

HSY/oma 2/28/2012



**FILED**  
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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages Between 50 kV and 200 kV: Presidential Substation Project.

Application 08-12-023  
(Filed December 22, 2008)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING  
REMOVING EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS FROM THE CALENDAR**

The March 6 and 7, 2012, evidentiary hearings in this matter are hereby removed from the Commission's calendar, pending further action.

The Commission's Energy Division, which is conducting the required environmental review of the proposed Presidential Substation project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, issued the draft of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on September 16, 2011. According to the draft EIR, the proposed Presidential Substation project and several of the alternatives would have unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts on air quality, noise, and aesthetic resources. The draft EIR identifies "System Alternative B" as the environmentally superior alternative, which would not result in significant unavoidable impacts on any resources. The draft EIR rejects "System Alternative A" as an alternative because it would not meet reliability needs beyond 2014.

In the interest of securing just and speedy resolution of this proceeding, the assigned Commissioner's November 8, 2011, scoping memo and ruling

provided for service of prepared testimony and evidentiary hearing on, among other things, the feasibility of the project alternatives identified in the draft EIR.<sup>1</sup> Southern California Edison Company and Center for Biological Diversity devote a substantial portion of their prepared testimony to this issue.

The Energy Division has informed me that, based on new information presented in comments on the draft EIR and in discussion with Southern California Edison Company, it is possible that the draft EIR will be revised to reconfigure "System Alternative B" and/or to put forth "System Alternative A" as a viable alternative. In that event, much of the prepared testimony that is scheduled to be taken at the March 6 and 7, 2012, evidentiary hearing would be moot, and further prepared testimony would be required to address the issue in view of the revisions to the draft EIR.

Accordingly, in the interest of judicial economy and conserving the parties' resources, I hereby remove the March 6 and 7, 2012, evidentiary hearings from the Commission's calendar. I will re-set the evidentiary hearing and, if necessary, set a time for serving supplemental or revised prepared testimony

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<sup>1</sup> The scoping memo and ruling recognized that, if material changes are made to the draft EIR, it may be necessary to take supplemental evidence to address those changes.

after the Energy Division issues a revised draft EIR or a final EIR, as the case may be.

**IT IS SO RULED.**

Dated February 28, 2012, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ HALLIE YACKNIN

Hallie Yacknin  
Administrative Law Judge