



COLUSA-SUTTER TRANSMISSION LINE

Delivering Clean Power

Proposed Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line Project

Notice of Public Scoping Period December 18, 2015

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) are studying environmental impacts of a new 500-kilovolt electric transmission line project in portions of Colusa and Sutter counties to help meet Northern California's energy needs. The Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line, or CoSu Line, would provide SMUD with a new connection to the existing California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) line in Colusa County by linking it to a new substation near the existing O'Banion Substation in neighboring Sutter County, with potential modifications to SMUD's existing Elverta Substation in Sacramento County. This new energy pathway would:

- provide SMUD improved access to existing renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest and other energy markets;
- improve local and regional reliability;
- help the region meet required reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases;
- assist SMUD in planning for anticipated load growth;
- improve the network transmission infrastructure and import/export capability for the Sacramento area; and
- ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of the regional transmission system that delivers clean power to homes and businesses in the region.

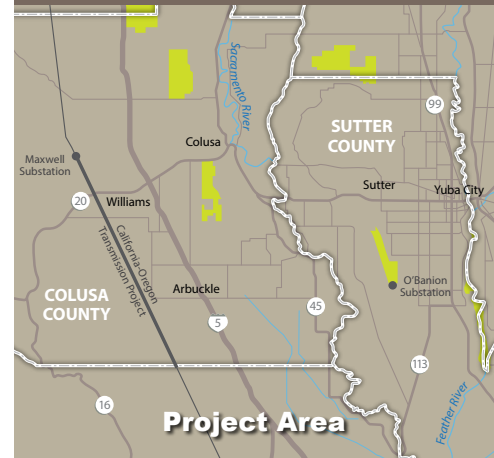
Why the CoSu Line?

The CoSu Line is needed to enhance the reliability of the electrical grid in Northern California and increase SMUD's ability to import power from and export power to other energy markets, particularly the Pacific Northwest. SMUD is a customer of Western, which markets hydroelectric power through transmission lines to a variety of customers in 15 western states.

Western's existing transmission facilities do not have enough capacity to meet SMUD's need for increased service, so the CoSu Line is being proposed as a solution to meet this need. An Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) will examine construction of the CoSu Line, any modifications to Western's and/or SMUD's existing facilities (including potential modifications to SMUD's Elverta Substation) to accommodate the new line, and SMUD's action to fund the proposed project.

Public Scoping Meetings

Western and SMUD will hold public scoping meetings between January 12 and 14, 2016, to answer questions and receive comments on the scope of the potential environmental effects of the CoSu Line. Western and SMUD will consider these comments in conducting studies of resources in the project area and preparing the project environmental documents. See the back for public scoping meeting dates and locations.



Project Corridor Study Areas

Western and SMUD are currently considering and reviewing two corridor study areas and a segment alternative for the CoSu Line:

- A **Northern Corridor Study Area** running west to east off of the COTP from northwest of Williams to the O'Banion Substation.
- A **Southern Corridor Study Area** running west to east from west of Arbuckle to the O'Banion Substation.
- A **Segment 1 Alternative Study Area** to provide a north-to-south route of the **Northern Corridor Study Area**.

Please see the enclosed maps for a representation of the project corridor study areas.

Environmental Review Process

Western and SMUD are beginning an environmental review in the form of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to examine the potential environmental effects of the CoSu Line. In this first phase of the environmental review, Western and SMUD are seeking comments on the scope of issues to be analyzed in the Draft EIS/EIR. The 60-day scoping period opens Friday, December 18, 2015 and concludes Tuesday, February 16, 2016. This newsletter serves as SMUD's Notice of Preparation for the EIR.

Four public scoping meetings will be held between January 12 and 14, 2016, to share information about the CoSu Line and accept public comments. You are invited to attend the scoping meetings to learn more, ask questions, and provide comment on issues, potential impacts, or the project study corridors. If you cannot attend a scoping meeting, you are still invited to submit public comments by mail or email until February 16, 2016. See the back for public scoping meeting dates and locations.

Environmental Review Process Schedule

The tentative environmental review schedule for the CoSu Line is outlined below.

	December 2015 - April 2016	April 2016 - December 2017	December 2017 - September 2018
	Scoping Process	Prepare Draft EIS/EIR	Prepare Final EIS/EIR
WE ARE HERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct Agency and Public Outreach (December 2015 - February 2016)• Conduct Public Scoping Meetings (January 12-14, 2016)• Compile Comments and Issues Related to Scoping Process• Develop Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a Reasonable Range of Alternatives Including a "No Action" Alternative• Analyze Environmental Effects of Alternatives• Develop Preliminary Mitigation, Where Required• Publish the Draft EIS/EIR• Establish Public Comment Period• Hold Public Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Responses to Draft EIS/EIR Comments• Identify Western and SMUD Preferred Alternative• Prepare and Publish Final EIS/EIR• Western Issue Record of Decision• SMUD Issue Notice of Determination

How can you Participate in the Environmental Review Process?

Your participation is an important part of the environmental review process! Western and SMUD encourage you to attend a public scoping meeting to learn about the CoSu Line and submit your comments. In addition to the scoping process, you are encouraged to stay informed about the CoSu Line by:

- Visiting the website: www.cosuline.com.
- Signing up for the project mailing and email list at www.cosuline.com/maillinglist.
- Submitting general questions to info@cosuline.com.

Western and SMUD will keep you informed through local newspapers, community briefings and presentations, and public meetings at key milestones during the environmental review process.

Tips for Providing Effective Comments

Submitting your comments on issues, potential impacts, or the study corridors helps Western and SMUD to determine the scope of the Draft EIS/EIR. To provide effective comments, please:

- Review the CoSu Line website, monitor local newspapers, and attend the public scoping meetings to become familiar with the project.
- Provide written comments focused on the proposed project Western and SMUD are analyzing.
- Submit your comments during the public scoping period (Friday, December 18, 2015 – Tuesday, February 16, 2016) by email or mail.

Email: comments@cosuline.com

Mail: Mr. Andrew M. Montaña
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration, Headquarters
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80288-8213

Environmental Issues

The CoSu Line Draft EIS/EIR will analyze potential environmental issues that could include impacts on:

- protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants
- migratory birds
- introduction of noxious weeds, invasive and non-native species
- recreation and transportation
- land use, wilderness, farmlands, and environmentally-sensitive areas
- cultural or historic resources and tribal values
- human health and safety
- air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water impacts)
- visual resources
- socioeconomics and impacts to minority and low-income populations

You are invited to learn about a proposed transmission line project in Colusa and Sutter counties. Please join the Western Area Power Administration and Sacramento Municipal Utility District at a public scoping meeting for the proposed Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line (CoSu Line). For more information, visit www.cosuline.com.

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CoSu Line Project
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA 95812

Public Scoping Meetings

Western and SMUD will hold four public meetings to share information and receive comments on the scope of the proposed CoSu Line.

Colusa County

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Colusa Casino-Resort, Community Room
3770 California 45, Colusa, CA

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Colusa Casino-Resort, Community Room
3770 California 45, Colusa, CA

Sutter County

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Sutter Youth Organization Center, Ellwood Munger Hall
7740 Butte House Road, Sutter, CA

Thursday, January 14, 2016

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sutter Youth Organization Center, Ellwood Munger Hall
7740 Butte House Road, Sutter, CA

Scoping comments must be submitted by Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Comments can be sent by email or mail to the following addresses:

Email: comments@cosuline.com

Mail: Mr. Andrew M. Montaña, NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration, Headquarters
P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213