



**Notification of Availability and of a Public Meeting
Joint Draft Environmental Impact Report
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS)
Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct
Power Line Replacement Projects**



State Clearinghouse No. 2013091070
Forest Service Publication No. R5-MB-277

Lead Agencies: California Public Utilities Commission
United States Department of the Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland
National Forest

Cooperating /Responsible Agencies: California State Department of Parks and Recreation
Bureau of Indian Affairs / Bureau of Land Management

ABSTRACT

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and United States Department of the Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest (Forest Service) have prepared a Joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for consideration of San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E's) proposed issuance of a Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) for the SDG&E system in the Cleveland National Forest (CNF), and proposed replacement/fire hardening of select power lines in and around the Cleveland National Forest (CNF).

SDG&E is proposing to combine over 70 individual use permits and easements for SDG&E electric facilities within the CNF into one MSUP to be issued by the Forest Service. In addition, SDG&E is proposing to replace certain electric power lines located within and outside the CNF. Replacement would primarily include fire hardening (wood-to-steel pole replacement), relocation, and undergrounding. The proposed power line replacement projects will require authorization under the MSUP, as well as approval from the CPUC.

The CNF MSUP study area is located within multiple locations within the Trabuco, Palomar, and Descanso ranger districts of the CNF, Orange and San Diego counties, California. The proposed power line replacement projects are located within and outside the Palomar and Descanso ranger districts of the CNF in the vicinity of the unincorporated communities of Alpine, Boulevard, Pine Valley, Descanso, Campo, Pauma Valley, Santa Ysabel, Julian, and Warner Springs within the central portion of San Diego County. SDG&E's proposed power line replacement projects not only traverses National Forest System lands, but due to the patchwork of land ownership in the project study area, also traverses lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); tribal lands of the La Jolla, Campo, Inaja/Cosmit, and Viejas Indian Reservations managed by the respective tribes and held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); Cuyamaca Rancho State Park lands managed by California State Parks (CSP); lands under the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego, and private holdings within unincorporated San Diego County.

Approval of the MSUP would allow for the continued operation and maintenance of SDG&E electric facilities within the CNF and authorize the replacement of certain existing power lines on and adjacent to CNF lands. MSUP approval is being requested by SDG&E because the existing authorizations within the CNF are expired, and the existing power lines are needed to supply power to local communities, residences, and government-owned facilities located within and adjacent to the CNF.

The Joint DEIR/DEIS describes SDG&E's proposed project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the MSUP and power line replacement projects, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Joint DEIR/DEIS also evaluates 11 alternatives to SDG&E's proposed project, including the federal proposed action, and the No Action Alternative and No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA and NEPA.

AVAILABILITY OF JOINT DEIR/DEIS

The DEIR/DEIS is available for review on the CPUC website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>. In addition, copies of the Joint DEIR/DEIS and appendices on CD are available for review at the following local libraries:

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
San Diego Public Library	330 Park Boulevard, San Diego, California	619.236.5800

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In order to help affected communities understand the Joint DEIR/DEIS, and to explain how the public can comment on the Joint DEIR/DEIS, the CPUC and Forest Service will hold an informational meeting on October 1, 2014. At this informational workshop, the EIR/EIS Team and CPUC/Forest Service staff will be available to respond to questions and provide clarification regarding the organization and content of the DEIR/DEIS. Details on the CPUC/Forest Service informational meeting are as follows:

Location	Date and Time
Alpine Community Center, 1830 Alpine Boulevard Alpine, California 91901	Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Forest Service will use the NEPA public involvement process to satisfy the public involvement requirements of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

By this notice CPUC and Forest Service are announcing the opening of the comment period. The Joint DEIR/DEIS was released for public review on September 5, 2014, which was the same day the notice of availability was published in the federal register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To ensure that comments will be considered, the CPUC/Forest Service must receive written comments on the DEIR/DEIS by the close of the public review period (November 4, 2014). Written comments on the Joint DEIR/DEIS can be submitted via:

U.S. Mail: Lisa Orsaba, California Public Utilities Commission/Will Metz, United States Forest Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, California 92024.

Email: cnfmsup@dudek.com, with a subject line "SDG&E Master Permit – DEIR/DEIS Comments" using common formats such as .doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf, or .txt.

The Forest Service action is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection as part of the Forest Service project-level predecisional review process. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your name, address, or other contact information that you provide, including your email address—will be placed in the project file and shall become part of the public record. Comments are also posted online as part of the public record. The CPUC and Forest Service cannot approve requests to withhold contact information from the public record. Anonymous comments will be accepted; however anonymous comments do not establish eligibility to participate in the Forest Service predecisional review process.