

Appendix B  
**Legal Notices**

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## **2015–2016 Scoping Period**

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**Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental  
Impact Statement and to Conduct Scoping  
Meetings/Notice of Preparation to Prepare an  
Environmental Impact Report for the 500-kilovolt  
Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line Project,  
Colusa and Sutter Counties, California**

**Proposed Project:** Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) are jointly proposing the new 500-kilovolt (kV) Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line Project (CoSu Line) to be located within Colusa and Sutter Counties, California. The Project would interconnect the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) transmission system, near either Arbuckle or Maxwell, California, to the Central Valley Project (CVP) transmission system near Yuba City, California, with potential modification to SMUD's existing Elverta Substation in Sacramento County. This notice announces Western's and SMUD's decision to jointly prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an environmental impact report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The joint EIS/EIR will examine the potential environmental effects of the proposed CoSu Line.

**Project Purpose and Need:** The purpose of the CoSu Line is to enable SMUD to access additional renewable and low-carbon energy from the Pacific Northwest and the greater Sacramento Valley by interconnecting the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) line with SMUD's transmission system. The CoSu Line is needed because:

- \* The proposed Project would meet Western's obligation to respond to SMUD's transmission service request under Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff.
- \* SMUD's existing transmission infrastructure does not currently allow SMUD to fully use all 528 megawatts (MW) of its existing rights to transmit energy across the COTP. The proposed Project would provide a new transmission path between SMUD and the COTP, and thus allow SMUD to maximize its usage of these rights in both the import and export directions.
- \* SMUD will gain 172 MW more than its existing COTP rights, which can be used for additional COTP capacity that SMUD may acquire, and/or for importing from renewable generation plants located and/or developed in the greater Sacramento Valley.
- \* It will allow SMUD to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from its energy portfolio by providing increased access to renewable and hydro-power generation in the Pacific Northwest and in the Sacramento Valley, thereby helping the region meet the State's mandated carbon reduction targets.
- \* The rights gained by SMUD would allow for more flexible use of SMUD's transmission rights to the Pacific Northwest, including the use of dynamic schedules to import intermittent renewable resources or for participation in newly developing markets for flexible energy transfers.
- \* It will provide reliability benefits and increased import capabilities in the region through increased transmission capacity resulting in reduced projected voltage and overload issues for the regional transmission system, including Western's CVP transmission system, thus avoiding upgrades to those facilities in the near term.
- \* It improves reactive power support to the northern California transmission grid and provides thermal loading relief on the limiting elements on the existing California Oregon Intertie (COI), which is a major Western Electricity Coordinating Council rated Path (Path 66), critical to imports and exports between California and the Pacific Northwest. The addition of the Project results in lower post-contingency loading on the underlying transmission system elements that have historically limited the COI rating.

**Public Scoping Period:** The EIS/EIR process includes a pub-

lic scoping period and public scoping meetings. Western and SMUD will hold four public meetings to share information and receive comments on the scope of the proposed CoSu Line:

- \* **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Colusa Casino-Resort, Community Room, 3770 California 45, Colusa, CA 95932
- \* **Wednesday, January 13, 2016**, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., Colusa Casino-Resort, Community Room, 3770 California 45, Colusa, CA 95932
- \* **Wednesday, January 13, 2016**, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Sutter Youth Organization Center, Ellwood Munger Hall, 7740 Butte House Road, Sutter, CA 95982
- \* **Thursday, January 14, 2016**, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., Sutter Youth Organization Center, Ellwood Munger Hall, 7740 Butte House Road, Sutter, CA 95982

Scoping comments must be submitted by Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Comments can be sent by email or mail to the following addresses:

**Email:** [comments@cosuline.com](mailto:comments@cosuline.com)

**Mail:** Mr. Andrew Montano, NEPA Document Manager  
Western Area Power Administration, Headquarters  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

All substantive comments received during the public scoping period will be considered in the Draft EIS/EIR and respective agencies' decision-making processes. No final decisions have been made regarding going forward with the proposed project or in selecting an alternative; those decisions will only occur after completion of the NEPA and CEQA processes.

