

3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES



Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District

Scott Bangle, Parks Director/General Manager | Kyla Brown, Assistant Director

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CITY OF JURUPA VALLEY

March 23, 2018

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

REGARDING HIDDEN VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA BOUNDARY CHANGE

The Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) is a high-voltage utility project jointly proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) currently undergoing review by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The Project as proposed would consist of approximately eight (8) miles of overhead and approximately two (2) miles of underground 230 kV transmission line, as well as 69 kV subtransmission lines and other facility upgrades.

The RTRP would cross portions of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area (HVWA), managed by the *Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District (County Parks)*, on the south side of the Santa Ana River in several locations. New access roads, steel lattice and pole structures, and a 100-foot right-of-way would be established within the HVWA. The affected HVWA lands were funded, in part, under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal program that provides funds to local and other agencies for the acquisition of public recreation land. Conversion of these lands to non-recreation uses (e.g. utility infrastructure) requires review and approval by the National Park Service (NPS), and the acquisition of "replacement" lands to offset Project impacts. Submittal of a Project Description-Environmental Screening Form by the sponsoring agency (County Parks) and appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review is required by the NPS as part of this Conversion Area and Replacement proposal review process.

The RTRP would affect approximately 10.8 acres of HVWA LWCF funded lands in three (3) general locations (see Figure 1). These "Conversion Areas" would be permanently utilized for electrical transmission infrastructure. A similarly sized contiguous portion of a parcel (#153240030-6), owned by the City of Riverside and Riverside County and located near the park's entrance road north of Arlington Avenue, would be incorporated into the HVWA to compensate for the loss of recreational function within the park, expanding its area by approximately 10.6 acres. No zone change is proposed as a result of the Conversion Area and Replacement proposal.

During project siting and as detailed in the project's (Draft and Final) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) developed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality

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Act (CEQA), impacts on LWCF lands and other resources were avoided to the extent possible, and an extensive public involvement process was included as part of project planning. The NEPA environmental review conducted by the NPS for Conversion Area and Replacement proposal will be available for public review when it is completed. More details regarding project planning and previous public involvement activities are available on the CPUC's website at:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/RTRP/>

County Parks is encouraging interested and affected agencies and members of the public to provide input on the proposed conversion, replacement and expansion of the HVWA by April 23, 2018. Comments may be submitted by the following methods:

By email to: RTRP-LWCF@powereng.com

By mail to: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District - c/o Darrin Gilbert, POWER Engineers, 731 East Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92805

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