

# Project Overview

## What is Central Valley Power Connect?

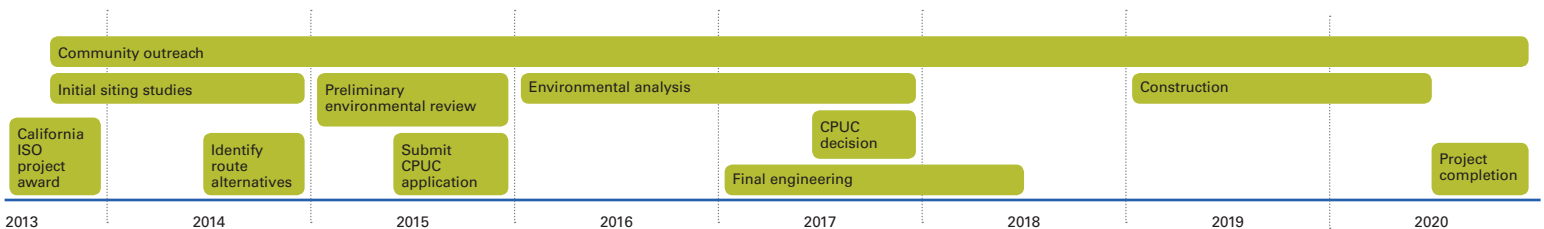
To ensure a reliable energy future for the Central Valley's growing communities, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), BHE U.S. Transmission and Citizens Energy Corporation are proposing Central Valley Power Connect (Power Connect), a new 230-kilovolt transmission line. This team was selected by the California Independent System Operator (ISO), a non-profit public benefit corporation, to finance, build, own, operate and maintain the line following a competitive bid process completed in late 2013. The ISO approved Power Connect in its 2012-2013 Transmission Plan, although additional approvals will be needed from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in order to construct the project.



Brightening  
Fresno

Depending on the route selected, Power Connect will span approximately 70 miles across Fresno, Kings and Madera counties, connecting PG&E's existing Gates Substation in Fresno County to the Gregg Substation in Madera County. The project is currently in the planning stages. PG&E, BHE U.S. Transmission and Citizens Energy Corporation are committed to working with the community throughout the project development process and will provide numerous opportunities for public input. If approved by the CPUC, Power Connect is scheduled to be operational by 2020.

## Anticipated Project Schedule



# Project Overview



## Project Benefits

Central Valley Power Connect will provide numerous benefits to the local community, including:

