

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER POWER RELOCATION PROJECT
FOR THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA**

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is the Lead Agency for the proposed Santa Ana River Power Relocation Project. RPU has directed the preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of an IS/MND is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the Proposed Project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. RPU will use the IS/MND to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies to implement the project.

Project Description: RPU is proposing the Santa Ana River Power Relocation Project (Proposed Project) to secure reliable and unrestricted access to the power lines. Project implementation would allow RPU to construct and maintain permanent access by relocating the 69 kilovolt (kV) sub-transmission circuits and 12kV distribution circuit that are currently located within the SAR area. The new poles would be installed along existing rights-of-way. New sub-transmission and distribution lines would be built onto the new poles prior to the removal of the existing poles and lines. No new access roads would be constructed to remove the existing poles and lines. The existing poles along Sections 1, 2, and 3 would be removed using a hydraulic truck wherever possible. However, several poles are located in densely vegetated areas without truck access and would be removed by hand crews. The holes would be back-filled and the ground surface restored to match the existing grade.

Old distribution lines and transformers to residences/properties would be replaced with new lines and transformers to modern specifications. Prior to electrical power interruption for the installation of the new distribution lines and transformers, notices would be sent to the affected properties per RPU's standard practices. Temporary power would be provided as needed.

Pole Dimensions. Eighty-five-foot steel poles would be placed at three corners along the proposed sub-transmission line route at: Grand Avenue and Jurupa Avenue; Grand Avenue and Rubidoux Avenue; and Rubidoux Avenue and the Santa Ana River Trail. An additional steel pole may be located on Jurupa Avenue at the beginning of the transmission line route. The steel poles would have an approximately 25-foot deep foundation with a diameter of 42 inches. The remaining poles would be wooden with an approximate height of 85 feet above ground and a buried depth of approximately 11 feet. The proposed base of the new poles would be cleared of vegetation prior to installation.

New Line Route. The Proposed Project would intercept existing lines and be completely overhead. The new route would connect at the Proposed Project's western interception point on Jurupa Avenue approximately 270 feet west of Tucson Court near the entrance to the Martha McLean – Anza Narrows Park. The route would then head east on the south side of Jurupa Avenue until reaching Grand Avenue and continue on the northwest side of the street to Rubidoux Avenue. The route would then travel northwest on Rubidoux Avenue for

approximately 700 feet through the open space along an existing City access road until reaching the southern corner of the existing closed Tequesquite Landfill property. The route would then turn to the northeast and travel adjacent to and on either the north or south side of the Santa Ana River Trail for approximately 0.8 miles until reaching the eastern interception point west of Tequesquite Park. The transmission line would be located approximately 5 to 15 feet from the edge of the bicycle trail. There are existing electrical distribution lines along most of Rubidoux Avenue, Jurupa Avenue, and Grand Avenue. In these locations, the Proposed Project would replace the existing poles and carry the existing distribution underneath the proposed double circuit 69kV sub-transmission line.

Inspection and Maintenance. The new route would provide proper truck access for sub-transmission line maintenance through the use of existing City streets and the paved Santa Ana River Trail. Brush clearance at the pole base would occur during detailed pole inspections every five years by RPU's line clearance crew or a contractor and during intrusive pole inspections every 20 years. The lines would be inspected and maintained according to RPU's existing procedures and schedule.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located generally within the Santa Ana River (SAR) area and along Rubidoux Avenue, Grand Avenue, and Jurupa Avenue.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087c6 of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, the City acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Public Review and Written Comments: In compliance with CEQA, Riverside Public Utilities has established a 30-day public review period beginning July 12, 2012 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND should be submitted no later than August 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Daniel Honeyfield, P.E.
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Riverside Public Utilities
3750 University Avenue 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at two City facility locations and on the internet:

The Public Utilities Department, located at the address above.

1. Downtown Library
3581 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
2. City's website at www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com/SantaAnaPRP