



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, California 95630-4710

JUL - 8 2015

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Reader:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority) invite you to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) (DOE/EIS-0496; State Clearinghouse No. 2013112059) located in Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties. Western and the Authority prepared this document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Western is the lead Federal agency and the Authority is the lead State agency for this action. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation is a cooperating agency. Western and the Authority are seeking comments from Federal and state agencies, local governments, Indian tribes, individuals and organizations interested in or affected by this project.

The Draft EIS/EIR can be accessed online at Western's SNR website or the SLTP website:

Western, SNR website: www.wapa.gov/sn/environment/SanLuisTransmissionProject.asp
SLTP website: www.sltpeis-eir.com

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR are available for review at the following locations (call for hours of operation):

Tracy Library	Authority Headquarters
20 East Eaton Avenue	842 6th Street
Tracy, CA 95376	Los Banos, CA 93635
(209) 937-8221	(209) 826-9696

Printed copies can also be obtained upon request from Western.

Western and the Authority would like to hear any comments you have on the Draft EIS/EIR. Please make your comments as specific as possible. Written comments can be provided by mail, fax, or e-mail listed below; verbal comments can be provided at the public meetings. All comments received or post-marked before or on August 31, 2015, will be considered and responded to in the Final EIS/EIR.

Mail: Mr. Donald Lash
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630

Email: SLTPEIS-EIR@wapa.gov

Fax: (916) 353-4772

Comments received, including names and addresses, could be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. Individuals may request that we withhold their name or home address, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or home address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

Western and the Authority will conduct two public meetings to provide information and receive verbal and written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. The date, time, and location for these meetings are provided below:

<u>Tracy, California</u>	<u>August 10, 2015</u>
Holiday Inn Express – Banquet Room	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
3751 N. Tracy Boulevard	
Tracy, CA 95376	

<u>Los Banos, California</u>	<u>August 11, 2015</u>
Community Center – Grand Room	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
645 Seventh Street	
Los Banos, CA 93635	

For translation services, please call (916) 379-0350, ext. 17.

About the Project

Western proposes to construct, operate, and maintain the SLTP, which comprises 95 miles of new transmission lines within easements ranging from 125 to 250 feet wide through Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties, along the foothills of the Diablo Range in the western San Joaquin Valley, California.

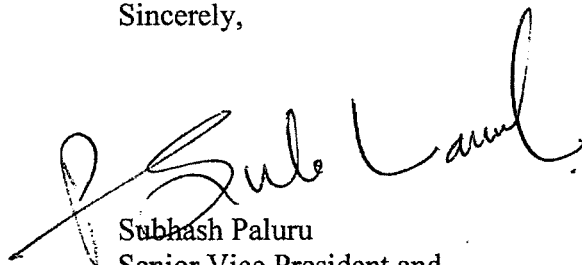
The proposed project includes:

- A new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line about 65 miles in length between the new Tracy East and Los Banos West Substations;
- A 230-kV transmission line about three miles in length between the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) existing Los Banos Substation or the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing San Luis Substation;

- A 230-kV transmission line about 20 miles in length between Western's San Luis Substation and Western's existing Dos Amigos Substation or a new 230-kV transmission line about 18 miles in length between the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing Dos Amigos Substation;
- An interconnection with the existing Western 500-kV Los Banos-Gates No. 3 transmission line just south of PG&E's existing Los Banos Substation into the new Los Banos West Substation;
- A new 70-kV transmission line about seven miles in length between the existing San Luis and O'Neill Substations; and
- Substation improvements, communication facilities, improvements to existing access roads, new permanent access roads, and temporary access roads to facilitate construction activities.

The Draft EIS/EIR considers six corridor alternatives to the proposed project and the No Action/No Project Alternative. Western's Agency Preferred Alternative will be identified in the Final EIS/EIR following analysis of public comments on the Draft EIS/EIR and further internal review of the Draft EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Subhash Paluru". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Subhash Paluru
Senior Vice President and
Sierra Nevada Regional Manager