

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



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

From: Iain Fisher, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND):
Abengoa Mojave Solar Project SPS Upgrades Project (A11-05-006)**

Date: May 16, 2011

Description of the Proposed Project

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for consideration of the application (A.11-05-006) filed by Southern California Edison (SCE) on May 5, 2011, for a Permit to Construct the Lockhart Substation Project to allow the Abengoa Mojave Solar Project (AMSP) to connect and deliver solar generation to the power grid to the electric grid (Project). The Project consists of:

- A 220 kilovolt (kV) substation (Lockhart Substation) occupying approximately 10 acres of the approximately 1,765 acres that comprise the AMSP site;
- Two parallel transmission line segments (each approximately 1,500 feet) to connect the substation to the existing Coolwater-Kramer No. 1 220 kV transmission line;
- Two generation-tie lines (gen-ties) to connect the two AMSP built gen-ties into the proposed substation;
- Two 5-inch underground conduits to connect the proposed substation to the existing 12 kV Hutt Poletop Substation to supply substation light and power, as well as construction power; and
- Three fiber-optic communication routes and related infrastructure to connect the Project to SCE's existing telecommunications system, including the installation of 85 miles of new fiber-optic cables on existing transmission line poles and on seven replacement poles, construction of new interest poles, and placement of some cable in existing and new underground conduit.

Location of the Proposed Project

The Lockhart Substation, transmission line segments, gen-ties, underground conduits and most of the fiber-optic routes are proposed in unincorporated San Bernardino County. Portions of the fiber-optic routes pass through the cities of Adelanto, Victorville and Barstow and cross BLM-administered lands.

Issues Addressed in the Draft IS/MND

Environmental impacts of the Lockhart Substation Project Upgrades were analyzed in large part by the California Energy Commission in its September 2010 Commission Decision pursuant to its licensing of the

AMSP and by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management in the Environmental Assessment prepared pursuant to these agencies' consideration of Mojave Solar LLC's applications for a loan guarantee for the AMSP and right-of-way for the installation of the approximately 17 miles of the proposed fiber-optic network that crosses BLM-administered lands. However, additional analysis is required of the Project (specifically the telecommunications links) to satisfy the CPUC's obligation under CEQA to consider SCE's application.

The Draft IS/MND describes the Project in the context of the AMSP; evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with construction, operation and maintenance; identifies impacts that could be significant, and mitigation measures that would avoid or substantially reduce these impacts. Prior environmental analyses of the Project are summarized and incorporated by reference in the IS/MND; the source documents are posted on the CPUC's website for the Project: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lockhart/index.html>.

Public Comment on the Draft IS/MND

The Draft IS/MND is available for a 30-day comment period. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Project and the adequacy of the Draft IS/MND. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than **June 14, 2011**. Please include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be sent to:

Mr. Iain Fisher
Lockhart Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207

Fax: (415) 896-0332
E-mail: lockhart@esassoc.com

Following the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND and submitted within the specified 30-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft IS/MND, will constitute the Final IS/MND for the Project.

Availability of Draft IS/MND.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for public review on the CPUC's project website, which will be used to post all public documents and announcements during the environmental review process. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft IS/MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8453 or by e-mail at lockhartsubstation@esassoc.com.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND also will be available for public review at the following libraries:

<p>Adelanto Branch Library 11497 Bartlett Avenue Adelanto, CA 92301-1901 Phone: 760-246-5661</p>	<p>Barstow Branch Library 304 East Buena Vista Barstow, California 92311 Phone: 760-256-4850</p>
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REMINDER: Comments on the Draft IS/MND will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through June 14, 2011. Please include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence