

Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP)

Frequently Asked Questions – How Does This Project Impact Me?

I'm a SCE customer, how does this project benefit me?

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) currently receives power at 66 kilovolt (kV) from SCE's Vista Substation which is served from the regional transmission system owned and operated by SCE, under the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) control. RPU provides this power to its customers for uses that benefit both Riverside and surrounding communities. The City of Riverside serves as the county seat of government and includes three universities and one community college campus, three major hospitals, the county emergency communications center, a regional water quality control plant, and a convention center. These types of facilities benefit not only the City of Riverside, but the region in general. By providing RPU with an additional point of connection to SCE's transmission system at 220 kV, the project will reduce the demand on SCE's Vista Substation, thereby improving reliability for SCE customers in addition to RPU customers. Additionally, the project will allow RPU to purchase larger amounts of cleaner power from the statewide wholesale energy market, including renewable power. This will reduce RPU's dependence on local "peaker" plants that have negative effects on local air quality.

For additional information, please refer to [SCE's CPCN Application, Section II.A.](#)

Where is my home in relation to the project?

More detailed project maps are available in the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR or FEIR), which is available on the project website at www.riversideca.gov/utilities/rtrp.asp. Please note that these maps are based on preliminary data and are subject to change during final engineering.

Will SCE need to acquire property in order to construct this project?

Certain portions of the proposed project will require new right-of-ways or easements. SCE's proposed transmission route is currently designed to avoid existing residential dwellings and commercial buildings where reasonably feasible. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be conducting an extensive review of the project, which will include additional opportunities for public comment, and will then determine the final project route. The regulatory review process is expected to last through November of 2015, but the exact duration may vary.

How will the project impact my property values?

The effects of high voltage transmission lines on property values have been analyzed for other transmission and energy generation projects by the California Energy Commission and the CPUC. The CPUC has found that property-specific factors such as neighborhood features, square footage, size of lot, and irrigation potential are more likely to be major determinants in affecting property values than the presence of overhead transmission lines such as those for the proposed project. It has been found that any effects of transmission lines on property value are generally small in comparison to other relevant factors.

Existing Conditions



Proposed Project

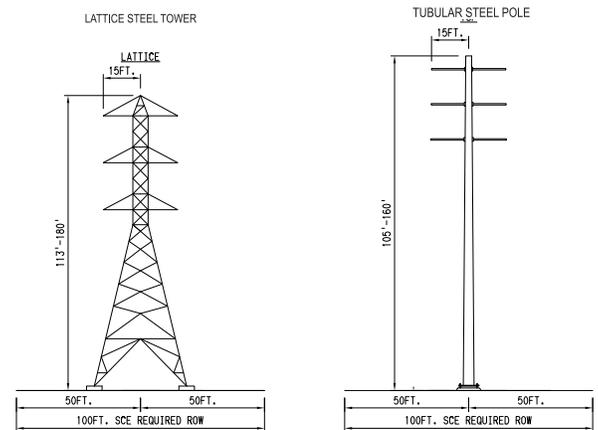


View from Santa Ana River Trail Looking West

For additional information, please refer to A Statistical Analysis of Transmission Line Impacts on Residential Property Values in Six Neighborhoods (Pacific Consulting Services, 1991), A Primer on Proximity Impact Research: Residential Property Values Near High-Voltage Transmission Lines (Kinnard and Dickey, 1995), and Transmission Lines and Property Values: State of the Science (Electric Power Research Institute, 2003). A discussion of these studies and other information is available in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, section 3.12 available at ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/environ/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP.htm.

What does eminent domain mean?

Eminent domain (commonly known as “condemnation”) typically refers to the right of the state, governmental entity or utility to acquire private property for public use following the payment of just compensation to the owner of that property. It is not SCE’s preferred method of acquiring private property. Rather, SCE prefers to negotiate a mutually agreed purchase and sale of any private property. Generally, “just compensation” is defined as the “fair market value” of an asset. In the eminent domain proceeding, a third party may conduct an appraisal of the property to determine its “fair market value.” SCE must follow a stringent and specific legal process in order to use eminent domain. This process involves a court proceeding which follows strict rules and regulations to ensure that the property owner is treated fairly.



RTRP 220 kV Line - Typical Structure Drawings

How did you choose the proposed route for the transmission line?

SCE identified a study area that considered criteria necessary to meet the project objectives, i.e. connect RPU to SCE’s existing transmission facilities. Our engineers looked for route alternatives, focusing on locations that paralleled existing roads and/or existing overhead utilities, and our own existing transmission corridors. In places where we could not use our existing transmission corridors or did not have an existing transmission corridor, we considered route alternatives looking at their potential impacts to the environment, existing and probable future development, the topography/terrain, roadway access, scenic areas, and recreation uses, among other factors. SCE and the City of Riverside held multiple outreach meetings in the communities to gather comments and feedback on the study area and the various potential route alternatives. Weighing the above considerations with the technical needs for the project, we narrowed down to the various alternative segments submitted in our application.

For additional information, please refer to [RTRP’s Final EIR, Vol. 2, Chapter 6](#)

Why can’t this project be placed underground?

The most affordable industry standard is overhead power lines. That said, it is SCE’s responsibility to consider many factors, including cost and environmental impacts, when proposing new electric transmission lines. Transmission lines are rarely constructed underground, because underground lines are less efficient, cost significantly more, have unique maintenance requirements, typically involve substantial disruptions while being installed, can require significant vegetation clearing, and present challenges in emergency situations. Compared to an equivalent overhead line, undergrounding can cost as much as 10 times or more than the cost of an equivalent overhead transmission line. Customers ultimately pay for the higher cost of these system investments.

For additional information, please refer to [RTRP’s Final EIR, Vol. 2, Chapter 6, Section 6.4.3.](#)

Where can I get more information?

Call Us:

Please call our toll-free project hotline at 1-866-785-7057.

Project Websites:

on.sce.com/riversideproject
www.riversideca.gov/utilities/rtrp.asp