**Project Description and Alternatives:** SMUD submitted a transmission request to Western under Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff for service between the COTP and SMUD's transmission system. Western did not have available transmission capacity to meet the request on its existing facilities in the area, so SMUD proposed construction of the CoSu Line. Western would build the Project as allowed by law pursuant to the Acts of Congress approved June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388); August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 844, 850); August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1187); and August 4, 1977 (91 Stat. 565); as supplemented and amended. The CoSu Line would provide SMUD access to existing renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest and other markets, provide regional voltage support, and assist SMUD in planning for anticipated load growth. In addition, the CoSu Line would improve the network transmission infrastructure and import capability into the Sacramento area and ensures the continued safe and reliable operation of the regional transmission system.

The proposed corridors to be studied and evaluated are within Colusa and Sutter Counties, California. The proposed Project would consist of the following primary components:

1. Northern Corridor Study Area: constructing a new transmission line (approximately 44 miles in length) adjacent to Western's existing 230-kV Olinda-O'Banion and Keswick-O'Banion double circuit transmission lines. The Northern Corridor Study Area would interconnect the existing COTP transmission line system near the existing COTP's Maxwell Series Compensation Substation to Western's CVP transmission system near Western's existing O'Banion Substation. The new transmission line would require the construction of an additional substation adjacent to the existing Maxwell Series Compensation Substation and an additional substation adjacent to the existing O'Banion Substation.

2. Southern Corridor Study Area: constructing a new transmission line (approximately 27 miles in length) that would interconnect along the existing COTP transmission line system approximately 8 miles northwest of the community of Arbuckle, California, and proceed eastwardly toward the existing O'Banion Substation. The Southern Corridor Study Area would also require the construction of an additional substation adjacent to the existing COTP transmission line northwest of Arbuckle and an additional substation adjacent to the existing O'Banion Substation.

3. Additionally, a Northern Corridor Study Area Alternative has been identified (approximately 9 miles in length) just west of the existing O'Banion Substation to provide an alternate north-to-south route for the Northern Corridor Study Area. Instead of following Western's existing 230-kV Olinda-O'Banion and Keswick-O'Banion double circuit transmission lines to the O'Banion substation, this segment would extend south, at a location approximately 30 miles from the Maxwell Substation, and then continue due east to connect to the O'Banion substation. Under this segment alternative, the new segment would be located farther away from the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge.

Western will consider a No Action Alternative in the EIS/EIR. Under the No Action Alternative, Western would not construct the proposed Project and the environmental impacts associated with construction and operation would not occur. The No Action Alternative will also form the baseline against which the potential impacts of the Project and other project alternatives will be compared.

**Environmental Issues:** The CoSu Line Draft EIS/EIR will analyze potential environmental impacts from the line that could include:

- \* protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants
- \* migratory birds
- \* introduction of noxious weeds, invasive and non-native species
- \* recreation and transportation
- \* land use, wilderness, farmlands, and environmentally-sensitive areas
- \* cultural or historic resources and tribal values
- \* human health and safety
- \* air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water impacts)
- \* visual resources
- \* socioeconomics and impacts to minority and low-income populations

More information about the project can be found at [www.cosuline.com](http://www.cosuline.com).

December 18, 2015

Ad #00187024





## 2017 Additional Scoping Period

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**Notice of Additional Public Scoping Meetings for the  
500-kilovolt Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line Project,  
Colusa, Sutter, Yolo and Sacramento Counties,  
California**

**Proposed Project:** Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) are jointly proposing the new 500-kilovolt (kV) Colusa-Sutter Transmission Line Project (CoSu Line) to be located within Colusa, Sutter, Yolo and Sacramento Counties, California. The Project would provide a new link between the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) and SMUD's and WAPA's transmission facilities on the east side of the Sacramento Valley.

