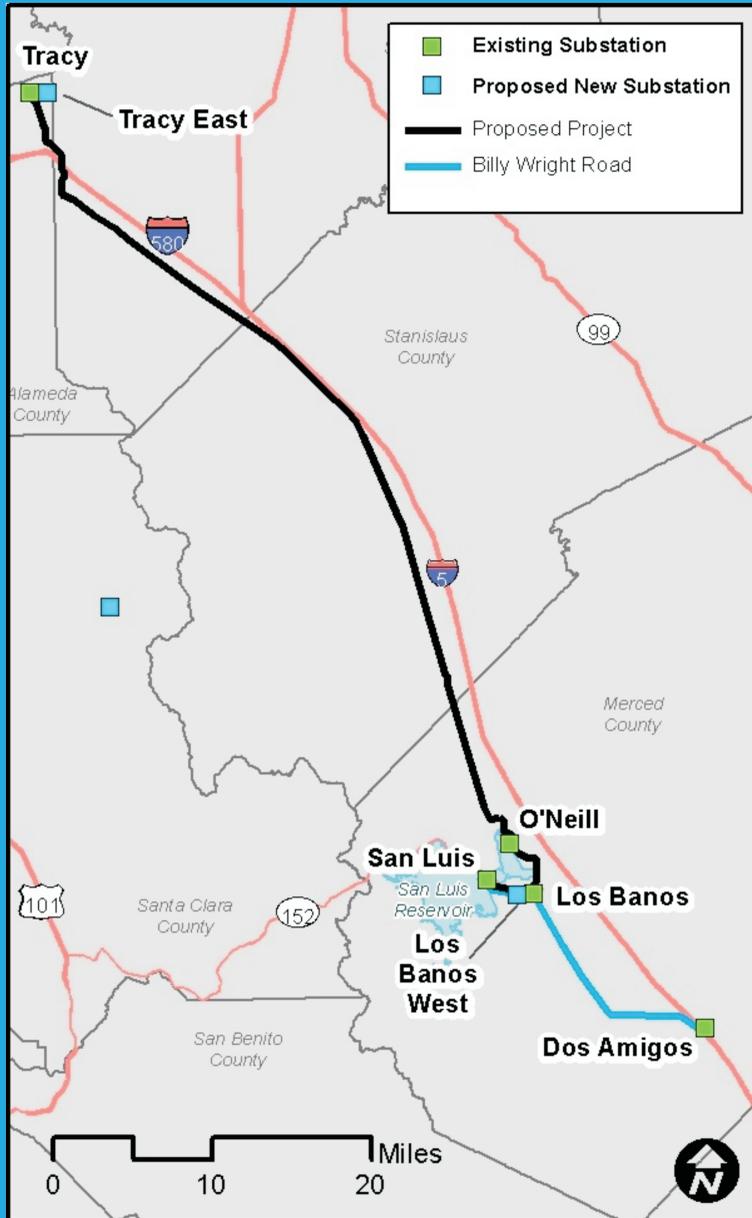


Agency Preferred Alternative



Donald Lash, NEPA Document Manager
114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom CA 95630



San Luis Transmission Project

Newsletter #4

April 2016

**Final EIS/EIR Now Available!
Draft Conformity Determination
on air quality is now available
for Public Review!**

The San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is now available at www.sltpeis-eir.com.

The Draft Conformity Determination on air quality is also available for a 30-day public review period (March 25 to April 25, 2016).

Questions?

Contact Don Lash, NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
916-353-4048
SLTPEIS-EIR@wapa.gov

ABOUT SLTP

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority) prepared a joint EIS/EIR for the proposed San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed SLTP includes construction, operation, and maintenance of:

- A new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line about 65 miles in length between the new Tracy East and Los Banos West Substations;
- A 230-kV transmission line about three miles in length between the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) existing Los Banos Substation, or the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing San Luis Substation;
- A 230-kV transmission line about 20 miles in length between Western's existing San Luis and Dos Amigos Substations or a new 230-kV transmission line about 18 miles in length between the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing Dos Amigos Substation;
- An interconnection with the existing Western 500-kV Los Banos-Gates No. 3 transmission line just south of PG&E's existing Los Banos Substation into the new Los Banos West Substation;
- A new 70-kV transmission line about seven miles in length between the existing San Luis and O'Neill Substations; and
- Substation improvements, communication facilities, improvements to existing access roads, new permanent access roads, and temporary access roads to facilitate construction activities.

