

# Exhibit to Agenda Item #12

Adopt the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)** for the **EI Rio Substation Project (Project)**; adopt the **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**; and approve the **Project**.

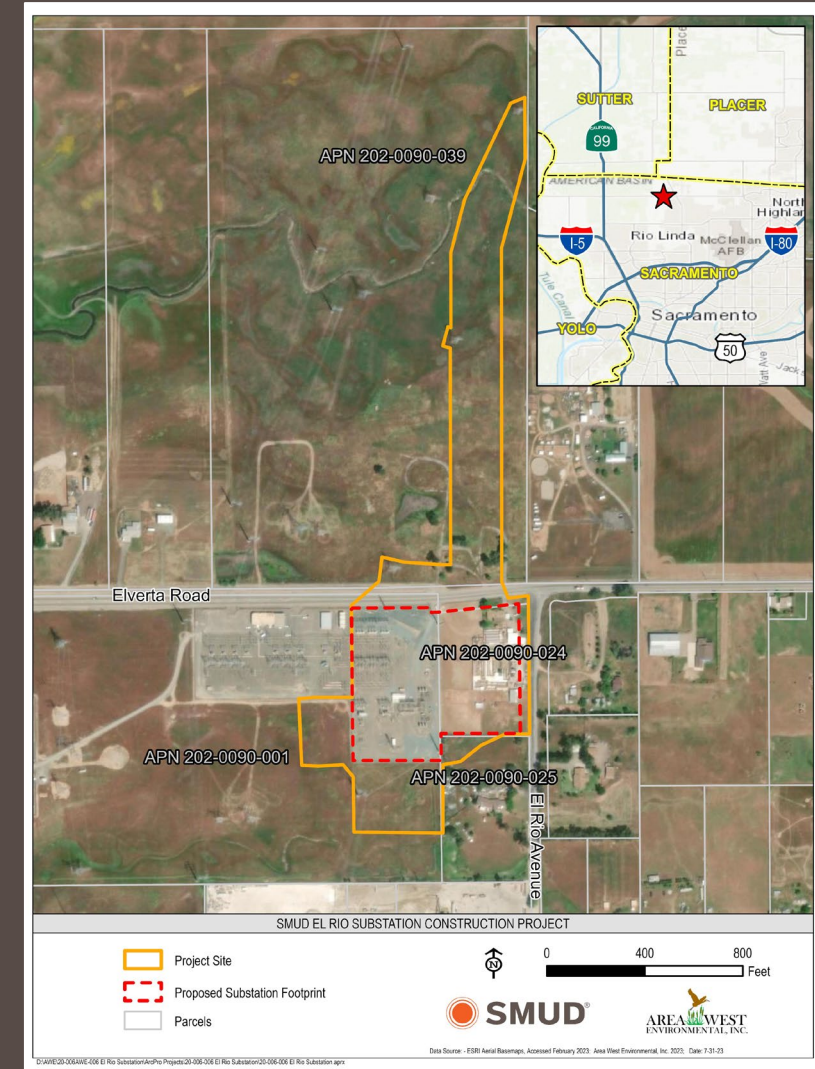
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium, SMUD Headquarters Building

# Project Overview

- El Rio Substation would replace the existing Elverta Substation
- Improve reliability and allow for interconnection to renewable generation
- Add operational flexibility to the SMUD Bulk electric system
- Replace two existing electrical towers
- Minimize impacts to nearby sensitive receptors and sensitive natural communities



# Environmental Analysis

- Prepared an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- Potentially significant impacts reduced to less-than-significant levels with mitigation measures related to:
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Geology/Soils
  - Hazards & Hazardous Materials
  - Noise
  - Tribal Cultural Resources



# Public Review Process

- Notice of Intent and Draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration, 30-day public comment period (September 5 – October 5, 2023)
- Published at SMUD.org, Sacramento Bee, and State Clearinghouse
- Notices mailed to property owners within 1,000 feet of the project
- State and Federal Agencies, Tribes, School Districts, County Departments
- Document available at SMUD Customer Service Center and East Campus Operations Center
- Hybrid In-person and Virtual Public Meeting, September 26, 2023
- Final IS/MND posted on November 3rd and provided to all commentors

# Draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration Commenters

- Two local residents
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District



# Tribal Consultation under CEQA

- Initial outreach on March 21, 2023
- Tribes Contacted:
  - United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC)
  - Wilton Rancheria
  - Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
  - Lone Band of Miwok Indians
- UAIC, Wilton Rancheria, and Shingle Springs requested consultation
- Site visit with Wilton on April 12, 2023
- Project updates during regular reoccurring Tribal consultation meetings
- Input on Tribal Cultural Resources section and Mitigation Measures

# Requested SMUD Board Action

- Adopt the California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration for the El Rio Substation Construction Project;
- Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
- Approve the Project