**Reliable Energy for our Future**

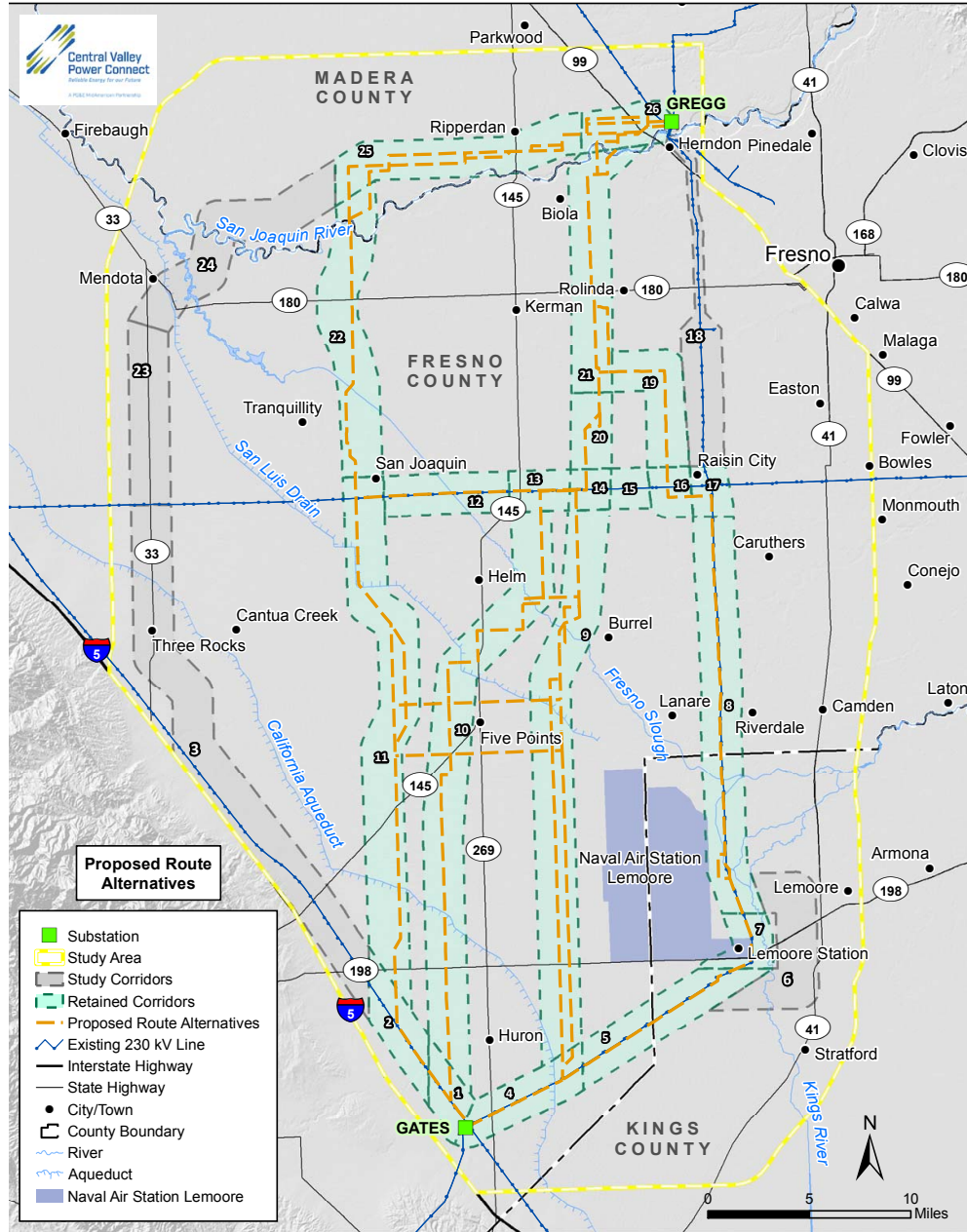
**New Jobs and Tax Revenues**

**Access to Affordable, Efficient Energy through the Helms Pumped Storage Project**

**Delivery of Clean, Renewable Energy**

## Where Are We Now?

With the development of routing alternatives, the Power Connect team is continuing to evaluate the proposed 300-foot-wide route alternatives and has begun environmental studies. The information collected during this process will be incorporated into a project application and submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) later this year. This will kick off a formal environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which provides numerous opportunities for public input. The CPUC has sole jurisdiction in California over the siting of transmission lines and will decide on a final route for Power Connect following this robust review process. A CPUC vote on the project is expected to occur in late 2017. If Power Connect is approved, construction is expected to begin in 2018, with completion of the new line scheduled for 2020.



The map above represents the 300-foot-wide route alternatives that are currently being evaluated by the Power Connect Project Team. The team began the planning process by identifying a large geographic area where the new transmission line could potentially be located. As a next step in the siting refinement process, the Power Connect team narrowed down the project area map into 2-mile-wide study corridors where the new transmission line could potentially be located. Extensive public outreach and engagement have been integrated throughout, including 10 open houses last year in communities throughout the project study area. In Fresno County, open houses occurred in Fresno, Caruthers, Huron, Five Points, Kerman and Mendota.

## Supporting our Future

The Central Valley Coalition for Reliable Energy is a group of business and community leaders, residents, and elected officials from Fresno, Kings and Madera counties who support a reliable energy future in the Central Valley. In order to help achieve this goal, the coalition supports the need for Central Valley Power Connect (Power Connect), a new 230 kilovolt transmission line proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), BHE U.S. Transmission and Citizens Energy Corporation. While we will not take a position on a specific route for this important project, we believe this type of infrastructure improvement is critical to the Central Valley's future prosperity.



*New construction jobs*



*Continued use of Helms*



*Support for renewable energy*

The Central Valley is growing, and a new electric transmission line is needed to serve the region's increasing demand for energy in the future. Reliable power will help support the region's economy and maintain quality of life for local residents. We recognize the importance of maintaining and improving our infrastructure through projects such as Power Connect to support our region's economic prosperity. In addition to ensuring future electric reliability, Power Connect will:

- Create several hundred new jobs during construction;
- Generate millions in local tax revenues during and after construction;
- Provide nearly \$50 million in economic impact to local communities;
- Support the use of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources; and
- Allow for the continued maximization of the Helms Pumped Storage Project.

## Coalition Co-Chairs

**Debi Bray**  
Madera Chamber of Commerce

**Dr. Carole Goldsmith**  
West Hills College Coalinga

**Ryan Jacobsen**  
Fresno County Farm Bureau

**John Lehn**  
Kings County Economic Development Corporation.

## Additional Coalition Members

**Judy Case McNairy**  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors (Retired)

**Manuel Cunha**  
Nisei Farmers League

**Mike Dozier**  
Fresno State Office of Community and Economic Development

**Lee Ann Eager**  
Fresno County Economic Development Corporation

**Bobby Kahn**  
Madera Economic Development Commission

**Raj Beasla**  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**Phil Larson**  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors (Retired)

**John Leal**  
State Center Community College District

**Mike Prandini**  
Building Industry Association

**Al Smith**  
Fresno Chamber of Commerce

**Doug Verboon**  
Kings County Board of Supervisors

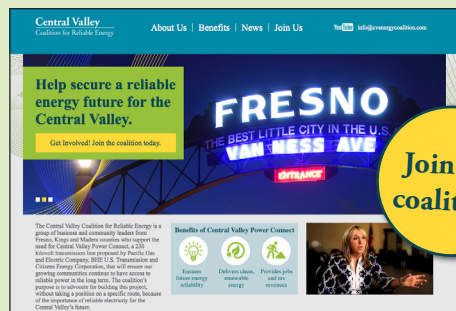
**Dora Westerlund**  
Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation

## Get Involved

Want to help Central Valley businesses and residences continue to have reliable power? Here's how you can learn more and join the coalition.

### Visit the website and join the coalition:

▶ [www.CVEnergyCoalition.com](http://www.CVEnergyCoalition.com)



### Check out our YouTube channel:

▶ [Central Valley Coalition for Reliable Energy](#)



### Get in touch:

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