

# Santa Cruz Reliability Project North

## AGENCY BRIEFING

CLARK BRYNER – MANAGER, SITING, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



May 19, 2025

# Agencies

Please type into the chat:

- Name
- Organization
- Title/Role

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Pima County
- Santa Cruz County
- Town of Sahuarita
- Green Valley Coordinating Council
- Chambers of Commerce
- Telecommunication Companies
- Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority
- School Districts
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utilities
- Large private landowners

# Agenda

- Santa Cruz Reliability Project – Video
- Need and Benefits
- Phase 1 – Santa Cruz Reliability Project North
- Update – Planning and Siting Process
- Project Schedule
- Public Participation
- Q&A Session



**Santa Cruz Reliability Project**



# Need and Benefits

- Improve the reliability and resiliency of the electrical transmission system serving Santa Cruz County.
- Maintain and strengthen reliability for Santa Cruz County and its residents, businesses and industries, including hospitals, schools, ports of entry and federal facilities.
- Reduce and eliminate the potential for a major and sustained outage in Santa Cruz County.
- Meet current and future energy needs without impacting service to existing customer.
- Support maintenance and other upgrades, allowing work to be performed without interrupting system operations.



# Legend

- In-Service 138 kV Transmission Line
- Undetermined 138 kV Transmission Line
- Upgraded 138 kV Transmission Line
- In-Service 138 kV Substation
- Proposed 138 kV Substation

0 5 10 Miles



THIS PROJECT

## Phase 1 - SCR North

Regional Grid (TEP)

Interstate 19

UNDETERMINED ROUTE

Kantor (UNSE)

2024-2025: Planning and Siting  
2027-2028: Construction

## Phase 2 - Nogales Tap-Kantor

Nogales Tap (WAPA)

Vail (TEP)

Interstate 10

Kantor (UNSE)

CEC Issued in 2017 under Decision 76468  
2028-2029: Construction

## Phase 3 - SCR South

Kantor (UNSE)

UNDETERMINED ROUTE

Gateway (UNSE)

Valencia (UNSE)

