San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

AGENDA AND NOTICE

OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (EENR) COMMITTEE AND WATER RESOURCES WORKING GROUP (WRWG)

Wednesday, June 26th

Please note that the EENR meeting will begin at 10:00 AM, and the Joint Meeting will begin immediately following the conclusion of the EENR Meeting.

Meeting Location: Upper District Offices (602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA)

Chair
Sam Pedroza, Claremont

Vice Chair
Denis Bertone, San Dimas

Thank you for participating in today's meeting. The EENR Committee and WRWG encourage public participation and invite you to share your views on agenda items.

MEETINGS: ***Regular Meetings of the EENR Committee are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:45 AM at the Monrovia Public Works Yard, 600 South Mountain Avenue, Monrovia, CA. Regular Meetings of the WRWG are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Upper District Offices, 602 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA.*** The agenda packet is available at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's (SGVCOG) Office, 1000 South Fremont Avenue, Suite 10210, Alhambra, CA, and on the website, www.sgvcog.org. Copies are available via email upon request (sgv@sgvcog.org). Documents distributed to a majority of the Committee after the posting will be available for review in the SGVCOG office and on the SGVCOG website. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording of your voice.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Your participation is welcomed and invited at all EENR Committee and WRWG meetings. Time is reserved at each regular meeting for those who wish to address the Committees. SGVCOG requests that persons addressing the Committees refrain from making personal, slanderous, profane or disruptive remarks.

TO ADDRESS THE EENR COMMITTEE AND WRWG: At a regular meeting, the public may comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committees during the public comment period and may also comment on any agenda item at the time it is discussed. At a special meeting, the public may only comment on items that are on the agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to complete a comment card or simply rise to be recognized when the Chair asks for public comments to speak. We ask that members of the public state their name for the record and keep their remarks brief. If several persons wish to address the Committees on a single item, the Chair may impose a time limit on individual remarks at the beginning of discussion. **The EENR Committee and WRWG may not discuss or vote on items not on the agenda.**

AGENDA ITEMS: The Agenda contains the regular order of business of the EENR Committee and WRWG. Items on the Agenda have generally been reviewed and investigated by the staff in advance of the meeting so that the EENR Committee and WRWG can be fully informed about a matter before making its decision.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee member or citizen so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered after the Consent Calendar. If you would like an item on the Consent Calendar discussed, simply tell Staff or a member of the Committee.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SGVCOG office at (626) 457-1800. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the SGVCOG to make reasonable arrangement to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

EENR MEETING **10:00 AM**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment *(If necessary, the Chair may place reasonable time limits on all comments)*

4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to next regular meeting *(It is anticipated that the EENR Committee may take action on the following matters)*

CONSENT CALENDAR *(It is anticipated that the EENR Committee may take action on the following matters)*

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – 5/28/13
Recommended Action: Approve.

6. Correspondence
Recommended Action: Receive and File.

ACTION ITEMS *(It is anticipated that the EENR Committee may take action on the following matters)*

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY 2013-2014
Recommended Action: Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for FY 2013-2014

8. Selection of 2013 Sustainability Awardee
Recommended Action: Recommend nominee for 2013 Sustainability Award.

UPDATE ITEMS *(It is anticipated that the EENR Committee may take action on the following matters)*

9. San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership
Recommended Action: For Information Only.

10. Energy Upgrade California
Recommended Action: For Information Only.

11. SCE CEESP
Recommended Action: For Information Only.

12. California HERO
Recommended Action: For Information Only.

JOINT EENR/WRWG MEETING **Immediately following EENR meeting**

PRESENTATIONS *(It is anticipated that the EENR Committee/WRWG may take action on the following matters)*

1. Bay Delta Conservation Plan – Richard Atwater
Recommended Action: For Information Only.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. EENR Committee Goals and Objectives
Recommended Action: Provide Direction to Staff.

3. National Park Service Study – Next Steps
Recommended Action: Discuss and Provide Direction to Staff.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN **11:45 AM**

SGVCOG EENR Committee Minutes
Date: May 28, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Monrovia Public Works Yard (600 S. Mountain Ave; Monrovia, CA)

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present		**Members Absent**
Claremont	S. Pedroza	Rosemead
Monrovia	M. Lutz	Sierra Madre
San Dimas	D. Bertone	
AQMD	R. Yeung	
Congresswoman Judy Chu	E. Robles	
Glendora	J. Nelson	
San Gabriel Mtns Forever	D. Rossman	
San Gabriel Mtns Forever	B. Faustinos	
SGV Water Assoc.	A. Ortega	
SCE	M. Castro-Salvati	
SCE	A. Solomon	
WCA	R. Romanek	

Staff:
A. Miller
M. Creter
C. Sims

3. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to next regular meeting

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – 4/24/13

6. Correspondence

There was a motion to approve consent item 5 and 6 (M/S: Bertone/Lutz).

AYES:	Claremont, Monrovia, San Dimas
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	

ABSENT:	Rosemead, Sierra Madre

PRESENTATIONS

7. Summer Readiness Tips – Marissa Castro-Salvati, SCE
M. Castro-Salvati, from SCE, provided a brief update on summer readiness that would help conserve electricity during the summer months. This would be especially important this summer, considering that San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station would likely not be open.

8. Update on San Gabriel Mountains National Park Service Study
E. Robles, from Congresswoman Judy Chu's office, provided a brief update on the Congresswoman's plans related to the San Gabriel Mountains National Park Service Study. He announced that the Congresswoman was planning a number of roundtables in June and July in order to gain feedback on the designation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. National Park Study – Next Steps
The Committee discussed the National Park Study that had been released, specifically related to the NPS recommendation that the San Gabriel Mountains be a part of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. The Committee determined that it would be important to outreach to other Governing Board members to ensure that they understood the proposal and also to gain feedback. The Committee decided to have a presentation on the proposal at the June Governing Board meeting and to host a workshop in July.

There was a motion to recommend Governing Board adopt a resolution that opposes the San Gabriel Valley being a part of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area (M/S: Bertone/Lutz).

AYES:	Claremont, Monrovia, San Dimas
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Rosemead, Sierra Madre

10. Southern California Edison Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP)
SGVCOG staff presented additional information on SCE's TRTP following its discussion with Chino Hills City Manager Mike Fleager. SGVCOG staff also presented its photographs of the Chino Hills poles. After discussion, the Committee decided to maintain its recommendation to Governing Board to recommend undergrounding, providing that the local jurisdiction pays for the additional cost related to the undergrounding. H. Romero Shaw, from SoCalGas, provided an overview of AB 1257 (Bocanegra), which would emphasize the importance of natural gas as a resource in the State.

11. Discussion on July 2013 – January 2014 Goals and Objectives
SGVCOG staff reported that the Governing Board and Executive Committee would be discussing whether to hold the upcoming Strategic Planning session on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, as scheduled.

ACTION ITEMS

12. Assembly Bill 371 (Salas)
S. Pedroza provided an overview of AB 371 (Salas). The bill would allow the Kern County Board of Supervisors to prohibit by ordinance the land application of sewage sludge to unincorporated areas of Kern County. The City of Los Angeles and a number of other cities in

Los Angeles County ship bio-solids to unincorporated areas of Kern County to meet their recycling requirements.

