



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Deborah O. Raphael, Director  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630



**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

### **NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Date: November 28, 2012

To: State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

and

Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Federal Agencies, and Interested Organizations  
and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency: California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Contact: Mr. Aaron Yue, Project Manager  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
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#### **PROJECT TITLE**

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station Soil Investigation Project  
Environmental Impact Report

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

145453 National Trails Highway, Needles, California 92363, County of San Bernardino (See Figure 1)

#### **PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specifies that a public agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for any project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have

a significant direct or indirect impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21100[a]). The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station, Soil Investigation Project. DTSC has determined that this project may have a significant impact on the environment and has determined that an EIR will be necessary to fully evaluate the potential environmental effects.

## PROVIDING COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Responsible agencies, trustee agencies, federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and interested organizations and individuals are encouraged to submit comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be contained in the draft EIR for DTSC’s consideration. To provide greater opportunity for input on the scope of the EIR, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being circulated an additional 15 days beyond the required 30-day comment period, for a total of 45 days.

Comments on this NOP should be submitted as soon as possible and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2013. Please send written comments to Mr. Aaron Yue, DTSC Project Manager, at the address listed above. When submitting comments, please identify a contact person to whom the answer to the questions will be presented.

Various agencies, Native American Tribes, and stakeholders have previously had an opportunity to review and provide comment on the Draft *Soil Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Work Plan*. Comments previously received by DTSC on the Draft Work Plan will be considered by DTSC in preparing the EIR.

Documents related to the proposed project are available for review at the project repositories listed below and on the internet at <http://www.dtsc-topock.com/>.

<p>Needles Branch Library 1111 Bailey Avenue Needles, CA 92363</p> <p>Chemehuevi Indian Reservation Environmental Protection Office 2000 Chemehuevi Trail Havasu Lake, CA 92363</p> <p>Golden Shores/Topock Library 13136 Golden Shores Parkway Topock, AZ 86436</p> <p>Lake Havasu City Library 1770 McCulloch Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403</p>	<p>Colorado River Indian Tribes Library 2nd Avenue and Mojave Road Parker, AZ 85344</p> <p>Parker Public Library 1001 Navajo Avenue Parker, AZ 85344</p> <p>California Department of Toxic Substances Control 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630 Monday – Friday: 9am-Noon, 1pm – 4pm, Please call for an appointment at (714) 484-5337</p>
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DTSC will be hosting three scoping meetings to give the responsible agencies, trustee agencies, federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and interested organizations and individuals an opportunity to appear and comment on the scope and content of the draft EIR. These professionally facilitated scoping meetings will consist of introductions, a project overview, a CEQA process overview, and an opportunity for meeting participants to comment on the scope and content of the EIR. A reasonable amount of time will be allotted to allow all participants who wish to provide oral comments the opportunity to do so. Written comments will also be accepted at the meetings. Scoping meetings have been scheduled at the following locations and times.

<b>Public Scoping Meetings</b>			
<b>City</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Golden Shores, AZ	Golden Shores Community Center 13136 Golden Shores Parkway Golden Shores, AZ 86436	Tuesday, December 11, 2012	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Needles, CA	Needles High School Auditorium 1600 Washington Street Needles, CA 92363	Wednesday, December 12, 2012	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Yuma, AZ	Gila Ridge High School Auditorium 7150 E. 24th Street Yuma, AZ 85365	Thursday, December 13, 2012	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## **CONTACT**

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Aaron Yue, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5439 or email: [aaron.yue@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:aaron.yue@dtsc.ca.gov) or Jacqueline Martinez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5338, toll free at (866) 495-5651 or email: [jacqueline.martinez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jacqueline.martinez@dtsc.ca.gov). For media inquiries, please contact DTSC Chief of Media and Press Relations, Charlotte Fadipe, at (916) 323-3395 or email: [charlotte.fadipe@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:charlotte.fadipe@dtsc.ca.gov).

## **INFORMATION FOR THE DISABLED AND HEARING IMPAIRED**

The meeting rooms for the scoping meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. If translation services are needed or if additional accommodations for the disabled are needed, please notify Jacqueline Martinez at (714) 484-5338 or [jacqueline.martinez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jacqueline.martinez@dtsc.ca.gov) no later than one week before the meeting. TDD users can obtain additional information by using the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Jacqueline Martinez at (714) 484-5338.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE EXAMINED IN THE EIR**

The purpose of an EIR is to identify and consider the potentially significant adverse environmental effects of a proposed project and identify measures that can reduce, avoid, or mitigate significant adverse impacts. Based upon prior consultation with interested parties, comments received on the Draft Work Plan, and the environmental assessments conducted in and around the site to date, DTSC has determined that the proposed project may have a significant impact on Biological Resources and Cultural Resources. With respect to Cultural Resources, the Topock site and adjacent lands are contained within a larger geographic area that is considered sacred by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and by other Native American tribes. The EIR will also consider any potential effects of the project to the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality / Greenhouse Gas
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## PROJECT LOCATION

