**

Copies of the Draft EIR are available for public review on the project website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/devers-mirage/devers.html>. This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft EIR may be requested by telephone at (707) 795-0940 or by e-mail at [devers-mirage@esassoc.com](mailto:devers-mirage@esassoc.com).

Additionally, copies of the Draft EIR are available at the following branches of the Riverside County Library:

Cathedral City Branch 33520 Date Palm Drive. Cathedral City, CA 92234-1307 Phone : (760) 328-4262	Thousand Palms Branch 31189 Robert Road Thousand Palms, CA 92276-3235 Phone: (760) 343-1556
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**REMINDER: Draft EIR comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through February 22, 2010. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.**



SOURCE: SCE, 2008

Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project . 207059

Project Overview

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**Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project**  
**c/o Environmental Science Associates**  
**1425 N. McDowell Boulevard, Suite 200**  
**Petaluma, CA 94954**

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