



County of Yolo

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February 14, 2006

Peter Brundage
Sacramento LAFCO
1112 I Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Comments on Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Sphere of Influence Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Mr. Brundage:

Yolo County submits the following comments on the (DEIR) for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Sphere of Influence Amendment.

Yolo County strongly supports the entry of SMUD service into the eastern and central portions of the County. We believe the DEIR has adequately described the potential impacts, and recommended mitigation measures, related to the construction of certain infrastructure to extend service into the County.

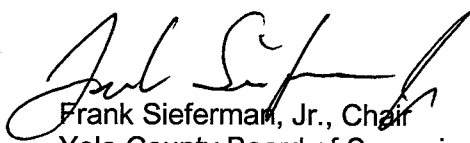
We have the following relatively minor comments that we wish LAFCO to consider when preparing the Final EIR:

- A. Agricultural Resources. The "Best Management Practices/Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Program" section of Program Description for the project (Chapter II) should be amended to indicate that the project will provide 1:1 agricultural mitigation in Yolo County according to the requirements of Title 8, Section 8-2.2416, of the Yolo County Code (Agricultural Land Conversion), which requires 1:1 mitigation or payment of an in-lieu mitigation fee. Mitigation Measure AG-1 (page IV-12) should similarly be amended to reference the County Code section.
- B. Biological Resources. The Final EIR should discuss whether the project will participate as a permittee in the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), now under preparation by the Yolo County Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and/or whether the project will mitigate for impacts to Swainson's Hawk impacts as an applicant under the JPA's interim in-lieu fee program prior to HCP approval. The "Best Management Practices/Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Program" section of the Program Description and Mitigation Measure BIO-6 (page IV-94) should be amended with this discussion and revised mitigation text to reflect the decision that is made.

- C. The reference on page IV-94 that "the program will constitute about 4.8 acres" of agricultural land conversion should be made consistent with the estimates of "up to 4.5 acres" in the Program Description and the agricultural impact section.
- D. Aesthetics. The DEIR states that the proposed transmission line from SMUD's Elverta Substation to Woodland will cross County Roads 16 and 117, which are currently listed by the County as scenic roadways. The County understands that this is the most feasible way to connect the proposed annexation area electric system to SMUD's existing electric system. However, to minimize the impacts to County Roads 16 and 117, the County expects to be consulted during the transmission line siting process proposed in the DEIR.
- E. Land Use and Planning. The DEIR analyzes the consistency of the project components with the Sacramento County General Plan, and proposes that SMUD will collaborate with property owners, local jurisdictions, and agencies for the siting of the proposed transmission line and substation, and will utilize the Sacramento County General Plan for guidance. The DEIR should be amended to also analyze the consistency of the project components that are proposed in Yolo County (the proposed Willow Slough Substation and the Elverta-to-Woodland transmission line), with the Yolo County General Plan. Yolo County strongly supports and will participate in a collaborative public process for siting these facilities in Yolo County, based on policies in the Yolo County General Plan and applicable ordinances.
- F. Noise. The DEIR concludes that the short-term noise associated with construction of the new transmission line and substation may exceed adopted noise standards. Although this work is primarily limited to existing rural and agricultural areas, the County requires that construction hours within the County be limited to: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. In addition, all internal combustion engines must have suitable mufflers.
- G. Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring. The DEIR proposes that SMUD be responsible for providing mitigation monitoring reports to LAFCo. The County agrees with this requirement to ensure accountability for mitigation.
- H. As stated in the DEIR, if the annexation is approved by LAFCo and the voters, SMUD would perform future project level analysis, under the California Environmental Quality Act, for siting the proposed Willow Slough Substation and the Elverta-to-Woodland transmission line. The County would like to participate in any future analysis and may provide additional comments beyond those provided in this letter.

If you have any questions about these comments, you may contact Eric Parfrey, Principal Planner at (530) 666-8043 or eric.parfrey@yolocounty.org.

Sincerely,


Frank Siefertman, Jr., Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Elizabeth Kemper, Yolo County LAFCO
Yolo County Planning Commission