



California Public Utilities Commission



August 1, 2025

VIA EMAIL

To: Service List for the R.23-05-018 Proceeding

Re: *CPUC General Order 131-E Pilot Program Metrics*

Hello R.23-05-018 service list,

This letter provides notice of a virtual workshop hosted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Energy Division and requests input on a proposed set of metrics to be tracked and reported upon in the General Order (GO) 131-E pilot program required by CPUC [Decision \(D.\) 25-01-055](#). Please review the proposed metrics in Attachment 1 and provide any comments in writing to the R.23-05-018 service list by September 5, 2025.

Background

In the R.23-05-018 rulemaking proceeding, the CPUC considered updates to streamline and clarify its GO 131-D permitting requirements for electric transmission facilities pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 529 (Hertzberg; Stats. 2022, Ch. 357). On January 30, 2025, in D.25-01-055, the CPUC adopted a new GO 131-E, superseding GO 131-D. The decision also directed CPUC Energy Division staff to administer a pilot program to “evaluate the Commission’s existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for electric transmission projects” (D.25-01-055 at page 150) and “evaluate ways to accelerate existing CEQA processes” (D.25-01-055 at page 148).

CPUC D.25-01-055 (at pages 150-151) specified the following attributes for the pilot program:

- The pilot program must be administered by CPUC Energy Division staff consistent with the R.23-05-018 Phase 2 staff proposal (Staff Proposal for R.23-05-018 Phase 2 Updates to General Order 131-D, May 17, 2024) and using the lists of potential selection criteria and metrics to track and report findings.
- The pilot program must include at least two projects where a mitigated negative declaration (MND) may be adopted within 270 days of deeming the application complete, and at least two projects where an environmental impact report (EIR) may be certified within 455 days of deeming the application complete.
- The pilot program must include at least one project filed by each of California’s three large investor-owned utilities (IOUs): Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E).
- The pilot program must include a mixture of competitively bid projects (i.e., awarded to a selected project sponsor by the California Independent System Operator [CAISO] through a competitive solicitation process) and non-competitively bid projects (i.e., utility-initiated projects or those awarded to a project sponsor by CAISO without a competitive solicitation process).
- CPUC Energy Division staff must report on the results of the pilot program by compliance filing to the R.23-05-018 proceeding docket on December 1 of every even year beginning December 1, 2026.

In addition to the direction provided in D.25-01-055, Staff’s objectives for the pilot program are as follows:

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- Evaluate the CPUC's existing CEQA review process for electric transmission projects with the goal of identifying process improvements and other opportunities to accelerate permitting timelines.
- Define and track the project-specific factors that affect electric transmission permitting timelines, including the causes and durations of "schedule change events" that can contribute to delays.
- Track and report on the implementation of newly introduced GO 131-E processes, e.g., the new application process wherein utilities are authorized to file applicant-prepared administrative draft versions of CEQA documents in lieu of a proponent's environmental assessment (PEA).
- Report the results of the pilot program to the public in biennial reports filed to the R.23-05-018 proceeding docket beginning December 1, 2026, as well as in a public-facing dashboard on the CPUC website to be regularly updated by CPUC staff.

Pursuant to D.25-01-055, CPUC Energy Division staff have developed a proposed set of metrics (enclosed herein as Attachment 1) that staff would track and report for each pilot project as part of the pilot program. The list of potential metrics includes dates and attributes that staff would track and use to calculate detailed and high-level performance metrics for each of the selected pilot projects. The performance metrics would be used to evaluate the CPUC CEQA review process for each project and to fulfill the objectives of the pilot program, as outlined above.

The CPUC is still in the process of selecting the specific list of pilot projects that will be subject to the pilot program. However, the list of selected projects will reflect the criteria set forth in D.25-01-055. CPUC staff will continue to process permit applications in the order they are received and will not be prioritizing pilot projects over other projects. The benefits of the pilot program include greater transparency and a heightened focus on identifying process improvements specific to the selected projects.

Party Input on Proposed Metrics

Parties are invited to review the proposed metrics in Attachment 1 and provide any comments in writing to the R.23-05-018 service list by September 5, 2025. Comments should focus on the list of project attributes, dates, and metrics that staff propose to track and report as part of the pilot program, including any suggestions for additions or other revisions to the proposed metrics.