2025-2026: Planning and Siting  
2029-2030: Construction

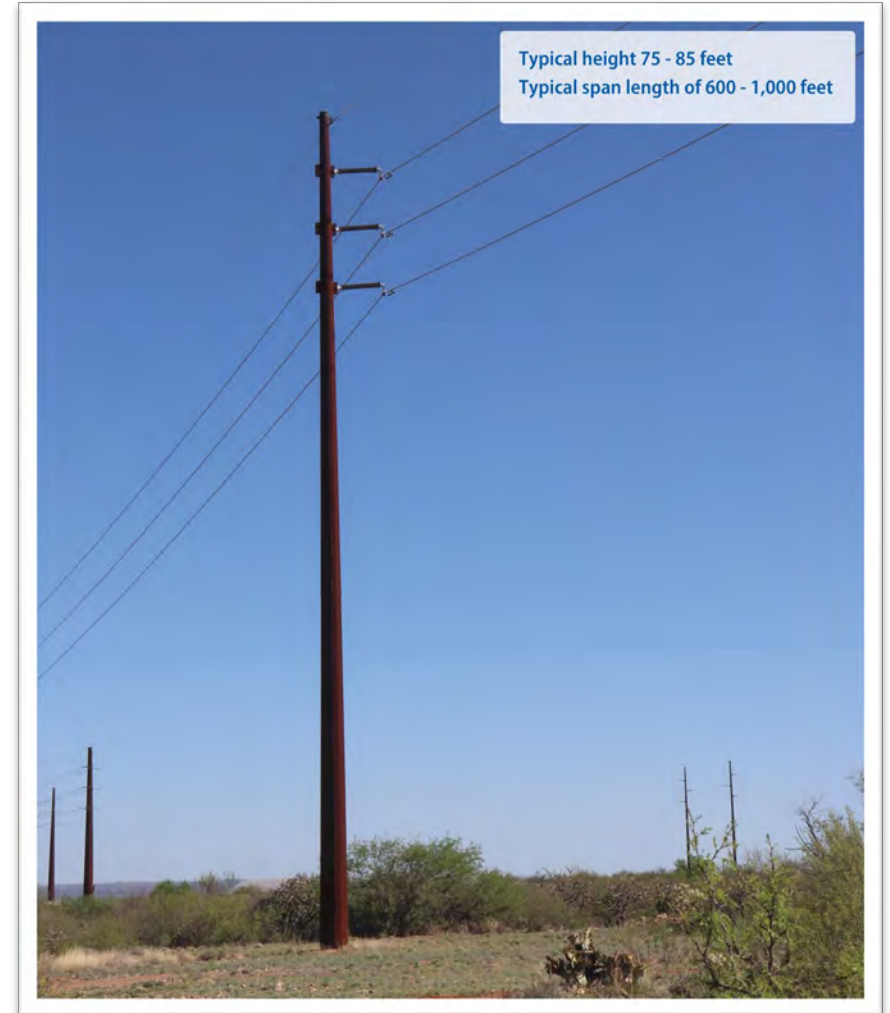


# Santa Cruz Reliability Project North (Phase 1)

## 138kV Transmission Line

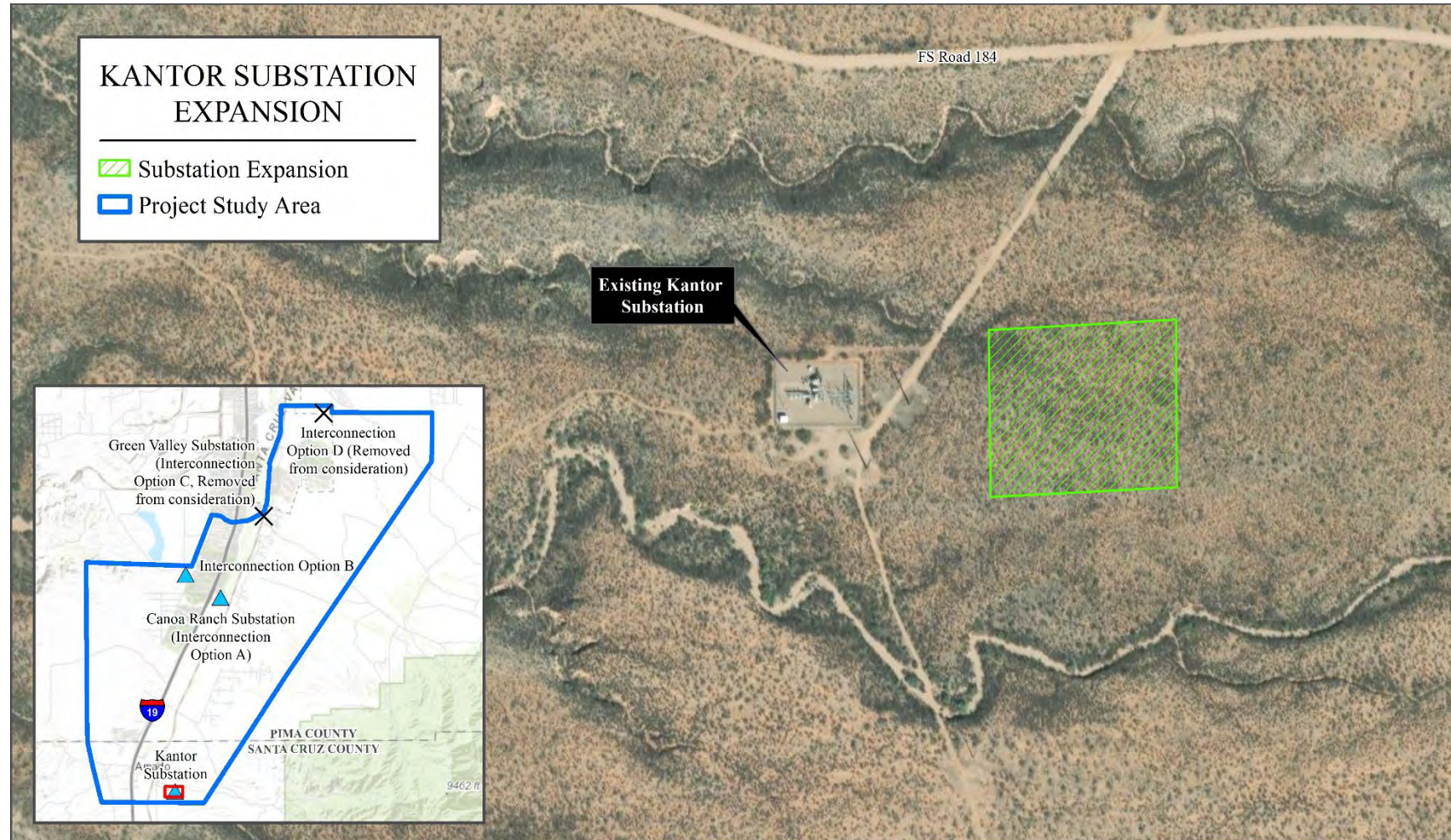
### Example Pole Structure

- Tubular, Weathering Steel Monopoles
- Typical height 75 – 85 feet
- Typical span 600 – 1,000 feet