The PG&E Topock Compressor Station (Station) is located in the Mojave Desert approximately 12 miles southeast of the city of Needles, California, and one mile southeast of the Moabi Regional Park in California. The Station is one-half mile west of the community of Topock, Arizona, which is situated directly across the Colorado River from the Station, and four miles south of Golden Shores, Arizona. The Station is one-half mile west of the Colorado River and south of Interstate 40 and occupies 66.8 acres of land owned by PG&E (See Figure 1). The area in which proposed project activities could occur covers additional surrounding land owned and managed by a number of private entities and government agencies, including the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), lands managed by the Department of Interior (DOI), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), rights of way for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and access over a portion of land owned by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

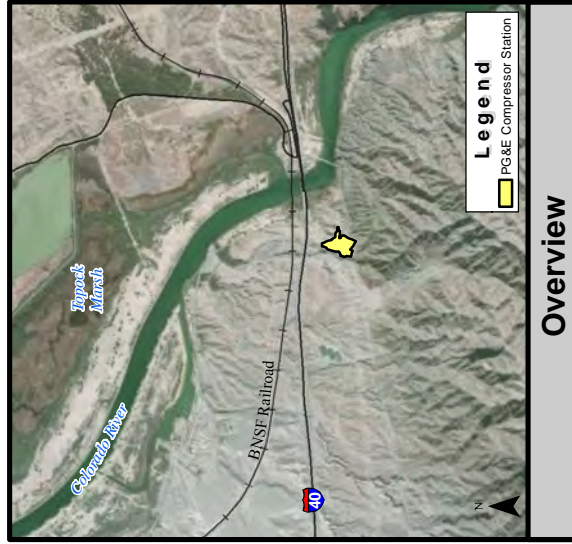
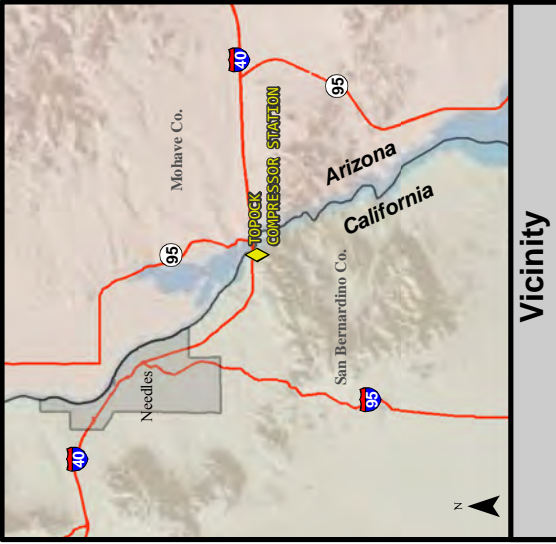
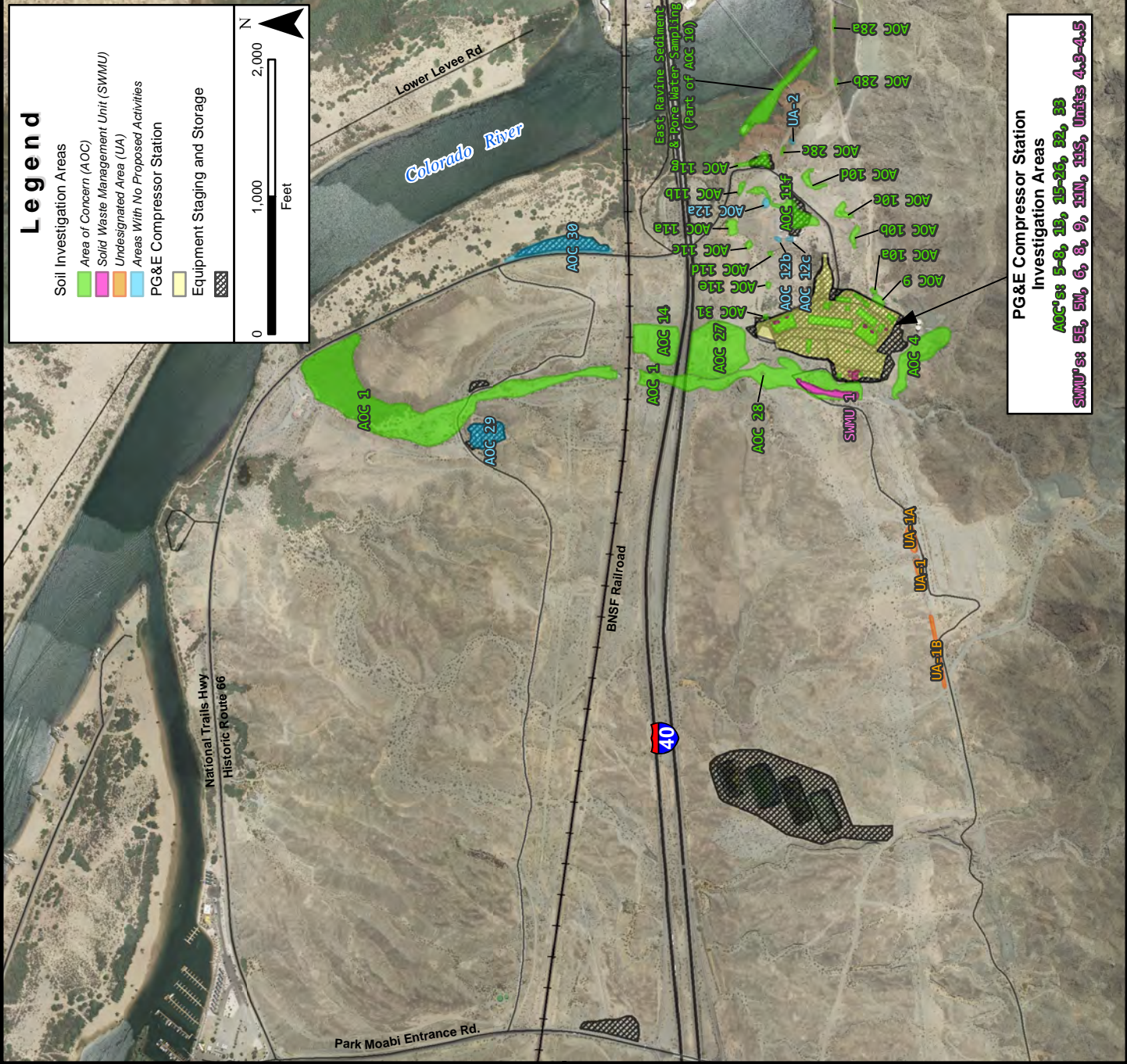
The proposed project involves consideration of the *Soil Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Work Plan* (Soil Work Plan) (September 2012) for adoption by DTSC. Adoption and implementation of the Soil Work Plan would enable further investigation and characterization of the nature and extent of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) that have been identified at the site during previous soil investigations. It would also provide additional data to inform preparation of a future Soil Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) which would identify and nominate clean up alternatives if necessary. The results of this investigation pursuant to the Soil Work Plan will inform the Final RFI/RI Volume 3 (Soil) Report and will present a combined data set of all soils investigations. The Soil Work Plan identified the following areas requiring further investigation, as shown in Figure 1.