**Public Scoping Period:** On December 18, 2015, WAPA announced the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the CoSu Line Project, and SMUD announced the Notice of Preparation to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIS/EIR will examine the potential environmental effects of the CoSu Line. WAPA will be the lead Federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and SMUD will be the lead state agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). WAPA and SMUD held a public scoping period from December 2015 to April 2016 to gather public input on the proposed CoSu Line. As a result of this original public scoping period and the scoping comments received, WAPA and SMUD decided to review additional corridor study areas in Yolo and Sacramento counties. This notice announces WAPA's and SMUD's decision to hold additional public scoping meetings to receive public comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR. WAPA and SMUD will hold six public meetings at the following locations:

- 1) Tuesday, January 24, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Sutter Youth Organization Center, 7740 Butte House Road, Sutter, CA 95982;
- 2) Thursday, January 26, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Colusa Casino Community Room, 3770 California 45, Colusa, CA 95932;
- 3) Tuesday, January 31, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Woodland Community and Senior Center Banquet Rooms, 2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776;
- 4) Tuesday, January 31, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Woodland Community and Senior Center Banquet Rooms, 2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776;
- 5) Thursday, February 2, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Haggin-Grant American Legion Post 521, 6700 8th Street, Rio Linda CA, 95673; and,
- 6) Thursday, February 2, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Haggin-Grant American Legion Post 521, 6700 8th Street, Rio Linda CA, 95673.

Scoping comments must be submitted by Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the close of the scoping period. Previous comments are in the official record and do not need to be resubmitted. Comments can be sent by email or mail to the following addresses:

**Email:** [comments@cosuline.com](mailto:comments@cosuline.com)

**Mail:** Mr. Andrew Montano, NEPA Document Manager  
Western Area Power Administration, Headquarters  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

All substantive comments received during the public scoping period will be considered in the Draft EIS/EIR and respective agencies' decision-making processes. No final decisions have been made regarding going forward with the proposed project or in selecting an alternative; those decisions will only occur after completion of the NEPA and CEQA processes.

**Project Corridor Study Areas:** WAPA and SMUD are currently considering and reviewing three corridor study areas and two segment alternatives for the CoSu Line. These include two original corridor study areas and one segment alternative proposed in 2015 and one new corridor study area and one new segment alternative.

1. Northern Corridor Study Area: New transmission line (approximately 44 miles in length) adjacent to WAPA's existing 230-kV Olinda-O'Banion and Keswick-O'Banion double circuit transmission lines. The Northern Corridor Study Area would connect the existing COTP transmission line system near the

existing COTP's Maxwell Series Compensation Substation to WAPA's Central Valley Project (CVP) transmission system near the existing O'Banion Substation. This new transmission line would require the construction of an additional substation near the Maxwell Series Compensation Substation and an additional substation near the existing O'Banion Substation.

2. Southern Corridor Study Area: New transmission line (approximately 27 miles in length) connecting from the COTP transmission line approximately 8 miles northwest of the community of Arbuckle, California, and proceeding eastwardly toward the existing O'Banion Substation. This new transmission line would require the construction of an additional substation near the COTP transmission line and an additional substation near the O'Banion Substation.

3. Segment 1 Alternative Study Area: New transmission line (approximately 9 miles in length) west of the existing O'Banion Substation providing an alternate north-to-south route for the Northern Corridor Study Area. This segment would be located on the western side of the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge.

4. County Road 16 Corridor Study Area: New transmission line (approximately 27 miles in length) connecting the existing COTP transmission line system near the community of Dufour, California, and proceeding eastwardly to the existing Elverta Substation. This new transmission line would require the construction of an additional substation near the COTP transmission line northwest of Dufour and an additional substation near the Elverta Substation.

5. Segment 2 Alternative Study Area: New transmission line (approximately 9 miles in length) that would provide an alternate west-to-east route for the County Road 16 Corridor Study Area. This segment would extend north in a loop-like fashion, located further away from the Sacramento International Airport.

WAPA and SMUD will also evaluate the No Action Alternative in the EIS/EIR for the purpose of establishing a baseline for impact analysis. Under the No Action Alternative, WAPA would not construct the proposed project and environmental impacts associated with construction and operation would not occur.

More information can be found at [www.cosuline.com](http://www.cosuline.com).