There was a motion to recommend Governing Board adopt Resolution of Opposition for AB 371 (Salas) (M/S: Lutz/Bertone).

AYES:	Claremont, Monrovia, San Dimas
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Rosemead, Sierra Madre

13. June Meeting Date
After discussion, the Committee decided to keep the June meeting date on Wednesday, June 26. The meeting will be held at the Upper District Offices in Monrovia and will begin at 10:00 a.m.

UPDATE ITEMS

14. January – July 2013 Goals and Objectives
The Committee is doing well on its progress towards the January – July 2013 Goals and Objectives.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Brown administration says water is needed to keep Silicon Valley businesses humming

By Steve Scauzillo steve.scauzillo@sgvn.com @stevscaz on Twitter San Gabriel Valley Tribune
Posted: sgvtribune.com

State water officials and the governor's environmental secretary propped up the Bay Delta Conservation Plan on Wednesday, calling it "expensive" but necessary not only to ensure drinking water for two-thirds of California residents but also to the state's most productive high-tech companies located in the Silicon Valley.

While the governor's lieutenants used the release of the final chapters of the plan to boost support for the mega public works project, they also pointed out the project - now set at $24.5 billion - is gaining support from businesses and government alike, including President Barack Obama.

"The Obama administration agrees with the state," said Letty Belin, special counsel to the deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, during a press conference Wednesday in Milpitas. "There is a great urgency on proceeding with a solution. Inaction is the worst option. "

The plan calls for construction of 35 miles of concrete tunnels to move water around the environmentally sensitive Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta into the State Water Project for delivery to Central and Southern California. It will also restore 145,000 acres of Delta habitat that could save 57 species of plants and animals from extinction, said state officials.

State officials, along with farming and business interests, say the plan will also shore up levees that could fail in the event of a major earthquake, severing a water source used by 25 million Californians, including a large number of Southern Californians.

Using comparisons to Superstorm Sandy, which devastated the Jersey Shore and parts of New York and Long Island, John Laird, the California Natural Resources Agency secretary, said adding infrastructure in the near future will pay off in the event a similar natural disaster such as a major earthquake strikes California.

"California's water supply system is clearly vulnerable to many threats, and the cost of its failure would be enormous," Laird said. "This conservation plan provides the most comprehensive, well-conceived approach to ensuring a reliable water supply to 25 million people and restoring the Delta ecosystem. "

On Tuesday, consumer and environmental groups called the plan a boondoggle that amounts to corporate welfare for agribusiness and Big Oil. Oil companies in Kern County would use the extra water from the project to increase fracking, they said. Their cost-benefit analysis said the project could cost the average Los Angeles homeowner between $2,000 and $9,100 over the next 40 years, or about $5 to $23 per month tacked on to their water bills.

The state released its own cost-benefit analysis Wednesday, saying the project is not cheap but would produce a $5 billion net benefit to the water agencies involved. "The real question is: Can we afford not to adopt the BDCP?" said Mark Cowin, director of the California Department of Water Resources.

David Sunding, the Thomas J. Graff professor of natural resource economics at UC Berkeley, said water contractors will pay for about 70 percent of the cost. The rest could come from state and federal sources, including a bond measure slated for the 2014 ballot.

"The combination of water supply improvements, water quality, reduced seismic risk produces benefits 35 percent in excess of the cost," Sunding said.

He said the cost per household is more in the range of $5 per month for 40 years, the length of the project's financing - far less than critics have alleged.

Belin called the release of the final chapters of the plan "a major milestone" and said having the documents available to the public will facilitate completion of the Environmental Impact Statement by October. Inges said the Obama

administration, including Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, believes the science behind the plan is solid.

The plan has the support of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, as well as several local member agencies in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-edison-closing-san-onofre-nuclear-plant-20130607,0,7920425.story

latimes.com

Edison will shut down the San Onofre nuclear plant for good

By Joseph Serna and Abby Sewell

This post has been updated. See the note below for details.

7:11 AM PDT, June 7, 2013

Southern California Edison announced Friday it would shut down the troubled San Onofre nuclear power plant.

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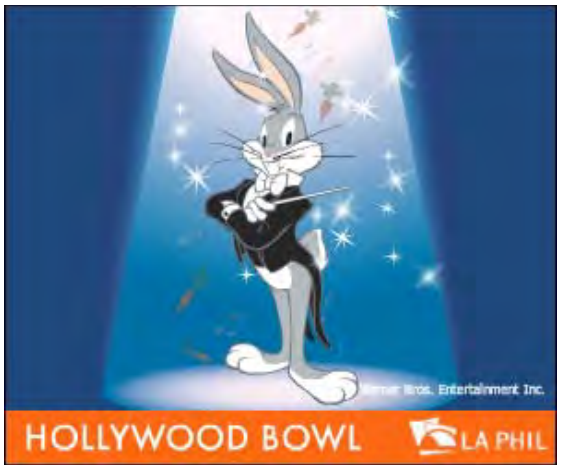

The move comes 17 months after the San Onofre plant was closed because of problems in steam generator systems. The plant powered about 1.4 million households in Southern California before the outage.

Until now, Edison had vowed to restart the plant. But the company released a statement Friday saying it would stop the process to fire up the plant.

Q&A: Why is it closing and what will it cost?

"We have concluded that the continuing uncertainty about when or if [the plant] might return to service was not good for our customers, our investors, or the need to plan for our region's long-term electricity needs," said Ted Craver, chairman and chief executive of Edison International, parent company of SCE.

SCE President Ron Litzinger said in a statement: "Looking ahead, we think that our decision to retire the units will eliminate uncertainty and facilitate orderly planning for California's energy future."

[Updated at 6:37 p.m.: Edison International Chief Executive Ted Craver said Friday that the company had spent more than $500 million on replacement power during the plant's outage].

FROM THE ARCHIVES: San Onofre Nuclear Generating station

San Onofre was shuttered after a tube in the plant's replacement steam generator system leaked a small amount of radioactive steam on Jan. 31, 2012. Eight other tubes in the same reactor unit later failed pressure tests, an unprecedented number in the industry, and thousands more tubes in both of the plant's units showed signs of wear.

The wear was blamed on tube vibration caused by excessively dry and high-velocity steam and inadequate support structures, particularly in one of the plant's two units. Tube vibration and wear has been a problem at other plants, but the specific type of vibration at San Onofre had not been experienced in the industry.

Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — which has a 20% stake in the plant — spent more than $780 million replacing the steam generators several years ago, which ratepayers are now repaying.

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latimes.com/business/la-fi-hiltzik-20130608,0,1949781.column

latimes.com

Who should pay for San Onofre fiasco? The answer is obvious

Shareholders collect dividends while ratepayers pay tens of millions of dollars a year for a defunct nuclear plant. It's time for the PUC to step up.

Michael Hiltzik

3:29 PM PDT, June 7, 2013

There may be lots of questions yet to be answered about Southern California Edison's permanent shutdown of its San Onofre nuclear plant, but here are a couple about which there's no doubt.

