CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment

North Baja Pipeline Project

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

California State Lands Commission
Sacramento, CA

Cooperating Agencies:
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation

FERC/EIS-0132D
Docket Nos. CP01-22-000 and CP01-23-000

CSLC EIR No. 703
State Clearinghouse No. SCH2001011020

July 2001

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DEER/Gas Group 1
North Baja Pipeline, LLC
FERC Docket Nos. CP01-22-000
and CP01-23-000
CA Clearinghouse No. 2001011020

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staffs of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission), the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared this draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) and draft land use plan amendment (plan amendment) to address natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by North Baja Pipeline, LLC (NBP).

The draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment was prepared as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act, and the Federal Land Management and Policy Act. Its purpose is to inform the public and the permitting agencies about the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts of the proposed project and its alternatives, and recommend mitigation measures that would reduce any significant adverse impacts to the maximum extent possible and, where feasible, to a less than significant level. The FERC, the CSLC, and the BLM staffs conclude that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The BLM is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this document because the project would cross Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs, El Centro, and Yuma Field Offices. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is also a cooperating agency in the preparation of this document because lands administered by the BOR would be crossed by the project. This draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment will be used by the BLM to consider issuance of a right-of-way grant for the portion of the project on lands managed by the BLM and the BOR. This draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment will also be used by the BLM to consider amending the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (as amended), which would be necessary for pipeline construction outside of designated utility corridors, as well as amending the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (Yuma District Plan), which would be necessary for pipeline construction across the Milpitas Wash Special Management Area. The BLM proposes to adopt this draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment per Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1506.3 to meet its responsibilities under NEPA and its planning regulations per Title 43 CFR 1610. The BLM Arizona and California State Directors have approved the draft plan amendments for their respective planning areas. The BLM will present its Record of Decision for the North Baja Pipeline Project after the issuance of the final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment.

The draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Arizona and California:

- about 79.9 miles of 36-inch-diameter (11.8 miles) and 30-inch-diameter (68.1 miles) natural gas pipeline (North Baja pipeline) extending from an interconnection with El Paso Natural

Gas Company (El Paso) in La Paz County, Arizona, through Riverside and Imperial Counties, California, to an interconnection at the international border between the United States and Mexico;

- a new compressor station (Ehrenberg Compressor Station) consisting of three gas-fired centrifugal compressor units for a total horsepower ranging from 18,810 to 21,600 (with one additional spare unit) at the El Paso interconnect in La Paz County, Arizona;

- two meter stations, one at the interconnect with El Paso at the Ehrenberg Compressor Station site (Ehrenberg Meter Station) and one in Imperial County, California near the interconnect at the international border (Ogilby Meter Station);

- a pig launcher facility at the Ehrenberg Compressor Station site; a pig receiver facility at the Ogilby Meter Station site; and a separate pig launcher/receiver facility (Rannells Trap) in Riverside County, California; and

- seven mainline valves, one each at the Ehrenberg Compressor Station site, Rannells Trap, and Ogilby Meter Station site, and another four spaced as required along the proposed pipeline route.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment may do so. **Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and are properly recorded:**

- Send **an original and two copies** of your letter to:

  David P. Boergers, Secretary
  Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
  888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
  Washington, DC 20426;

  [Note: The FERC will provide copies to the BLM for review. The BLM will prepare any appropriate responses relative to the plan amendments.]

- Reference Docket No. CP01-22-000;

- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of the Gas Group 1, PJ-11.1;

- Send an additional copy of your letter to the following individual:

  Goodyear K. Walker
  California State Lands Commission
  100 Howe Ave., Suite 100 South
  Sacramento, CA 95825

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before **October 25, 2001.**

  Comments may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm under the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

In addition to written comments, the FERC, the CSLC, and the BLM will hold public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment. **All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.**, and are scheduled as follows:

Date	Location
August 22, 2001	Blythe City Council Chamber 235 North Broadway Blythe, California 92225 (760) 922-6161
August 23, 2001	Vacation Inn 2000 Cottonwood Circle El Centro, California 92243 (760) 352-9523

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and necessary modifications are made to the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment, a final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment will be published and distributed. The final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment will contain the FERC, the CSLC, and the BLM staffs' responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment.

