

Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP)

Frequently Asked Questions – Regulatory Review

Who reviews SCE's application?

As the regulator for investor owned utilities, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for reviewing and approving major transmission projects, such as the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP). This project previously underwent an environmental review by the City of Riverside as the state Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

For additional information, please refer to [SCE's CPCN Application, Section IV.A](#) and [RTRP's Final EIR](#).

What is the status of SCE's application to the CPUC?

SCE's application for the project is currently under regulatory review by the CPUC. SCE filed an application on April 15, 2015 with the CPUC for approval to construct RTRP. SCE filed an amended application on April 30, 2015 correcting certain cost information and an erroneous reference to "2014" (instead of "2015") in the project notice. SCE filed the amended application so that the public has the best available information and unambiguous notice regarding how to participate in the proceedings before the CPUC. The final scope of the proposed project will not be known until the CPUC approves the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). The CPUC's review and approval of SCE's CPCN application will offer opportunities for public comments. The CPUC will schedule hearings as appropriate before making a final decision on the project.



Existing Conditions



Proposed Project

View from Santa Ana River Trail Looking Southwest

How long is the regulatory review?

SCE estimates that a final decision on the project will take approximately 6 months or more from time of filing the amended application with the CPUC, which occurred on April 30, 2015.

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

What is the role of City and County governments in the review and approval of the project?

Generally, the regulation of transmission line projects (such as SCE's construction of part of RTRP), distribution lines, substations, or other electric facilities constructed by public utilities (like SCE), are subject to the CPUC's jurisdiction. SCE was required by CPUC rules to consult with local governments in the planning of RTRP. However, ultimate authority to regulate SCE's construction of electric facilities supporting RTRP lies with the CPUC.

The construction of RPU's portion of RTRP is subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Riverside. The City of Riverside, as the Lead Agency for the proposed project, certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR or Final EIR) for the whole Project in February 2013 in compliance with CEQA.

For additional information, please refer to [RTRP's Final EIR, Vol. 1, Chapter 2.2.1 \(including Master Responses ## 8, 11, & 12\)](#).

What are the opportunities for public comment?

In addition to the previous opportunities for public comment, there will be additional opportunities for public comment during the CPUC's regulatory review of SCE's application for a CPCN. Questions about the CPUC's regulatory review process should be directed to the [Public Advisor's Office](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov) by emailing public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or calling (415) 703-2074 or (866) 849-8391.

How was the public notified about the project?

Once the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) determined the need for RTRP and directed its construction in June 2006, RPU began the development of RTRP's EIR. Over the course of almost three years between January 2007 and November 2009, RPU held nine open house meetings, circulated seven newsletters, published thirty advertisements in local papers, and held an additional scoping meeting regarding RTRP.

Riverside issued a public Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the project EIR in January 2007 and then issued a revised NOP in November 2009. The Draft RTRP EIR was circulated by Riverside in August 2011. The first noticed public meeting in which the Riverside City Council considered the Project occurred in December 2012. In February 2013 at the second noticed public meeting, the Riverside City Council considered and approved the Project and certified the Final EIR. In April 2015, SCE provided notification of our Application for a CPCN and Amended Application for a CPCN. On both occasions, a notice was published in both the Press Enterprise and Riverside County Record, once a week for two weeks. Copies of the notice were mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the proposed project, as well as certain interested parties.

For additional information, please refer to [RTRP's Final EIR, Vol. 1, Chapters 1.3 & 2 \(including Master Response # 8\)](#), and [Vol. 2, Chapter 1.4](#).

What does SCE do to protect the environment along the project route?

SCE has a strong commitment to the protection of the environment. SCE's subject matter experts work closely with relevant agencies to design the project so that potential impacts to the environment are avoided where feasible and minimized where unavoidable. Environmental surveys for biological and cultural resources are conducted by SCE during the application and licensing process. In compliance with California and federal environmental laws, the City of Riverside filed an EIR that evaluated the potential impacts to a series of criteria, including biological resources (plant and animal species), cultural resources (Native American and historic resources), air quality, noise, aesthetics, and water quality, among others. Prior to construction, SCE will conduct environmental training for all construction personnel and will schedule construction to avoid critical life cycles for certain species. During construction, SCE will utilize on-site biological/archaeological monitors in sensitive areas and will use construction techniques to minimize disturbance to sensitive habitats.

For additional information, please refer to [RTRP's Final EIR, Vol. 1, Chapter 3](#) and [Vol. 2, Chapters 3 & 4](#).



SCE and RPU held a series of nine open house meetings for the project between 2007 and 2009.

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