FINAL Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

San Luis Transmission Project

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Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

Western Area Power Administration
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

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Cover Sheet

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Contacts:

Mr. Donald Lash
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630
Fax: (916) 353-4772
Email: SLTPEIS-EIR@wapa.gov

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54)
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585
Telephone: (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756

Websites: www.wapa.gov/sn/environment/SanLuisTransmissionProject.asp
www.sltpeis-eir.com

Abstract: Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority) prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) entered into a contract with Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) in 1965 for power transmission and distribution service between Western's Tracy Substation and Reclamation's San Luis Unit (SLU) facilities. The existing transmission contract with PG&E expires in March 2016, and PG&E has stated that it will not be renewed. Without the contract or a federal transmission line to serve the primary SLU facilities, the federal government will have to take transmission service under the California Independent System Operator Tariff, which would substantially increase Reclamation's transmission costs, which are paid by its water service contractors, including members of the Authority. Reclamation submitted a transmission service request to Western to consider various transmission service arrangements, including the construction of new federal transmission lines for Reclamation's continued delivery of federal water after the PG&E contract expires. In October 2013, an eligible Western transmission customer submitted a transmission service request to Western for transmission service within the same corridor as requested by Reclamation. Western is evaluating both requests jointly in order to determine if it can satisfy Reclamation's need and the eligible customer's request with a single project.

Therefore, Western proposes to construct, operate, and maintain the San Luis Transmission Project, which comprises 95 miles of new transmission lines within easements ranging from 125 to 250 feet wide along the foothills of the Diablo Range in the western San Joaquin Valley, California. Additional components of the SLTP would include two new 500-kV substations, substation improvements, communication facilities, improvements to existing access roads, new permanent access roads, and temporary access roads to facilitate construction activities.

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List of Acronyms

ACE	Altamont Corridor Express
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AM	Amplitude modulation
ASC	Agricultural Services Center
ASR	Alternatives Screening Report
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CAS	Corrective Action Study
CCWD	Contra Costa Water District
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon monoxide
CORP	California Outdoor Recreation Plan
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVRWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CWA	Clean Water Act
DATC	Duke American Transmission Company
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOE-PI	U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Policy and International Affairs
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DPM	Diesel particulate matter
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	Department of Water Resources
ECAP	East County Area Plan
ECSP	East County Specific Plan
EDD	Employment Development Department
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPM	Environmental Protection Measure
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act

FM	Frequency modulation
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FP	Foothill Pasture
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GA	General aviation
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HR	Hydrologic Region
HRA	Health Risk Assessment
HWCL	Hazardous Waste Control Law
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JUF	Joint Use Facility
KOP	Key Observation Point
LOS	Level of Service
LPA	Large Parcel Agriculture
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MW	Megawatt
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
OATT	Open Access Transmission Tariff
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
OS	Open Space
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAID	Planned Agricultural Industrial Development
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PM2.5	Fine particulate matter (less than 2.5 microns in diameter)
PM10	Particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter)
PPV	Peak particle velocity

PRC	Public Resources Code
PRPA	Paleontological Resources Preservation Act
PSMM	Power System Maintenance Manual
PSOM	Power Systems Operations Manual
PSSM	Power System Safety Manual
PV	Photovoltaic
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RMP/GP	Resource Management Plan and General Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	Right-of-way
RPO	Regional Preservation Official
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SHPO	State Historic~~al~~ Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SJMSCP	San Joaquin County Multi-Species Conservation and Open Space Plan
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SLTP	San Luis Transmission Project
SLU	San Luis Unit
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SNR	Sierra Nevada Region
SR	State Route
SRA	State Recreation Area
SSC	Species of Special Concern
ST	Swainson's hawk
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Professionals
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Transmission Access Charge
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TMDL	Total maximum daily load
UCMP	University of California Museum of Paleontology
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
UR	Urban Reserve
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
VOC	Volatile organic compound