Workshop Details

On Thursday, August 21, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, CPUC Energy Division staff will host a two-hour virtual workshop via Webex video conference to present the proposed pilot project metrics and receive verbal input from parties.

The login information for the workshop is as follows:



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- Meeting Link: <https://cpuc.webex.com/cpuc/j.php?MTID=m679b9e8beac963065f0ce5ef0be3522f>
- Meeting Number (Access Code): 2484 084 5900
- Meeting Password: YPkYN8XZe38
- Toll-Free for Audio-Only: 1-855-282-6330
- Toll for Audio-Only: +1-415-655-0002

Please email me at michelle.wilson@cpuc.ca.gov or call me at (415) 696-7371 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Wilson".

Michelle Wilson
Program and Project Supervisor
California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division, CEQA and Energy Permitting Section

Attachment:

1. Proposed Pilot Program Metrics

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Attachment 1: Proposed Pilot Program Metrics

Potential Pilot Descriptors and Metrics			
Category	ID	Data Field	Description
Attributes	1.1	Project Name	Primary name of the project as used by the applicant in the filed application
	1.2	Applicant(s)	Name of the utility or utilities proposing to construct the project
	1.3	Application No.	CPCN or PTC application number
	1.4	Permit Type	Type of permit requested in the application (i.e., CPCN or PTC)
	1.5	Federal Involvement	Whether the project requires federal agency permitting (Federal) or not (Non-Federal)
	1.6	CEQA Document Type	Type of CEQA document prepared by the CPUC (e.g., IS/MND, EIR)
	1.7	NEPA Document Type	Type of NEPA document prepared by the lead NEPA agency (e.g., EA, EIS), if applicable
	1.8	Voltage(s)	Kilovolt (kV) rating of proposed transmission facilities
	1.9	Miles or Acreage	Length (miles) of proposed linear infrastructure and/or area (acres) of proposed substation(s)
	1.10	Competitively Bid or Non-Competitively Bid	Whether the project was competitively or non-competitively awarded to the project sponsor
	1.11	CAISO Approval Year	Date(s) the project was approved in a CAISO transmission plan, if applicable
	1.12	Expected In-Service Date	Expected project in-service date specified by CAISO in the transmission plan
Dates	2.1	CAISO Award Date	Date CAISO selected the approved project sponsor
	2.2	12-Month Notice Date	Date the applicant first notified the CPUC of the forthcoming application
	2.3	Pre-Filing Date	Date the applicant initiated pre-filing consultation
	2.4	File Date	Date the CPCN or PTC application was filed
	2.5	Date(s) Deficiency Letter(s) Issued	Date the CPUC issued each deficiency letter to the applicant(s)
	2.6	Date(s) of Deficiency Letter Response(s)	Date the applicant(s) responded to each deficiency letter
	2.7	Date Deemed Complete	Date the CPCN or PTC application was deemed complete
	2.8	Amendment File Date(s)	Date(s) of any application amendments filed
	2.9	Date(s) Data Request(s) Issued	Date the CPUC issued each data request to the applicant(s)
	2.10	Date(s) of Data Request Response(s)	Date the applicant(s) responded to each CPUC data request
	2.11	Schedule Change Event Start Date	Start date of each schedule change event that substantively altered the project schedule
	2.12	Schedule Change Event End Date	End date of each schedule change event that substantively altered the project schedule
	2.13	Public Draft CEQA Document Date	Date the draft CEQA document was released for public review
	2.14	Final CEQA Document Date	Date the final CEQA document was adopted or certified
	2.15	Prehearing Conference Date	Date the prehearing conference was held in the PTC or CPCN proceeding
	2.16	Proposed Decision Date	Date the CPUC issued a proposed decision on the project
	2.17	Final Decision Date	Date the CPUC adopted a final decision to approve or deny the project
	2.18	NEPA - Lead Agency File Date	Date the applicant filed an application with the lead NEPA agency (if applicable)
	2.19	NEPA - NOI Date (if EIS)	Date the NEPA lead agency issued a notice of intent to prepare an EIS (if applicable)
	2.20	NEPA - Public Draft NEPA Document Date	Date the NEPA lead agency released a draft NEPA document for public review (if applicable)
	2.21	NEPA - NHPA Section 106 Completion Date	Date the SHPO concurred with the NEPA lead agency's cultural resources finding of effect, concluding cultural resources consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (if applicable)