- Six solid waste management units (SWMUs): DTSC defines SWMUs as areas that may be contaminated due to the management of solid wastes without proper protective practices in place. SWMUs are subject to the overall site's environmental investigation to determine if they will need to be remediated.
- 28 areas of concern (AOCs): DTSC defines AOCs as areas that are being evaluated and may be contaminated due to past practices and/or proximity to the site. These areas are subject to the overall site's environmental investigation process to determine if they will need to be remediated.
- Undesignated Areas (UAs): UAs are subject to the site's overall environmental investigation process to determine if contamination exists and if remediation will need to be considered. UA-1, known as the Potential Pipeline Disposal Area, is proposed for further investigation by geophysical surveys to identify the presence of historically buried asbestos-containing pipes.

In addition to the SWMUs, AOCs, and UAs, the Soil Work Plan also proposes limited investigation in three oil/water units, the perimeter fencing area of the Station, and the onsite storm drain system, which includes both active and inactive lines and outfalls. The proposed project involves the collection of surface and subsurface soil and sediment samples, and the chemical analysis of those samples for COPCs based on the historical use of the area and previous soil investigations. In addition, some areas would be investigated using geophysical methods to identify subsurface objects. The proposed Soil Work Plan activities for the project include the following:

- Acquiring permission or permits to access certain restricted areas
- Creating physical access to certain locations (e.g., grading, boulder or vegetation removal)
- Drilling, trenching or excavating to access soil samples

- Collecting and preserving soil samples
- Performing certain field analyses and collecting and preserving samples
- Properly abandoning boreholes and backfilling of trenches and excavations
- Transporting the samples to the analytical laboratory
- Analyzing the samples for selected COPCs
- Evaluating and presenting the data in a written report
- Managing investigation-derived waste
- Conducting preconstruction biological and archeological surveys
- Identifying potential conflicts with subsurface utilities



**Topock Soils Study  
Proposed Project Map**

**Figure 1**

ESA  
PARUS CONSULTING, INC.

Background Sources:  
ESRI Bing Maps Aerial  
ESRI Terrain

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