Comments will be considered by the FERC, the CSLC, and the BLM but will not serve to make the commenter a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 385.214). Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS/EIR. You must file your request to intervene as specified above. **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

Federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Native American groups; newspapers; public libraries; intervenors to the FERC's proceeding; and other interested parties who provided scoping comments, comments on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment, or asked to remain on the mailing list will receive a copy of the final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment. **If you do not wish to comment on the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment but wish to receive a copy of the final EIS/EIR and proposed plan**

amendment, you must write to the Secretary of the Commission indicating this request. Individuals who do not indicate their desire to receive the final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment will only receive a Notice of Availability/Notice of Completion of the final EIS/EIR and proposed plan amendment.

The draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment has been placed in the public files of the FERC and the CSLC and is available for public inspection at:

Federal Regulatory Energy Commission
Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 208-1371

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202
(916) 574-1889

The draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment is also available for viewing on the FERC, CSLC, and BLM websites at the Internet addresses below.

A limited number of copies of the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment are available from the FERC's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. Copies may also be obtained from Goodyear K. Walker, CSLC, at the address above. In addition, the draft EIS/EIR and draft plan amendment has been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Native American groups; newspapers; public libraries; intervenors to the FERC's proceeding; and other interested parties.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Goodyear K. Walker at the CSLC at (916) 574-1893, or on the CSLC website at http://www.slc.ca.gov, or from the FERC's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088, or on the FERC website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "RIMS" link to information in these docket numbers. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to these dockets, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Information concerning the proposed CDCA and Yuma District Plan amendments and the involvement of the BLM in the EIS/EIR and plan amendment process is available from Lynda Kastoll, BLM Project Manager, at (760) 337-4421, or on the BLM website at http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro/northbaja.

David Boergers
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Paul D. Thayer
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Arizona Administrative Code
ACC	Arizona Corporation Commission
ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
A.D.	anno domini
ADGF	Arizona Department of Game and Fish
ADT	average daily traffic
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APE	area of potential effect
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
BA	Biological Assessment
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
B.P.	before present
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARIDAP	California Archaeological Resources Identification and Data Acquisition Program
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Certificate	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFE	Comision Federal de Electricidad
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFTL	Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard
CM&R Plan	Construction Mitigation and Restoration Plan
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
COE Manual	Wetlands Delineation Manual
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
CSLC	California State Lands Commission
CSWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
dBA	decibels of the A-weighted scale
DOC	Determination of Compliance
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DWMAs	Desert Wildlife Management Areas
EA	environmental assessment
Ecological Analysis	*An Ecological Analysis of Conservation Priorities in the Sonoran Desert Ecoregion*

EI	environmental inspector
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
El Paso	El Paso Natural Gas Company
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FERC Plan	FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan
FERC Procedures	FERC's Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FTHL	flat-tailed horned lizard
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GHG	greenhouse gas
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
hp	horsepower
I-8	Interstate I-8
I-10	Interstate 10
InterGen	InterGen Energy, Inc.
kV	kilovolt
LDC	local distribution company
L_{dn}	day-night equivalent sound level
$L_{eq(24)}$	24-hour equivalent sound level
LHEM Study	Liquefaction Hazard Evaluation and Mitigation Study
MFTL	Mojave fringe-toed lizard
$\mu g/m^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
MLV	mainline valve
MIA	Manifestacion de Impactos de Ambientales
MMcfd	million cubic feet per day
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	milepost
MUIDS	map unit identifiers
MW	megawatt
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NBP	North Baja Pipeline, LLC
NECO Plan	Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGA	Natural Gas Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRI	Nationwide Rivers Inventory

NSA	noise-sensitive area
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NSR	New Source Review
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O_3	ozone
OCI	Organizational Conflict of Interest
OEP	Office of Energy Projects
OGC	Office of General Counsel
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety
Pb	lead
PD	Preliminary Determination on Non-Environmental Issues
Plan Amendment	Land Use Plan Amendment
PM_{10}	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
ppm	part per million
PRMM Plan	Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PVID	Palo Verde Irrigation District
RSPA	Research and Special Programs Administration
RV	recreational vehicle
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric
Sempra	Sempra Energy International
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	state implementation plan
SMA	Special Management Area
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SoCal	Southern California Gas Company
SPCC Plan	Spill Prevention, Containment, and Control Plan for Hazardous Materials and Wastes
SR	State Route
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic database
TGN	Transportadora de Gas Natural de Baja California
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
tpy	tons per year
USC	United States Code
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VOC	volatile organic compound
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WAPA	Western Area Power Administration
WHA	Wildlife Habitat Area
WHMP	Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
Yuma District Plan	Yuma District Resource Management Plan