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Who's responsible? Edison, 100%. Accept no argument that it did the best it could in overseeing a $700-million generator replacement project, but accidents happen. This wasn't an accident: It was the product of what Edison claims was its rigorous oversight of contractors.

How much should Edison's customers pay for the misengineering and mismanagement that led to mothballing a hugely important generating station? That's easy. The answer is nothing. Not a dime.

What should happen to Edison electric rates right now? Also easy. They should be cut immediately by roughly 5%, which a back-of-the-envelope calculation says is the proportion of average electric bills represented by San Onofre.

The task remains, however, of persuading the California Public Utilities Commission that these are the right answers. The PUC's own division of ratepayer advocates says the conclusion should be obvious: "They've been collecting costs for a facility that isn't operating and useful," says Mark Pocta, program manager at the division.

Unfortunately, the PUC's history in this affair is discouraging.

The division of ratepayer advocates and other consumer groups have been urging the PUC for more than a year to take San Onofre's cost out of its rate base, so that customers wouldn't be stuck for more than $600 million a year Edison has been permitted to charge to run a nonfunctional plant. The commission didn't get around until November to ordering Edison even to track those costs in a special account so any ultimate refunds could be calculated.

And until it acts further, you, me and all the other 6.8 million paying customers of Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric, its minority partner in San Onofre, will be forking over more than $68 million a month. Roughly $1 billion in payments for the useless plant has flowed out of customer pockets into the

utilities' coffers since its January 2012 shutdown.

Some of that may be refunded to customers, but not for years. That's a consequence of the PUC's consistent inaction on a regulatory issue that should have had its undivided attention starting in that distant January.

It's worthwhile to examine here the balancing calculation that Edison undertook in deciding to shutter San Onofre. On one side were the ratepayers; on the other, shareholders. The company brass has consistently signaled that the interests of the latter should trump the former. Speaking to investment analysts in April, Ted Craver, chairman and chief executive of Edison International, stated that "all material costs related to San Onofre are recoverable" from ratepayers, with the exception of money it hopes to snarf up from insurance policies and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the builder of the bad generators.

And at an investor conference just nine days ago, Craver made clear that the most important factor in Edison's decision about running or closing San Onofre was what the PUC would say about charging ratepayers for the fiasco. "Without clarity on cost recovery from the CPUC, this means that our shareholders are essentially underwriting the risk of the recovery.... We can't put our shareholders in that position." (Some clarity: Craver gave no indication then that the company was within nine days of closing the plant.)

So the shareholders continue to collect $1.35 per share in annual dividends while a plant accounting for 20% of the company's electricity generation sits idle. And ratepayers continue to pay tens of millions of dollars a year for the same nonfunctioning shell.

One of Craver's other remarks hinted at how Edison will argue that ratepayers should swallow the bill for management's abject failure. "We continue to believe that the actions taken and costs incurred," he said, "have been prudent." Edison's chief financial officer, Jim Scilacci, used nearly the same language during a call with investors Friday, after the shutdown announcement.

The company spent some $700 million on equipment designed and built, it says, under its own watchful eyes. The job was so badly done that the equipment turned the plant into a useless hulk. This is prudence? Lawyers have a Latin term that sums up the proper response. *Res ipsa loquitur:* "The thing speaks for itself."

Michael Hiltzik's column appears Sundays and Wednesdays, and occasionally on other days. Reach him at mhiltzik@latimes.com, read past columns at latimes.com/hiltzik, check out facebook.com/hiltzik and follow @latimeshiltzik on Twitter.

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latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-san-onofre-decommission-20130616,0,7030771.story

latimes.com

EDITORIAL

Who'll pay for San Onofre?

Customers share some responsibility, but they shouldn't pay for Edison's poor decisions.

By The Times editorial board

5:00 AM PDT, June 16, 2013

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The decision to decommission the San Onofre nuclear power plant doesn't end its saga, which instead promises to drag on for decades. There are long-term uncertainties about where to find replacement power for Southern California Edison customers and how long to allow the plant to take up beach space in Camp Pendleton before demolishing it. Before that, though, the state's Public Utilities Commission will have to decide who should pay for the fiasco that led to San Onofre's early retirement.

The answer is as clear as the imposing double domes of shuttered Units 2 and 3: The bulk of the financial responsibility belongs to Edison, starting with most of the $670 million that the plant's new steam generators cost to buy and install. Design flaws in the generators led to unprecedented wear on their tubes, causing the plant's initial shutdown in early 2012. Before they were purchased, though, Edison won PUC approval to have its customers pay a small monthly fee for the new equipment, which was supposed to see the plant at least to the expiration of its current licenses in 2022.

But ratepayers aren't supposed to foot the bill for power they're not getting. Once the plant had been dark for nine months, its closure triggered a PUC investigation that concluded the generator cost should not be included in ratepayers' bills, according to commission President Michael R. Peevey.

GRAPHIC: Wear and tear at San Onofre

There are no such clear guidelines about who should pay for the additional $400 million or so in expenses that Edison incurred trying to fix the problem. Had it been caused by an unavoidable event such as a freak storm, such costs might have been fairly borne by customers. But that's not what happened. Instead, the company managed to avoid the kind of regulatory oversight that the new generators should have received by convincing the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that they were essentially the same as the old generators. Clearly, they weren't. In addition, Edison signed a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries — which built the generators and, according to an NRC investigation,

was responsible for the design error — that limited Mitsubishi's liability to $135 million. Edison must bear the cost of those poor decisions.

That leaves the cost of decommissioning the plant. Ratepayers were going to have to pay for the plant's retirement sooner or later; in fact, Edison already has $2.7 billion stashed away in a special ratepayer-funded account for this very purpose. But the cost could be considerably higher. Part of it might reasonably be charged to customers. But because Edison's mistakes led to the premature retirement of the plant — which means customers will have also have to buy expensive replacement power — ratepayers should not take on the full cost.

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latimes.com/news/local/la-me-adv-nuclear-neighbors-20130624-1,0,369068.story

latimes.com

San Onofre closure generates mixed feelings

There's relief, sadness, hope and lingering concerns among the San Clemente neighbors of the nuclear power plant.

By Abby Sewell and Anh Do, Los Angeles Times

6:36 PM PDT, June 23, 2013

The picturesque beach city of San Clemente has hummed along for decades just up the highway from the ominous concrete domes of the San Onofre nuclear plant.

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To residents, there were always reminders of their neighbor's presence — the quarterly emergency siren tests and the potassium iodide tablets that local agencies kept on hand to distribute to residents in the 10-mile emergency planning zone around the plant.

But for the most part, the 63,000 residents of this city on the southern edge of Orange County — known for its proximity to legendary surf spots and the rolling coastal hills of Camp Pendleton Marine base — went about their daily lives for years with little thought of the nuclear generating station four miles down Interstate 5.

The tide began to shift in 2011, however, when a tsunami inundated Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, leading to equipment failures and meltdowns at three reactors and raising new concerns about the safety of Southern California's own coastal nuclear plant. A year later, a tube in one of San Onofre's newly installed steam generators leaked a small amount of radioactive steam, setting off a chain of events that led to Edison's announcement this month that the facility will be retired for good.

