

2.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MILESTONES

The CEQA EIR process for the Silvergate Transmission Substation Project began with the CPUC's issuance of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR in August 2005 and has lead up to the finalization of an EIR in May 2006. The public involvement milestones include the following.

- The CPUC issued the NOP on August 23, 2005 and distributed it to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2005081106) and federal, State, and local trustees and agencies that may be affected by the Proposed Project. Public notification of the NOP included direct agency and public notification, newspaper announcements, and posting on the project website: <http://www.dudek.com/cpuc/sdge-silvergate/>. The NOP was sent to 18 federal agency departments, 28 State agency departments, 51 local agency departments and special districts, 17 Native American groups, 22 private organizations and 5 libraries. A copy of the NOP may be viewed on the project website. Public notification was sent to over 310 stakeholders including property owners within 300 feet of the Proposed Project.
- Two scoping meetings were held in September 2005 prior to the selection of alternatives and the preparation of the analysis documented in this EIR. The scoping meetings were held on September 12, 2005 at the Chula Vista Civic Center Library at the San Diego Central Library.
- Nine (9) members of the public, including representatives of organizations and government agencies were documented in attendance at the two CPUC scoping meetings.
- Thirteen (13) letters were received during the NOP scoping period (August 23, 2005 to September 23, 2005) from public agencies and private citizens. In October 2005, a comprehensive Scoping Report was issued summarizing concerns received from the public and various agencies. Commenting agencies and scoping meeting attendees were notified that the Scoping Report was on the project's website available for review.
- The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was mailed to over 400 interested parties, agencies, county and city departments, special districts, property owners, and occupants on or adjacent to SDG&E's Proposed Project route in March 2006 at the time the Draft EIR was released. The NOA included information on how to gain access to the Draft EIR, information on the Proposed Project, the dates, times and locations for the CPUC's Informational Workshops and how to comment on the Draft EIR.
- The CPUC issued the Draft EIR on March 10, 2006, including a detailed analysis of impacts in twelve environmental disciplines, and an evaluation of alternatives to the

Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative. Copies of the full Draft EIR and Appendices were sent to 50 interested parties and agencies, and to five libraries used as document repositories. One-hundred and fifty-five (155) copies of the Executive Summary with CD's with the text of the Draft EIR were also sent out. The public comment period for the Draft EIR ended April 24, 2006.

- Newspaper Notices, including information on the Draft EIR, the project website address, and the dates and times of the Informational Workshops were printed in the *San Diego Union Tribune* and *Star News* at the beginning of the public review in March 2006.
- One Informational Workshop combined with a pre-hearing conference was held on April 20, 2006, at the Chula Vista Civic Library.
- Nine members of the public, including representatives of organizations and government agencies were documented in attendance at the CPUC Informational Workshop and pre-hearing conference.

A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR, the comments received on the Draft EIR, and responses to the comments are provided in *Section 3* of this Final EIR.

2.2 EIR INFORMATION AND REPOSITORY SITES

Five repository sites were established for citizens to view the EIR documents and make copies of them. In addition, copies of documents have been made available at the CPUC office in San Francisco and on the Project website: <http://www.dudek.com/cpuc/sdge-silvergate/>. Copies of the Draft EIR are also available to the public at the locations listed below.

San Diego Central Library
820 E Street
San Diego, CA 92101

National City Public Library
200 East 12th Street
National City, CA 91950

Linda Vista Branch Library
2160 Ulric Street
San Diego, CA 92111-6628

Chula Vista Public Library
Civic Center Branch
365 F Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Chula Vista Public Library
South Chula Vista Branch
389 Orange Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91911

2.3 PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines, the CPUC provided a public review period of 45 days for the Draft EIR. The CPUC allowed written comments on the Draft EIR to be submitted by U.S. mail, fax, or at the Public Information workshop. The comments received by the CPUC during the public review period and at the Public Information Workshop are reproduced in this Final EIR along with responses to comments.

2.4 INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS

In order to help affected communities understand the Proposed Project and the DEIR, and to explain how the public can participate in the CPUC's decision-making process, the CPUC held an informational meeting on April 20, 2006 at the Chula Vista Civic Library, 365 "F" Street, Chula Vista, CA. At this informational workshop, the EIR Team and CPUC staff were available to respond to questions and provide clarification regarding the impact analysis and conclusions presented in the Draft EIR.