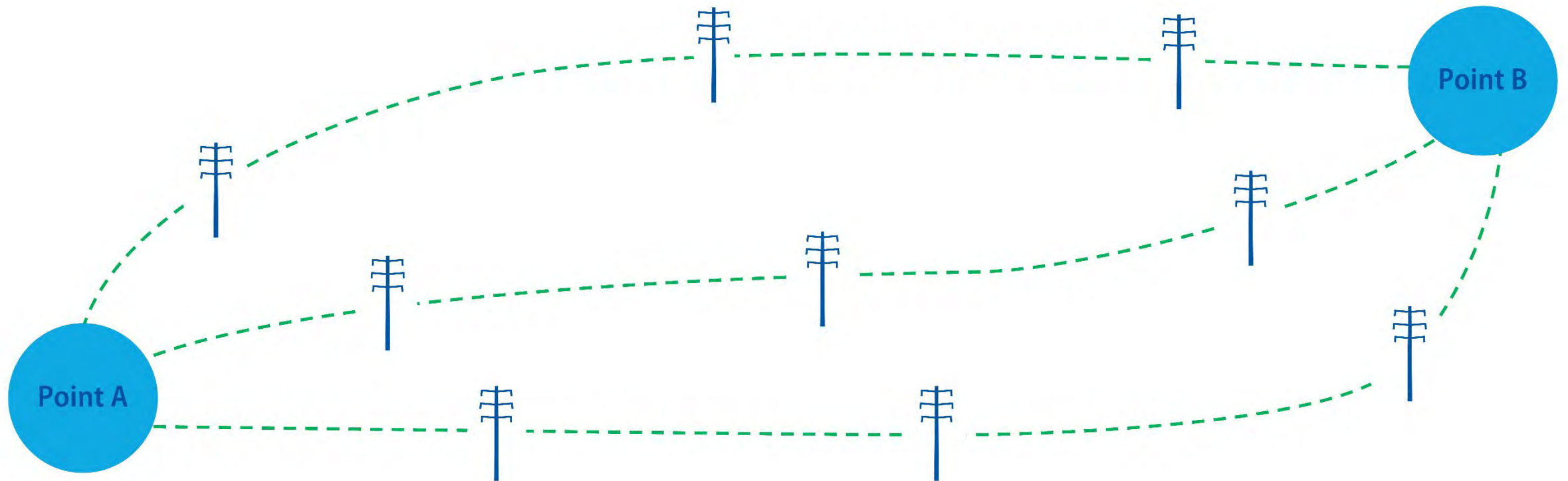
# Santa Cruz Reliability Project North (Phase 1)