Residents in San Clemente greeted the news with a mix of feelings — relief; sadness that the jobs of hundreds of utility workers who lived, shopped, and ate and drank in town will be lost; and worry about replacing the plant's energy and about the nuclear waste that will remain at the site.

"Every year, I have to sign a waiver so if something happened or leaked while the kids are in school, we give the school permission to give them iodine tablets," said Alicia Lopez, a mother of three who waits tables at the OC Tavern, a restaurant and sports bar in San Clemente that is popular with San Onofre workers.

"That's crazy," Lopez said. "I had to ask my pediatrician if I should do it. I'll be glad when we don't have to deal with that."

But Lopez's relief was tempered with regret at the thought that many of her longtime customers will lose their jobs as the plant is mothballed.

Over the next year, the plant's workforce will be cut from 1,500 to about 400 — who will be charged with securing the plant during the potentially decades-long decommissioning process.

Daniel Dominguez, business manager for Utility Workers Union of America Local 246, said the employees were disappointed but will now focus on keeping the facility safely shut down:

"We're all professionals," he said. "It's unfortunate the plant was shut down, but it is what it is."

A plant employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly, said many workers hadn't expected a decision on the plant's fate until later in the year and were caught off guard. The plant's workforce has already been cut by about 700 in the last year.

"We just went through a very painful reduction in force," he said. "Some people just barely made it through, and they celebrated."

The employee said he expected that many of his colleagues would leave Southern California to find jobs elsewhere with comparable pay. With San Onofre gone, the two nearest nuclear plants are Diablo Canyon near San Luis Obispo and Palo Verde in Arizona.

San Clemente officials said about 400 of the plant's employees live in the city. On top of that, contractors stay for months at a time during the plant's regular refueling outages and other projects — including the steam generator replacement that ultimately led to the plant's permanent closure.

Eric Moser, general manager at the Best Western Casablanca Inn in San Clemente, said San Onofre contractors made up about 3% to 4% of the hotel's overall business; but during the winter months when the plant generally scheduled its refueling outages, they could account for 30% or more.

Some suggested that the plant's closure could boost property values. Median home prices in San Clemente are about half that of nearby Laguna Beach, according to real estate firm DataQuick, and lower too than in neighboring Dana Point, which also is within San Onofre's emergency planning zone but a few miles farther from the plant.

"We have disclosures we have to give to people. Sometimes it's an issue, sometimes it's not," said Debbie Ferrari, who owns a local real estate business and has lived in San Clemente since 1981. She said it is difficult to determine whether the plant has been a factor in real estate decisions.

"We might have more people willing to come here now that it's closed, and willing to pay a higher price."

San Onofre's first reactor began operating in 1968, and Units 2 and 3 followed in the early 1980s. Unit 1 was shut down in 1992 rather than undergo expensive upgrades. The other two units were expected to continue generating power at least until 2022, when the plant's license expired. But the leak and unusual wear on hundreds of other tubes led to a complex regulatory process that had dragged on for 16 months while the plant sat idle. With no end in sight, Edison threw in the towel.

There have always been those who viewed the plant with suspicion.

In 1970, residents argued that an expanded plant would be in danger of sabotage because then-President Nixon's home — the so-called Western White House — was about 11/2 miles away. A decade later, about 15,000 people attended a festival in Laguna Niguel, calling for San Onofre to be shut down and replaced with renewable energy.

San Clemente City Councilwoman Lori Donchak said community concerns about the plant surged after the Fukushima disaster. The council sent letters to federal officials asking them to find a permanent off-site storage place for spent fuel before relicensing the plant. But city officials stayed out of the more recent debate over restarting the plant.

"I felt like we should let the experts decide how to operate this thing and how to do the restart," said Mayor Bob Baker, who characterized the activists opposed to the plant as a "very vocal minority."

Activists celebrated the plant's closure but expressed lingering concerns about the waste that will be left behind, perhaps indefinitely.

"We'll probably never do anything more important in our lives," said Gary Headrick, co-founder of the group San Clemente Green, who along with his wife has devoted his life since 2009 to shutting down the plant.

Gene Stone, 66, a local activist who launched an effort to outfit residents with portable Geiger counters so they could post real-time radiation readings online, called the permanent closing of the plant a "good step" for safety, but said: "The bad news is the easy part is over. We need to work to make sure it's decommissioned properly. There's no way in the world that we will allow this to be a nuclear waste dump."

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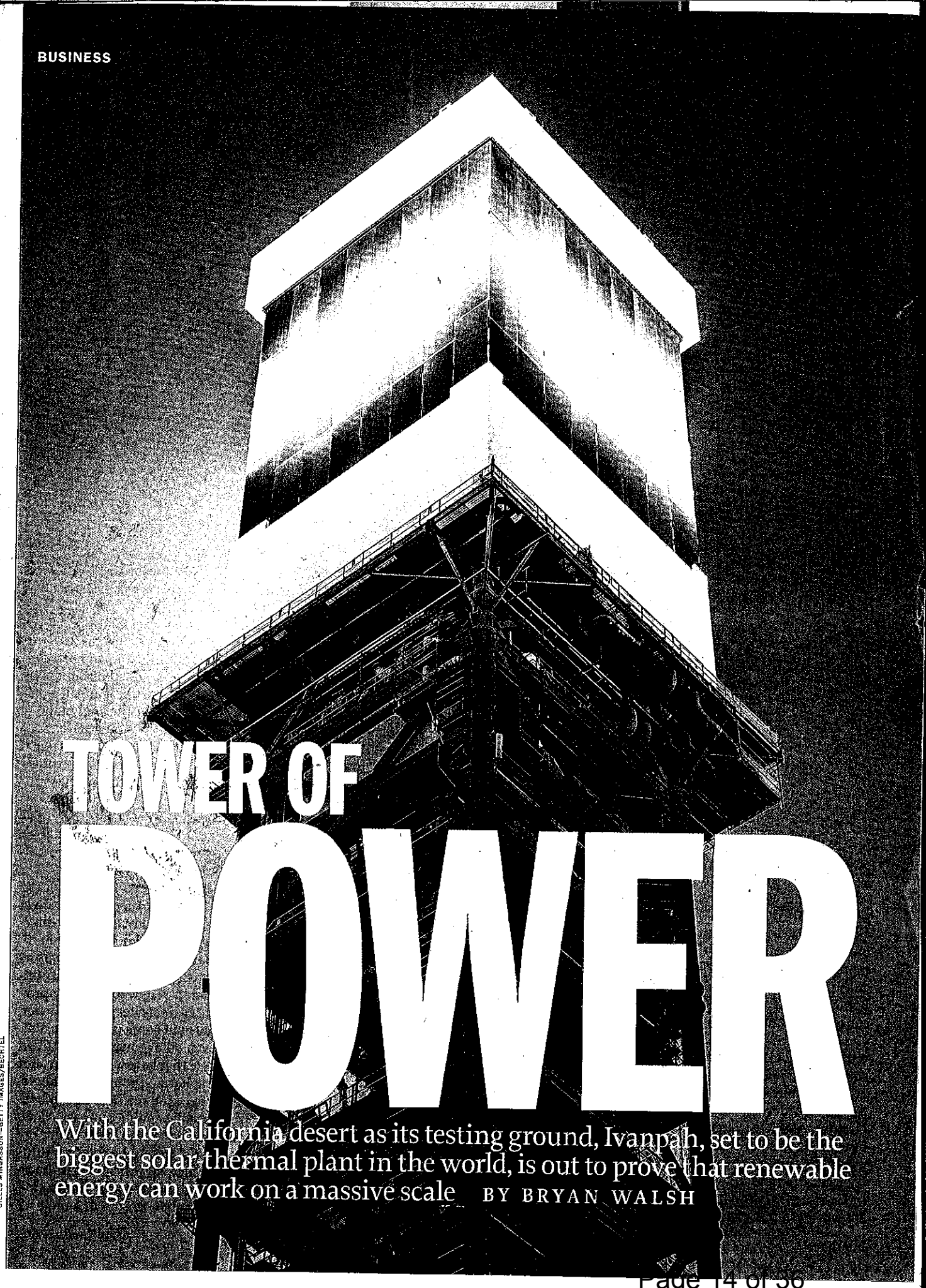