Visit www.sltpeis-eir.com for additional information on the Proposed Project.

Why is the SLTP needed? The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) entered into a contract with PG&E in 1965 for power transmission service between Western's Tracy Substation and Reclamation's San Luis Unit facilities. The existing transmission contract with PG&E expired in March 2016, and PG&E has stated it will not renew it. Service under the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Tariff would substantially

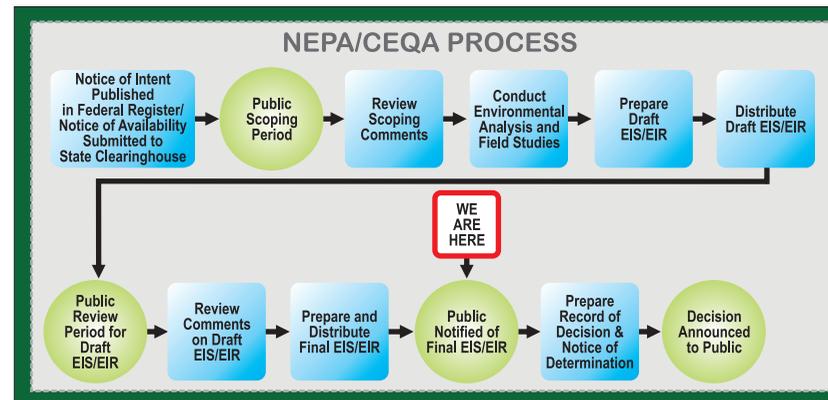
increase Reclamation's transmission costs compared to service under PG&E's contract. Reclamation submitted a transmission service request to Western to consider various transmission service arrangements, including the construction of new federal transmission lines to support Reclamation's continued economic delivery of federal water after the PG&E contract expired. In October 2013, Duke American Transmission Company (DATC) submitted a separate transmission service request to Western for transmission service within the same area as requested by Reclamation. Western evaluated both requests jointly in order to determine if it can satisfy Reclamation's need and the DATC's request with a single project.

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Draft EIS/EIR was released on July 17, 2015 for a 45-day public comment period that ended on August 31, 2015. Public hearings were held in Tracy on August 10, 2015 and in Los Banos on August 11, 2015. Four people provided verbal comments at the hearings and 26 comment letters and emails were received during the comment period. Comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and the agencies' responses are presented in the Final EIS/EIR.

AGENCY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

After considering comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and further internal review, Western identified the Agency Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS/EIR. The Agency Preferred Alternative corridor is shown in the map. The Agency Preferred Alternative balances many factors, including economic, environmental, technical and other considerations, with the Project's purpose and need and Western's statutory mission and responsibilities.



DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Final EIS/EIR includes a Draft Conformity Determination pursuant to Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. Western would like to hear your comments on the Draft Conformity Determination. Written comments can be provided by mail, fax, or e-mail. All comments received or post-marked before or on April 25, 2016 will be considered and responded to in the Final Conformity Determination.

REVIEW THE FINAL EIS/EIR AND DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

The final EIS/EIR and the draft Conformity Determination on air quality are available online at:

- <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/san-Luis-transmission-project.aspx>
- www.sltpeis-eir.com

For a printed copy, send a request to the NEPA Document Manager Don Lash.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

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

NEXT STEPS

The Authority will consider certification of the EIR pursuant to CEQA and approval of the SLTP at its Board of Directors meeting on April 7, 2016. Following the 30-day comment period on the Draft Conformity Determination on air quality, Western will make a Final Conformity Determination and finalize the Record of Decision (ROD) pursuant to NEPA. A notice of the Final Conformity Determination will be published within 30 days of rendering a final decision. If Western and the Authority decide to implement the SLTP, construction could commence in 2018.