Attachment 1: Proposed Pilot Program Metrics

	2.22	NEPA - ESA Consultation Completion Date	Date USFWS and/or NMFS consultation concluded (i.e., date USFWS/NMFS concurred w/ agency determination, if informal consultation, or date USFWS/NMFS completed a biological opinion, if formal consultation) under Section 4 or 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (if applicable)
	2.23	NEPA - FONSI Date (if EA)	Date the NEPA lead agency issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project (if applicable)
	2.24	NEPA - Record of Decision Date (if EIS)	Date the NEPA lead agency published a Record of Decision (ROD) and adopted the final EIR (if applicable)
Performance Metrics (High-Level)	3.1	Clock: Total Pre-Filing Time	Total number of days from CAISO Award to File Date
	3.2	Clock: Total Time to Deem Application Complete	Total number of days from File Date to Deemed Complete
	3.3	Clock: Total CEQA Time	Total number of days from Deemed Complete to Final CEQA Document
	3.4	Clock: Total CPUC Permit Time	Total number of days from Deemed Complete to Final Decision
	3.5	Clock: Total NEPA Time	Total number of days from NEPA lead agency permit application to final decision (if applicable)
	3.6	Number of Deficiency Letters	Number of deficiency letters issued (if applicable)
	3.7	Number of Data Requests	Number of data requests issued (if applicable)
	3.8	Number of Amendments	Number of application amendments filed (if applicable)
	3.9	Number of Schedule Change Events	Number of schedule change events (if applicable)
	3.10	Clock: Total Delay Duration	Total number of days of delay due to schedule change events
	3.11	Status	Current project status
Performance Metrics (Detailed)	3.1.A	Time from CAISO Award to 12-Month Notice	Total number of days from the CAISO Award Date to the 12-Month Notice date
	3.1.B	Time from CAISO Award to Prefile Date	Total number of days from the CAISO Award date to the Pre-Filing date
	3.1.C	Time from Prefiling to File Date	Total number of days from the Pre-Filing Date to the File Date
	3.2.A	Number of Deficiency Letters	Total number of deficiency letters issued by the CPUC to the applicant
	3.2.B	Deficiency Letter Response Time (Average)	Average (mean) number of days for the applicant to respond to application deficiency letters
	3.2.C	Deficiency Letter Response Time (Total)	Total number of days in which deficiency letters were outstanding
	3.3.A	Number of Data Requests	Total number of data requests issued by the CPUC to the applicant
	3.3.B	Data Request Response Time (Average)	Average (mean) number of days for the applicant to respond to data requests
	3.3.C	Data Request Response Time (Total)	Total number of days in which data requests were outstanding
	3.3.D	Time to Release Public Draft	Total number of days from File Date to Public Draft CEQA Document
	3.4.A	Number of Public Comments	Total number of comments received on the public draft CEQA document
	3.4.B	Time from Draft CEQA to PHC	Total number of days from Draft CEQA Document to Prehearing Conference
	3.4.C	Time from Final CEQA to Final Decision	Total number of days from Final CEQA Document to Final Decision
	3.4.D	Time from PHC to Final Decision	Total number of days from Prehearing Conference to Final Decision
	3.5.A	Time from NEPA Filing to NHPA Completion	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to NHPA Section 106 Completion Date
	3.5.B	Time from NEPA Filing to ESA Completion	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to ESA Consultation Completion Date
	3.5.C	Time from NEPA Filing to FONSI or Record of Decision	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to NEPA - FONSI Date (if EA) or NEPA - Final EIS Date (if EIS)
	3.7.A	Schedule Change Event Type(s)	Event(s) that substantively changed the project schedule, recorded by date, type, and delay duration. Types include: Project Description Change, New Information Received, New Alternatives Needed, New Significant Impact, Additional Surveys Needed
	3.7.B	Schedule Change Event Duration(s)	Duration in calendar days of each event that substantively changed the project schedule.