TOWER OF POWER

With the California desert as its testing ground, Ivanpah, set to be the biggest solar-thermal plant in the world, is out to prove that renewable energy can work on a massive scale BY BRYAN WALSH

GILLES MINGASSON—GETTY IMAGES/BECHTEL

Desert roses *Ivanpah's three solar towers near the California-Nevada border are surrounded by hundreds of thousands of mirrors reflecting sunlight*

JIM WEST—ZUMA PRESS

"DON'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE tower. It's tempting, but really—don't." Mike Bobinecz, vice president of construction management at BrightSource Energy, is just trying to preserve my eyesight—and presumably his company's safety record. Bobinecz is one of my guides at the Ivanpah solar-thermal plant, and as he walks me through this project on the edges of California's Mojave Desert, it's hard not to glance, at least through darkly shaded glasses, at the thousands of angled mirrors reflecting the morning sun. At the center of the circles, Ivanpah's nearly 500-ft.-high (150 m) Unit 1 solar tower glows with an incandescent white light that burns an afterimage on my retinas from more than a mile away. "It's like looking at the magnification of 28,000 suns," says Bobinecz. This is solar energy at its most concentrated and most powerful.

Unit 1 is the first of three towers that will be part of the Ivanpah project, which sprawls over nearly 4,000 acres (1,600 hectares) of public land near the California-Nevada border. By the time the entire plant is completed later this year, it will be the biggest solar-thermal project in the world, producing 392 megawatts of electricity—enough to power 140,000 homes in California. Ivanpah will be as different from the rooftop panels that most of us associate with solar power as a modern coal plant is from a basement boiler. Instead of converting sunlight directly into electricity, as a photovoltaic module does, Ivanpah will harness the sun to generate heat and use that to create electricity. Given the vast amount of desert land that gets reliable year-round sunshine, solar-thermal technology could be the fastest way for renewable energy to scale up. It will be able to generate reliable base-load power, the day-to-day, background level of electricity that utilities must have to function and which other renewable sources like traditional solar panels and wind-power programs have struggled to provide. Ivanpah—$2.2 billion and some four years in the making—will be the proving ground. Says David Crane, CEO of NRG Energy, a Princeton, N.J.–based energy company that's a major investor in Ivanpah: "It's a huge step for California and the world."

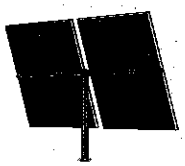
Ivanpah may be a landmark for renewables, but the technology behind it is surprisingly straightforward. It generates electricity the same way a conventional power plant does, by harnessing heat. The mirrors, known as heliostats, concentrate the sun's energy on a solar tower, which contains water. The gathered sunlight turns the water into superheated steam, which is piped to a turbine at the base of the tower to generate electricity. Desert sunlight does the work that a coal- or natural-gas-fired furnace does in a conventional plant—except that Ivanpah produces no carbon emissions and no pollution. And while Ivanpah won't be the world's first solar-thermal plant, it will be the biggest, thanks in part to its solar-tower design. (Most earlier solar-thermal plants use a parabolic-trough design, where curved mirrors focus sunlight on a pipe that extends the length of the trough, heating fluid that is then used to create steam.) The tower design enables the plant to generate electricity more efficiently than other forms of concentrated solar power. "Ivanpah is going to double the global capacity of solar thermal in a single step," says Shannon Eddy, executive director of the Large-Scale Solar Association.

For Ivanpah, however, timing was as important as technology. It's virtually impossible for a new renewable-energy project to compete against cheaper, and dirtier, fossil fuels without some initial help. Earlier attempts at solar-tower plants failed largely because that help wasn't there. But Ivanpah's backers—including Google, which invested $168 million—have benefited from steadfast public support. Along with more controversial loans to energy start-ups like Solyndra, the 2009 stimulus package included significant loan guarantees for large-scale solar plants that could cover as much as 80% of a project's

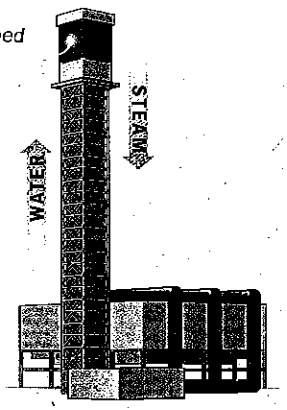
TURNING HEAT INTO ELECTRICITY

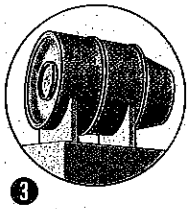
1 HELIOSTATS
Mirrors in the desert concentrate sunlight on the solar tower

Source: Ivanpah



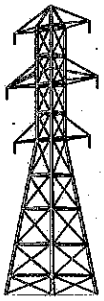
2 SOLAR RECEIVER
Water is transformed into superheated steam and piped to the turbine





3 TURBINE
Steam turns the turbine, which generates electricity

4 GRID
At full blast, the Ivanpah plant will produce nearly 400 megawatts of power



construction costs, as well as cash grants. Without that public support—which included a $1.6 billion government-backed loan—ground might never have been broken on Ivanpah. It helps as well that the investors behind Ivanpah were guaranteed contracts from California utilities for the power produced by the plant—power for which those utilities will pay more per megawatt than the average price of electricity to compensate for solar thermal's higher costs.

But even with a boost from California, Ivanpah faced major challenges, including opposition from environmentalists who would usually be in favor of expanded renewable energy. Ivanpah was sited on federal territory controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which had never been involved with a solar project of this size. Developers tried to minimize the impact on the desert as they built the towers and installed the 173,000 heliostats, limiting gradiug of the land and keeping concrete foundations to a minimum. Because the mirrors rest on poles several feet aboveground, most of the terrain in the solar fields has remained in its natural state.

