

CITY OF CHINO HILLS

PRESS RELEASE



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THE CPUC ISSUES TWO PROPOSED DECISIONS REGARDING THE TRTP PROJECT: THE PROPOSED DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WOULD PERMIT COMPLETION OF THE PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED OVERHEAD LINES; THE ALTERNATE DECISION ISSUED BY PRESIDENT PEEVEY WOULD APPROVE THE CHINO HILLS UNDERGROUND PROPOSAL

Today the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued two contrasting proposed decisions in the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). The full Commission will determine which decision becomes effective following a vote at the Commission meeting on July 11, 2013.

CPUC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Jean Vieth issued her Proposed Decision (PD) today which would lift the stay on construction of the partially completed overhead lines within Chino Hills and allow the line to be completed as originally approved by the CPUC in 2009. The Judge noted the high cost to ratepayers of the proposal to underground the lines and the fact that the overhead transmission lines are close to residences in other portions of the TRTP project.

At the same time, President Michael Peevey, the Assigned Commissioner in the TRTP proceeding issued his own Alternate Decision (AD) that would grant the undergrounding proposal of the City of Chino Hills (UG5). Alternative UG5 would include a 3.5 mile single circuit, two-cable per phase underground 500kV transmission line, located within the existing SCE right-of-way. A total of six cables would be installed within conduits buried in concrete 4-6 feet underground, and at intervals along the line, the segments of cable would be spliced

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together in underground manholes. At the western and eastern ends of the underground line a 3-acre transition station would be built to connect the underground line to the remainder of the TRTP overhead transmission lines.

The AD states that the burden imposed on the community of Chino Hills is unfair, contrary to community values, and warrants undergrounding. The AD concludes that the cost of constructing the underground line would be approximately \$224 million.

“While the ALJ’s Proposed Decision is disappointing, we are pleased that President Peevey has issued an Alternate Decision that would approve undergrounding, and we recognize that the CPUC Commissioners will have the final say on undergrounding the transmission lines,” said Mike Fleager, Chino Hills City Manager. “The process continues, the City is fully engaged, and we look forward to making our case to the full Commission during the oral arguments in the case on June 26th.”

According to Mr. Fleager the City of Chino Hills’ undergrounding option will carry all the renewable energy that SCE can procure, can be built in a timely manner, and evidence demonstrates that undergrounding is the environmentally superior route because it eliminates the negative impacts to the community of the overhead lines.

“It is our hope that the CPUC will review the full record and come to the realization that the undergrounding option (UG5) is the environmentally superior alternative through Chino Hills, and that they will grant our Petition to Modify the 2009 Decision to require undergrounding,” said Mr. Fleager.

The ALJ’s Proposed Decision and President Peevey’s Alternate Decision will be forwarded to the CPUC for a final decision which is expected to be on the agenda at the CPUC’s July 11th meeting.