



Public Notice SDG&E Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects Public Scoping

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E or applicant) is proposing to combine over 70 existing special use permits for SDG&E electric facilities within the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) into one Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) to be issued by the United States Forest Service (Forest Service). SDG&E filed a Standard Form (SF) 299 Application for Transportation and Utilities Systems and Facilities on Federal lands along with a Plan of Development (POD) to initiate this action. The CNF MSUP study area is located within the Trabuco Ranger District in Orange County, California and the Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts in unincorporated areas of San Diego County, California.

The Forest Service has reviewed the application and accepted the proposal with modifications to certain actions on National Forest System lands. SDG&E revised the POD in April 2013 to include modifications as requested by the Forest Service. This modified proposal is the Forest Service proposed action.

In addition to requesting Forest Service authorization of the MSUP, SDG&E is proposing to replace certain existing 69 kV power lines and 12 kV distribution lines located within and outside of the CNF. Replacement would primarily consist of fire hardening, relocation and undergrounding of certain facilities which will require a Permit To Construct (PTC) from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The power line and distribution facilities proposed to be replaced are located within the central portion of San Diego County approximately 4.5 miles north of the US Mexico Border, 14 miles east of the City of El Cajon, in the vicinity of the unincorporated communities of Descanso, Campo, Pauma Valley, Santa Ysabel, and Warner Springs.

On October 17, 2012 SDG&E filed an application (A.12-10-009) along with the Preliminary POD for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the proposed Power Line Replacement Projects with the CPUC. On June 26, 2013, SDG&E filed an amended PTC application which included modifications to certain actions on National Forest System lands as requested by the Forest Service and described in the Revised POD.

The CPUC and Forest Service have independent jurisdiction and approval authority for the project. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and California State Parks (CSP) have independent jurisdiction and approval authority for project segments within their areas of jurisdiction. The CPUC is the lead agency under California law and the Forest Service is the lead federal agency. As joint lead agencies, the CPUC and Forest Service have developed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (January 2012) that will direct the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The joint document will be called the “SDG&E Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects EIS/EIR.” The BIA and BLM are joining the Forest Service as federal cooperating agencies under NEPA, and the CSP is participating as a responsible agency under CEQA.

As required by CEQA, the CPUC has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning the joint preparation of the EIS/EIR with the Forest Service, and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. Information that will be most useful at this time would be descriptions of concerns about the impacts of the proposed project and suggestions for alternatives that should be considered.

As required by NEPA, the Forest Service will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register in conjunction with the NOP for preparation of a joint EIS/EIR. Similar to the NOP, the intent of the NOI is to initiate the public scoping for the EIS/EIR, provide information about the proposed project, and to solicit comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. The NOI also serves as an invitation for other federal agencies or tribes with jurisdiction or special expertise to join as a cooperating agency.

The NOP includes background information on the project, a description of the applicant’s proposal, the Forest Service Proposed Action, and a summary of potential project impacts. The NOP and the NOI can be viewed on the project website at the following link: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>

Public Scoping Meetings

The CPUC and Forest Service are holding two public scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and to share any concerns or comments they may have. Please join us on either day or location listed below. Your attendance at one of these meetings will provide you with additional opportunities to learn more about the projects and to comment on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIS/EIR.

Tuesday, October 22, 2013
Julian Elementary School
1704 Cape Horn
Julian, California 92036
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013
Alpine Community Center
1830 Alpine Boulevard
Alpine, California 91901
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Scoping Comments

At this time, the CPUC and Forest Service are soliciting information regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIS/EIR. The NOP will have an extended public review period (45 days) from September 23, 2013 to November 7, 2013. **All scoping comments must be received by November 7, 2013.** You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail (email), or (3) by attending one of the public scoping meetings and handing in written comments at the scoping meeting.

By U.S. Mail: If you send comments by U.S. mail, please use first-class mail and be sure to include your name and a return address. Please send written comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR to: Lisa Orsaba, California Public Utilities Commission/Will Metz, United States Forest Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, California 92024.

By Electronic Mail: Email communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the email message. Email messages should be sent to cnfmsup@dudek.com, with a subject line "SDG&E Master Permit".

Additional Project Information

Internet Website. The NOP and information about this application and the environmental review process will be posted on the Internet at:

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

Project Information Hotline. You may request project information by leaving a voice message at 866.467.4727.

Document Repositories. Documents related to the MSUP/PTC Power Line Replacement Projects and the EIS/EIR will be made available in the repositories listed below.

Environmental Document Repositories

| Location | Address | Telephone |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Alpine Branch Library | 2130 Arnold Way, Alpine, California | 619.445.4221 |
| Campo-Morena Village Branch Library | 31356 Highway 94, Campo, California | 619.478.5945 |
| Descanso Branch Library | 9545 River Drive, Descanso, California | 619.445.5279 |
| Pine Valley Branch Library | 28804 Old Hwy. 80, Pine Valley, California | 619.473.8022 |
| Julian Branch Library | 1850 Highway 78, Julian, California | 760.765.0370 |
| Ramona Branch Library | 1275 Main Street, Ramona, California | 760.788.5270 |
| Dudek | 605 Third Street, Encinitas, California | 760.942.5147 |