But the real challenges came when biologists discovered that more than 150 threatened desert tortoises were living on the construction site. The tortoises are protected by the Endangered Species Act, and the government responded by shutting down the multibillion-dollar project for a few months until a plan could be formulated to relocate the animals. The tortoises were eventually moved, albeit at a cost of more than $50 million, adding to the overall bill for the plant. "Ivanpah became a symbolic flash point of the perceived conflict between clean energy and wildlife habitat," says Brendan Cummings, senior counsel at the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group based in Tucson, Ariz. "But the companies and BLM have learned from this, and future projects should be built in less sensitive areas."

The need for conservation isn't the only lesson that will be taken from Ivanpah. Construction of the plant was a massive undertaking involving over 45 million separate parts. BrightSource, the solar-technology developer, and Bechtel Power, the company chiefly responsible for building Ivanpah, developed methods to carry out much of the manufacturing at the construction site—techniques that will be useful the next time a similar plant is built. At a hangar-size facility in the heart of the site, a robot arm plucks from a stack the mirrors that make up the heliostats—each the size of a garage door—and moves them down the assembly line, where workers attach motors that will angle them to catch the sun over the course of a day. From there the heliostats are trucked out to the fields circling the three solar towers, where they're hammered into the ground. "I'm proud of what we've been able to do," says Alasdair Cathcart, the president of Bechtel Power. "Now we need to work to bring the costs down to make solar more competitive."

The big economic question is whether solar-thermal projects like Ivanpah can compete effectively against cheaper fossil fuels—or, for that matter, the more familiar solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. Since construction began on the plant in 2010, the price of PV modules has plummeted thanks to technological advances and a glut of cheap panels, many manufactured by state-supported firms in China. That's made solar PV increasingly popular: more than 3.3 gigawatts of solar PV capacity was installed in the U.S. last year, as the average cost of a completed system dropped by 27%. "It's more difficult to make the case for large-scale solar thermal when PV has gotten so cheap and will keep getting cheaper," says Jenny Chase, the head of solar analysis for Bloomberg New Energy Finance, a clean-tech market-research firm.

Still, large-scale solar has its advantages. The electricity that will be produced by Ivanpah throughout the day will be much more predictable than that generated by a PV panel. The boiler in the solar tower will stay hot—and keep generating steam and electricity—even if the sun disappears behind the clouds for a few hours, while PV panels stop generating electricity when sunlight dims. Future solar-thermal plants may also have the ability to store excess heat generated during the day, possibly through tanks of molten salt, allowing them to keep producing electricity into the evening.

NRG's Crane believes that the future of the power industry will ultimately be solar PV distributed on rooftops, largely because a more decentralized system can bounce back much more quickly after a disrupting event like Hurricane Sandy, which knocked out power to millions for weeks. But in the meantime, utilities need base-load power plants that don't generate greenhouse gases—plants like Ivanpah. "It will probably take 25 years for that change, but utilities can't wait 25 years without new and cleaner infrastructure," Crane says.

That's especially true for sun-drenched regions like the Middle East that are still building up their national power grids. Abu Dhabi opened a 100-megawatt solar-thermal plant earlier this year, and Saudi Arabia is looking to invest more than $100 billion in solar. If all goes well, Ivanpah will be supplying electricity to the grid in California before the end of the year, with all three solar towers lit up like the world's biggest lightbulbs. Try not to look. ■

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PUC head and judge differ on putting Southern California Edison transmission lines underground in Chino Hills

Molly Peterson | June 12th, 2013, 3:59pm

Courtesy Hope for the Hills

Chino Hills residents have waged a 6-year campaign against high voltage transmission lines wedged into narrow right-of-ways among homes that Southern California Edison says will connect Kern County wind energy to the LA Basin.

After a years-long fight over whether to place high-voltage transmission lines above ground or underground through a stretch of Chino Hills, California's Public Utilities Commission is set to decide in July between two competing proposals: an administrative law judge says putting the lines underground would be too expensive, while the PUC's own president says the cost would be "reasonable."

The PUC approved Southern California Edison's **Techachapi Renewable Transmission Project (ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/environ/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP.htm)** back in 2009; it's designed to bring wind energy from Kern County to the L.A. basin. But the project's been on hold for four years as Chino Hills city leaders and residents have complained that the right of way is too narrow, and that putting high-voltage transmission lines so close to residents could create unknown health impacts.

Of particular concern to residents is segment 8A of the project, a 3.5 mile section that weaves through the city of Chino Hills. City officials had appealed a 2009 ruling that rejected placing the transmission lines underground. In her proposed decision issued late Tuesday, **administrative law judge Jean Vieth agreed with the 2009 ruling, (http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M066/K068/66068597.PDF)** and found that while putting power lines underground through the city "is feasible and could be completed on a timely basis," she argued that "the cost is prohibitive [she estimated the cost at between $268 million and $296 million] and should not be borne by ratepayers at large for the benefit of the City and its residents."

But PUC President Michael Peevey **issued an alternate proposed decision Tuesday (http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M065/K706/65706074.PDF)** that calls for putting the lines underground in segment 8A, pleasing Chino Hills residents who have campaigned against the project for years. Peevey's proposal estimates the cost of putting the lines underground at $224 million.

Bob Goodwin is with a group called **Hope for the Hills (http://www.hopeforthehills.org/)**, which has fought the project on a variety of fronts, and which supports the underground option for segment 8A. "We have been very passionate, we have been very serious, and we have been dedicated to doing whatever we can to make sure it gets addressed the way it should have in the first place," Goodwin said.

Goodwin had positive words for both rulings. While Vieth's proposed decision went against Chino Hills, Goodwin points out that the judge said underground construction of power lines is feasible and could be completed on time: two points that Edison has disputed.

But Chino Hills residents including Goodwin are throwing support behind Peevey's proposal. In it, Peevey notes that the proposed transmission towers would be more than double the height of the ones in Chino Hills now, set in a narrow, 150-foot “right of way” among houses.

All five PUC commissioners toured Chino Hills after a prolonged public campaign by Hope for the Hills. Goodwin believes that getting public utilities officials to the city helped. “We've been very successful in putting a name, a face, a community to this project,” Goodwin says.

In a written statement, Edison says that the company "disagrees with the alternate decision and believes that the full commission should adopt the administrative law judge's proposed decision." Edison maintains that putting transmission lines underground in Chino Hills would "burden California energy users with additional costs that SCE estimates would range from $368 million to $722 million for an approximately 3.5 mile stretch of the 173-mile transmission line route" -- a much higher estimate than either Peevey's or Vieth's.

The PUC has until the end of July to consider which alternative to choose. The next commission meeting is July 11th.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

DATE: June 26, 2013

TO: EENR Committee & Water Resources Working Group

FROM: Andrea M. Miller, Executive Director

RE: BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For Information Only.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is vitally important for California's water supply, as it provides water for 25 million Californians located from Silicon Valley to San Diego County and 3 million acres of farmland. Southern California receives approximately 30% of its water from the Delta region. The Della is also critical for the State's ecosystem, as it is home to 750 species of wildlife and plants.

Today the ecosystem of the Bay Delta is in serious decline, and the Delta's water delivery infrastructure is aging and weak. Delta levees are old and fragile and could collapse if a major earthquake were to occur in Northern California.

To address this concern, in 2006, legislation was passed requiring the development of a new vision for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. At that time, the Governor created the Delta Vision Blue-Ribbon Task Force, comprised of experts in water policy, that produced a Strategic Plan for the Delta. Numerous legislative bills were introduced to address various aspects of the Plan. SB I X7 (Simitian) - the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009-was passed, setting co-equal goals of restoring the Delta's ecosystem and creating a reliable water supply system for California. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 created a new legal framework for the Delta, defined the scope of the Delta, analyzed the effect on and ensured the continuation of existing legal protections, and identified early actions that agencies needed to undertake as soon as possible.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a voluntary process that was m1dertaken by state and federal regulatory agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, to develop a habitat conservation plan that identifies the necessary ecosystem and water system improvements for the Delta estuary to meet the protections required under federal and state environmental laws.

It is intended to meet the standards set out in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. Over the last 7 years, representatives from state and federal agencies have been developing a plan that would restore the Delta ecosystem and provide water supply reliability. The BDCP provides a comprehensive conservation strategy to meet a series of broad planning goals and a range of biological goals and objectives. The goals include the following:

- Increase the value, availability, spatial diversity, and complexity of aquatic habitat in the Delta
- Create new opportunities to restore the ecological health of the Delta by modifying the water conveyance infrastructure
- Directly address key ecosystem drivers in addition to freshwater flow patterns rather than manipulation of Delta flow patterns alone
- Improve connectivity an1ong aquatic habitats
- Reduce sources of mortality and other stressors on the covered fish and the aquatic ecosystem in the Delta
- Improve habitat conditions for covered fish in the Delta through integration of water operations with physical habitat enhancement and restoration
- Expand the extent and enhance the functions of existing natural communities and habitat of covered wildlife and plants that is permanently protected
- Restore habitat to expand the populations and distributions of covered wildlife and plant species
- Emphasize natural physical habitat and biological processes to support and maintain species and habitat

There will be a presentation on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan at the June joint meeting of the EENR Committee and Water Resources Working Group.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

DATE: June 26, 2013

TO: EENR Committee & Water Resources Working Group

FROM: Andrea M. Miller, Executive Director

RE: EENR COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For Information Only.

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2013, the SGVCOG held its six-month strategic planning session, intended to identify the goals and objectives of the organization. Twenty-eight attendees from # of cities, including 14 Governing Board members, provided input on the strategic planning session. The group identified several broad priority areas, including transportation, economic development, public safety, water, and environment.

At the June Governing Board meeting, SGVCOG staff prepared an overview of the priority areas identified at the strategic planning session (Attachment 1). SGVCOG recommended that the Governing Board continue to work on the strategic planning goals, to ensure that more members had the opportunity to provide input. The Governing Board authorized staff to discuss each of the priority areas at the individual policy committees, to allow the committees to more clearly define the goals and objectives of the SGVCOG. The recommendations of the individual policy committees would then be brought back to the Governing Board for review and approval.

At the June joint EENR/WRWG meeting, the Committee will be discussing the SGVCOG strategic plan.

Mission

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is a unified voice to maximize resources and advocate for regional interests to improve the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley.

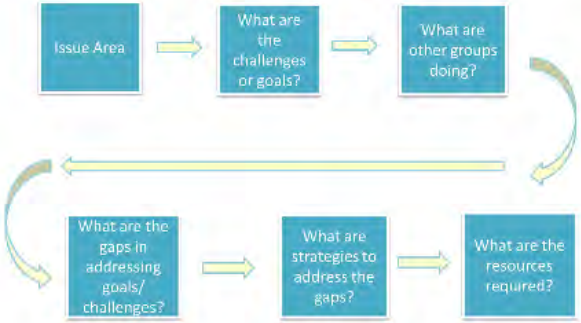
Core Values & Guiding Principles

- *Reflecting the diversity of our member communities*
- *Accountability*
- *Mutual respect*
- *Integrity*
- *Unity of common goals and objectives*
- *Collaboration*
- *Fiscal responsibility*
- *Transparency*
- *Being proactive and results oriented*
- *Creativity*

Outreach

- Policy Committees
- Technical Advisory Committees
- Member Agencies

Issue Analysis



SGVCOG Strategic Plan
Summer 2013

Prezi

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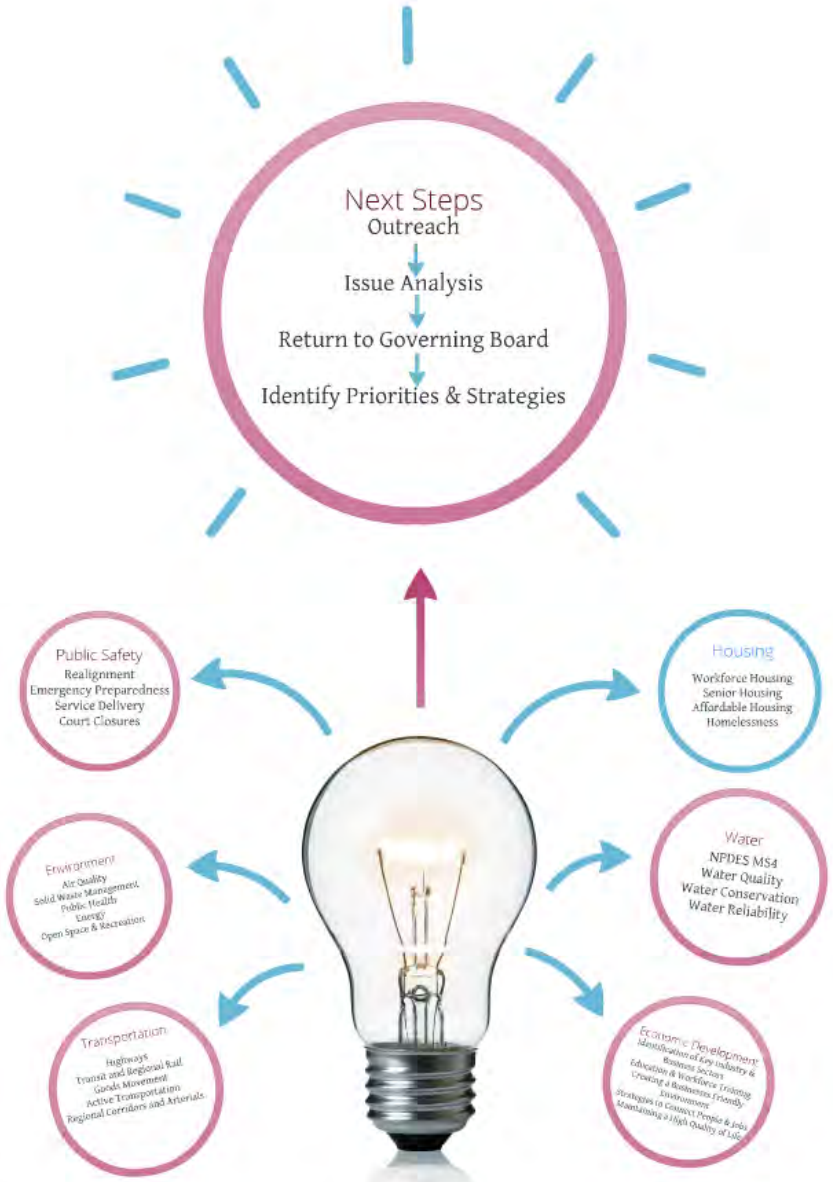

