

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
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To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, and Interested Parties

From: Connie Chen, Environmental Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (FINAL EIR) San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Salt Creek Substation Project (A-13-09-014)

Date: September 30, 2015

Introduction

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) application to build and operate the Salt Creek Substation Project. The Final EIR includes comments received on the Draft EIR during the public comment period (May 15, 2015 to June 29, 2015) and CPUC responses to each comment. The Final EIR also includes revisions to the Draft EIR based on public comments.

Final EIR Availability

The Final EIR is available for public review on the CPUC project website:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/index.html

Copies of the Final EIR are available at the Otay Ranch Branch Public Library located on 2015 Birch Road, Suite 409, Chula Vista, CA 91915 and at the CPUC office located at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA. Copies of the Final EIR on CD, or a separately bound Executive Summary, may be requested by mail.

Description of the Project

The SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project (proposed project) is located within the City of Chula Vista, California, and in unincorporated San Diego County. The proposed project includes the following components:

- **Salt Creek Substation:** Construction and operation of a new 120-megavolt-ampere (MVA), 69/12-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation in southeast Chula Vista. The proposed substation would include three distribution circuits to tie into the existing distribution network at Hunte Parkway. The existing 69-kV power line (TL 6910) and fiber optic line located adjacent to the proposed substation site would be looped into the proposed substation.
- **TL 6965:** Construction of approximately 5 miles of aboveground 69-kV power line and approximately 1,000 feet of underground power line between Miguel Substation and the proposed Salt Creek Substation. The aboveground power line would be installed on 41 new steel poles and eight existing steel poles within the existing transmission corridor.
- **Miguel Substation Modifications:** Addition of a new rack at Miguel Substation for TL 6965.

Contents of the Final EIR

The Final EIR is organized as follows:

- **Volume 1, Draft EIR as revised in Response to Comments.** Includes the entire Draft EIR with revisions noted in strike-through and underline.
- **Volume 2, Section 1, Introduction.** Provides an overview of the purpose as well as the organization of the Final EIR, and provides a brief description of the Proposed Project.
- **Volume 2, Section 2, Public Review Process.** Describes the public review process, the organization of the comment letters and lists the commenters (agencies, individuals, and the applicant).
- **Volume 2, Section 3, Comments and Responses.** Contains copies of all the comment letters received on the Draft EIR as well as a copy of the transcript for the public meeting held on June 4, 2015, after publication of the Draft EIR. Individual comments are identified within the comment letter or transcript using an alphanumeric code. Following each comment letter are individual responses directed specifically to each comment.
- **Volume 2, Appendix A.** Provides the Notice of Availability, legal advertisement, Draft EIR public meeting sign-in sheet, and Draft EIR meeting presentation.
- **Volume 2, Appendix B.** Provides supplementary information on the Environmentally Superior Alternative.
- **Volume 2, Appendix C.** Provides USFWS and CDFW review of SDG&E NCCP take authorization.

CPUC Process and CPUC General Proceeding

CEQA requires that the CPUC provide written responses to public agency comments at least 10 days prior to certifying the EIR (Public Resource Code 21092.5(a)). This is accomplished by sending the Final EIR to all agencies that commented on the Draft EIR.

The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final EIR, and if adequate, will certify the document as compliant with CEQA. The CPUC will issue a Proposed Decision on the Salt Creek Substation Project, which will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. Each Commissioner may draft an Alternate Decision presenting differing conclusions or opinions. All five Commissioners will then vote on the Proposed Decision and any Alternate Decision at a meeting of the full Commission. If the proposed project or an alternative is approved, the CPUC will adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program to require monitoring of adopted mitigation measures and definition of mitigation monitoring procedures.