

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



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

From: John Boccio, Environmental Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF AN INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP AND SCOPING MEETING: Permit to construct electrical facilities with voltages between 50 kV and 200kV: Falcon Ridge Substation Project (A.1012017)

Date: March 30, 2011

Description of Proposed Project

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is preparing an EIR for the Project identified below, and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. Southern California Edison (SCE), in its CPUC application (A.1012017), filed on December 29, 2010, seeks a permit to construct (PTC) the Falcon Ridge Substation Project (Project), which consists of the following major elements:

- Construction of a 66/12 kilovolt (kV) substation (Falcon Ridge Substation). Falcon Ridge Substation would be an unattended, automated 56 MVA 66/12 kV low-profile substation located on a 7.5-acre parcel in the City of Fontana;
- Installation of two 66 kV subtransmission source line segments to connect the Falcon Ridge Substation to the existing Alder 66/12 kV and Etiwanda 220/66 kV substations (upgrades would occur within each of the existing substations to accommodate the Project);
- Construction of three underground 12 kV distribution getaways; and
- Installation of telecommunications facilities at the proposed Falcon Ridge Substation, installation of telecommunications fiber optic cable on the proposed 66 kV subtransmission source lines, and the modification of the existing telecommunications facilities at the Etiwanda and Alder substations to connect the proposed substation to the SCE telecommunications network..

The purpose of the Project is to serve the current and projected demand for electricity, and enhance reliability and system operational flexibility in the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, Fontana and the surrounding areas of unincorporated San Bernardino County (Electrical Needs Area).

Location of the Project

The substation site would be located in the City of Fontana, and the subtransmission source lines would be located in the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Rialto, and a portion of unincorporated San Bernardino County. See Figure 1.

Issues To Be Addressed In The EIR

It has been determined that an EIR is required because the Project could result in potentially significant impacts to air quality and other environmental resources. The EIR will address all of the issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form (see CEQA Guidelines Appendix G). The EIR will identify the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project, including those resulting from its construction, operation and maintenance. The EIR also will discuss and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project, including a No Project alternative, and alternatives to the Project that could attain most of its basic objectives while avoiding or reducing any of its significant environmental effects.

The Project and alternatives consider two potential substation sites and two potential subtransmission source routes that would connect the substation to existing substations, three new 12 kV underground distribution getaways, and telecommunications facilities to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunication system. Substation sites to be analyzed include at least: (A) an approximately 7.5-acre vacant parcel currently owned by SCE located south of Casa Grande Avenue, east of Sierra Avenue, north of Summit Avenue, and adjacent to SCE's existing transmission ROW in the City of Fontana, and (B) an approximately 9.6-acre privately-owned vacant parcel located on the southeast corner of Casa Grande Avenue and Sierra Avenue in the City of Fontana. Subtransmission source lines to be analyzed include at least: (1) installation of a three-mile segment and a nine-mile segment of new subtransmission lines across land currently designated as Residential, Open Space, Mixed Use, Commercial, and Industrial; and (2) installation of a four-mile segment and a nine-mile segment of new subtransmission lines across land with the same land use designations as those for Subtransmission Source Line 1. Other alternatives may be added based on input received during the 30-day scoping period following issuance of this NOP or by the EIR team in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

Specific areas of analysis to be addressed in the EIR include: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. The EIR also will address potential cumulative impacts of the Project, considered together with past, other current and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

Information to be included in the EIR will be based, in part, on input and comments received during the scoping period. Decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, property owners, and members of the public also will have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR once it is issued. Additional information about the environmental review process for the Project can be found on the CPUC's website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/falconridge/index.html>.

Public Scoping Period for this Notice of Preparation

State law mandates a 30-day time limit after the date of the NOP for the scoping period. The scoping period for this Project begins on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2011. Please include a name, organization (if applicable), address, and e-mail address of a contact person for all future notification related to this process. Public comments will become part of the public record and will be published in a Scoping Report.

Please send your comments to:

Mr. John Boccio
Falcon Ridge Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
E-mail: FalconRidge@esassoc.com
Fax: (415) 896-0332

Educational Workshop and Scoping Meeting

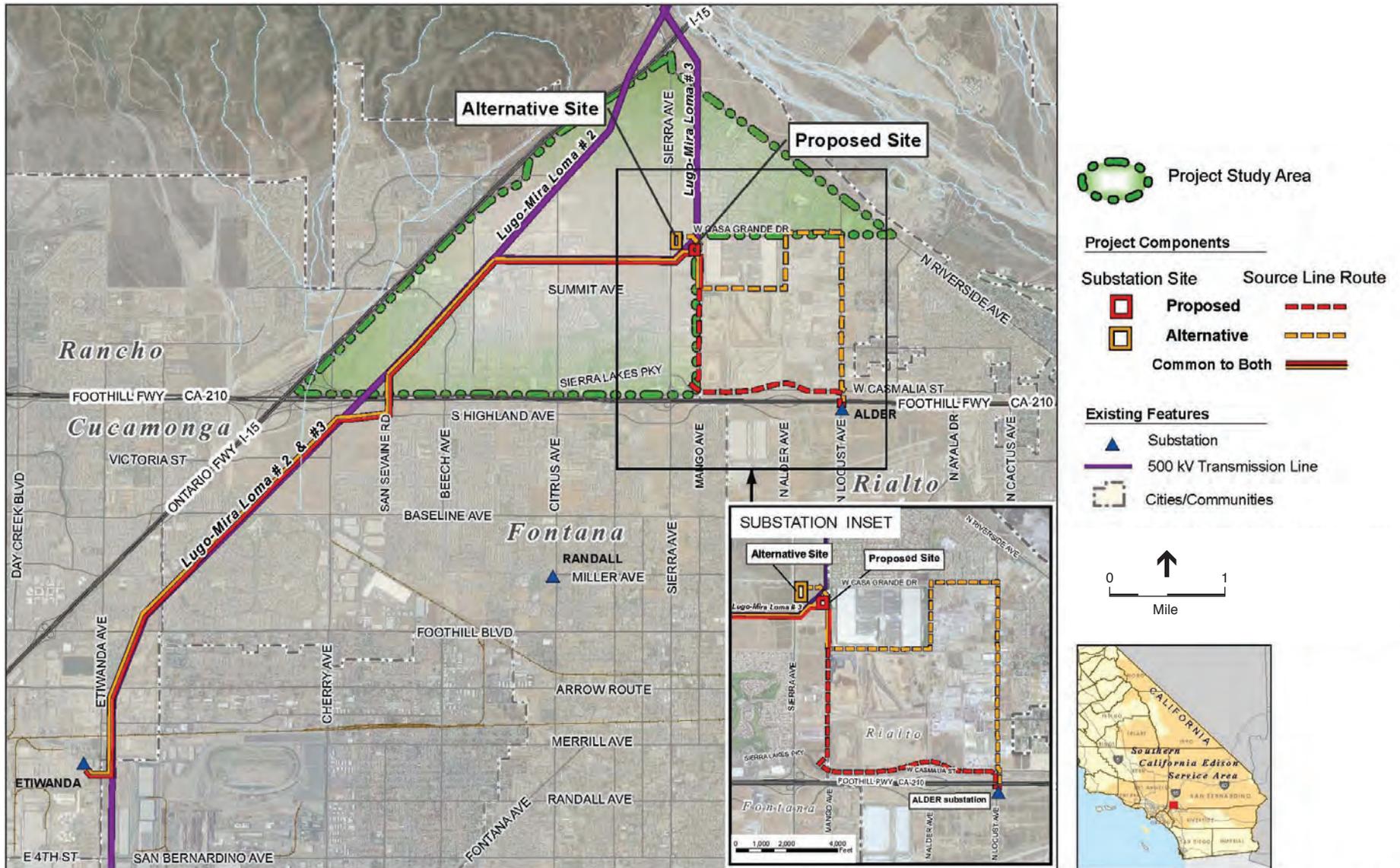
In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the EIR for the Project, a meeting will be held during the NOP scoping period. The meeting will be held:

**Thursday, April 14, 2011
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Summit High School
15551 Summit Avenue
Fontana, CA 92336**

From 6:30 to 7:00, the CPUC will hold an educational workshop. This workshop will address: a) CPUC's process for reviewing the Project application, b) the environmental review process, and c) details on how members of the public can become involved with each of these processes.

From 7:00 to 8:30 the CPUC will hold the official scoping meeting. The scoping meeting will start with a brief presentation providing an overview of the Project and alternatives identified to date. Following the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to provide comments about the Project. Comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit written comments at the scoping meeting. Written comments also may be submitted anytime during the NOP scoping period to the address, e-mail or facsimile number provided above.

REMINDER: All comments will be accepted by postmark, e-mail or facsimile through 5 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2011. Please be sure to include your name, organization (if applicable), address, and e-mail address.



SOURCE: SCE, 2010

Falcon Ridge Substation Project

Figure 1
Site Location Map