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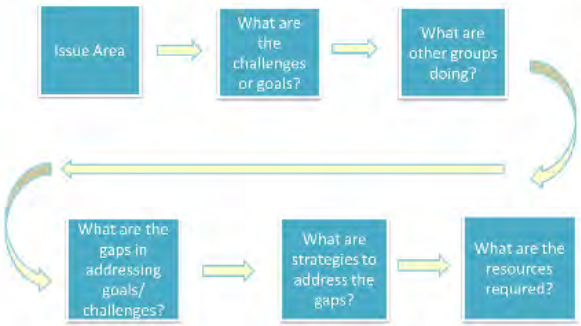

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Prezi

Transportation

Highways
Transit and Regional Rail
Goods Movement
Active Transportation
Regional Corridors and Arterials

Prezi

Economic Development

Identification of Key Industry & Business Sectors

Education & Workforce Training

Creating a Businesses Friendly Environment

Strategies to Connect People & Jobs

Maintaining a High Quality of Life

Prezi

Environment

Air Quality
Solid Waste Management
Public Health
Energy
Open Space & Recreation

Prezi

Water

NPDES MS4
Water Quality
Water Conservation
Water Reliability

Prezi

Public Safety

Realignment

Emergency Preparedness

Service Delivery

Court Closures

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Housing

Workforce Housing
Senior Housing
Affordable Housing
Homelessness

Prezi

Next Steps

Outreach

Issue Analysis

Return to Governing Board

Identify Priorities & Strategies

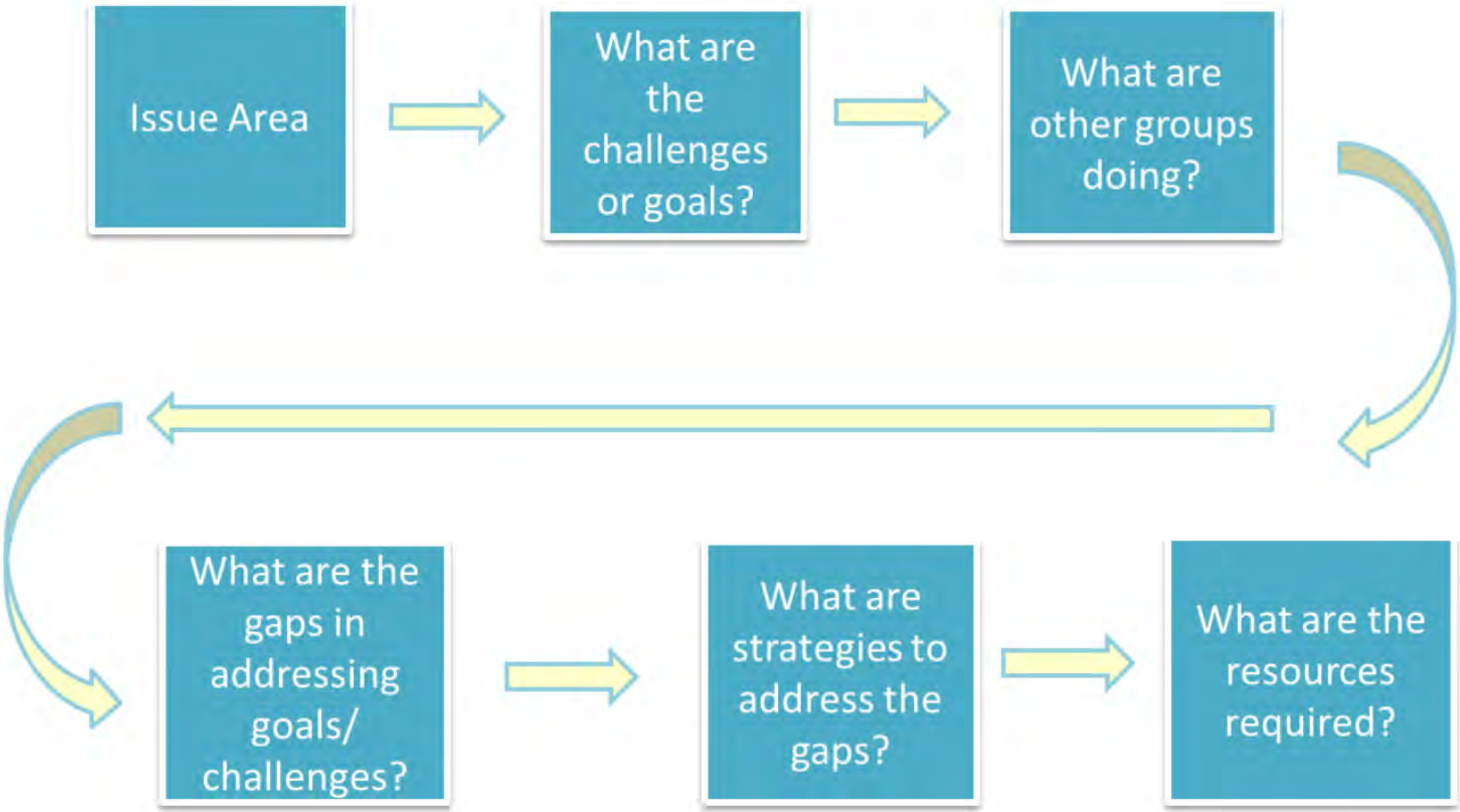
Prezi

Outreach

- Policy Committees
- Technical Advisory Committees
- Member Agencies

Prezi

Issue Analysis



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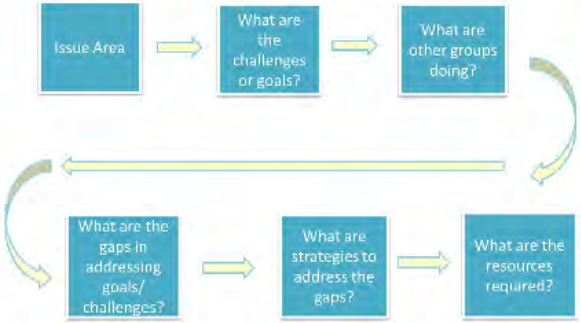

SGVCOG Strategic Plan
Summer 2013

Prezi

Save the Date

San Gabriel Valley National Recreation Area Designation Workshop

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments will host a workshop to discuss the proposed San Gabriel Valley National Recreation Area and opportunities to protect open space.

Date: Tuesday, July 30
Time: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
Location: San Dimas City Hall
Council Chambers
245 E. Bonita Ave.
San Dimas, CA 91773

Attendees:
City Council Members
City Managers
City Staff
Businesses
Interested Members of the Public

Objectives: Learn about the various proposals for open space protection for the San Gabriel Valley. Begin formulating principles related to the SGVCOG's position on the various proposals.

Please RSVP to csims@sgvcog.org by Thursday, July 25.

San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments