

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping is held early in the planning process to (1) inform the public about the project; (2) identify issues or concerns related to the project that should be considered during the identification of project alternatives and document preparation; and (3) allow for the integration for public information and input throughout the remainder of the planning process, as appropriate. This section provides a summary of the methods used to accomplish these objectives, including public announcements, open houses, agency contacts, and elected official briefings.

2.1 Announcements

2.1.1 Newsletter

In March 2006 a project newsletter was mailed to approximately 32,400 residents located within the initial study area, as well as the City of Riverside mayor, council members, manager, assistant managers, and all Board of Public Utilities members. The mailing list was developed using county assessor data from Riverside and San Bernardino counties for all parcels located within the study area shown on Map 1. The mailing list was then reviewed to eliminate duplicate property owner entries. The mailing list will be updated throughout the project to include names of interested parties, and will be reduced to those property owners within 1 mile on either side of a proposed transmission route alternative as alternatives are developed.

The newsletter contained information on the project description, need, planning process, schedule, and public comment opportunities including team contact information, and announced two public open houses. The newsletter was distributed two weeks before the public meeting to allow people to plan for their attendance, and contained the information in both English and Spanish. A copy of the newsletter is included in Appendix A.

2.1.2 Media Contacts

A display advertisement was printed in four newspapers to announce the public open houses. Two of the publications were in Spanish. In addition, a press release announcing the open houses was distributed to five newspapers. The publications are listed below. Copies of the display ad and press release are included in Appendix B.

Display Advertisements and Print Dates

- Press-Enterprise (Wednesday, March 29)
- La Prensa (Friday, March 31)
- Hispanic News (Wednesday, March 22)
- Black Voice (Thursday, March 30)

Press Release Distribution List

- Press Enterprise
- The Sun (San Bernardino County)
- Inland Empire Community Newspapers
- Black Voice News
- Los Angeles Times

2.1.3 Website

Project information was placed on the RPU website at www.riversidepublicutilities.com. The website was provided in all open house announcements, including the newsletter, display advertisement, and press release. The website contains general project information, as well as a copy of the planning process flow chart, newsletter, and study area map. Team contact information also is provided. The website can be viewed in either English or Spanish.

2.2 Public Open Houses

Two public open houses were held on Wednesday, April 5, and Thursday, April 6, 2006, to introduce the project to the public and receive public comments. Both meetings were held at the Riverside Municipal Airport between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The meetings were conducted in an “open house” format to allow the public to attend at their convenience. Attendees were asked to sign in for inclusion on the mailing list, provided with a comment form in either English or Spanish, and directed around the room to review an informational video presentation and project displays. The displays were organized in stations according to topic, which included project purpose and need, project description, planning process and schedule, and project maps.

Project team members were available at each display station to review the information and answer any questions. Information presented included project purpose and need, description, schedule, planning process, environmental studies, and team contact information. Six people attended the meeting on April 5 and eight people attended the meeting on April 6. A total of three comment forms were returned at the meeting, and project team members took notes on flip charts near the display boards to record verbal comments they received. A copy of the meeting display boards are provided in Appendix C, the presentation is provided in Appendix D, and a sample comment form is provided in Appendix E. Comments received at the meetings are summarized in Section 3.0 of this report.