## Kantor Substation Planned Expansion

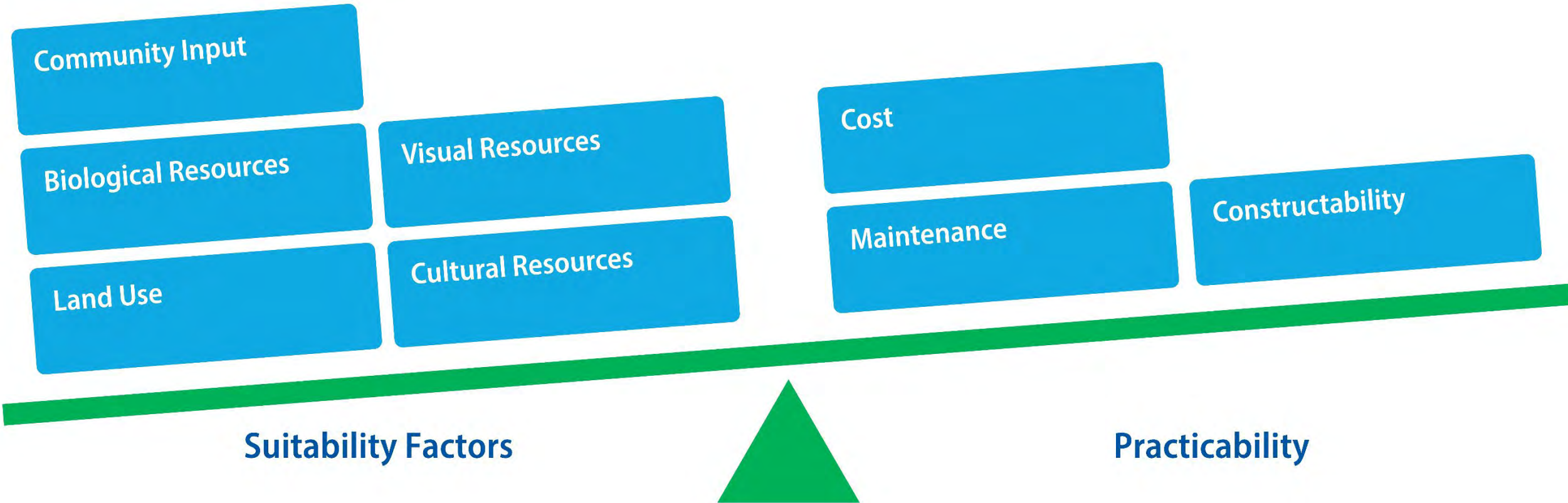




# What is Siting?



# Project Route Development and Evaluation





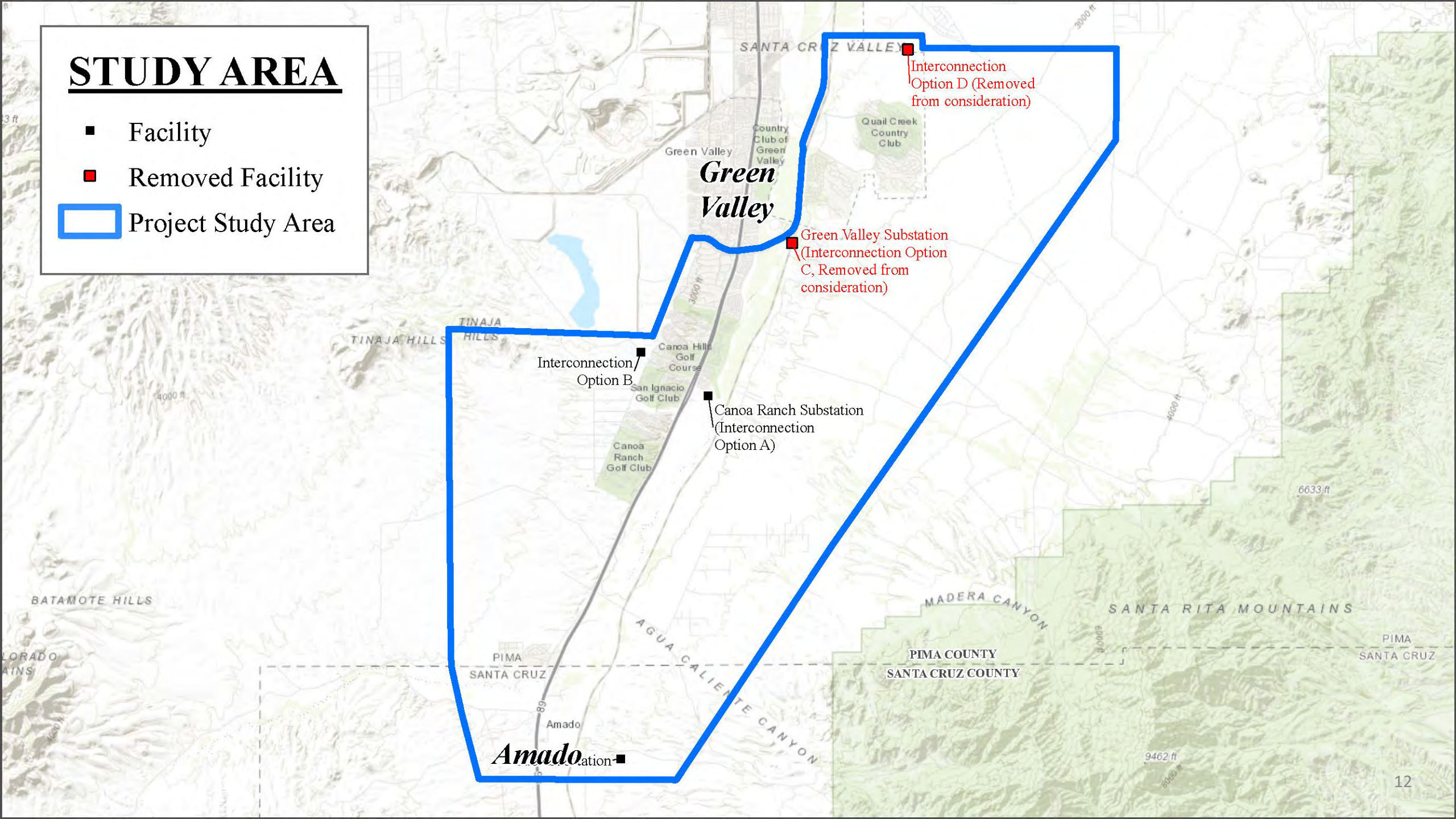
# Planning and Siting Process Flowchart





# STUDY AREA

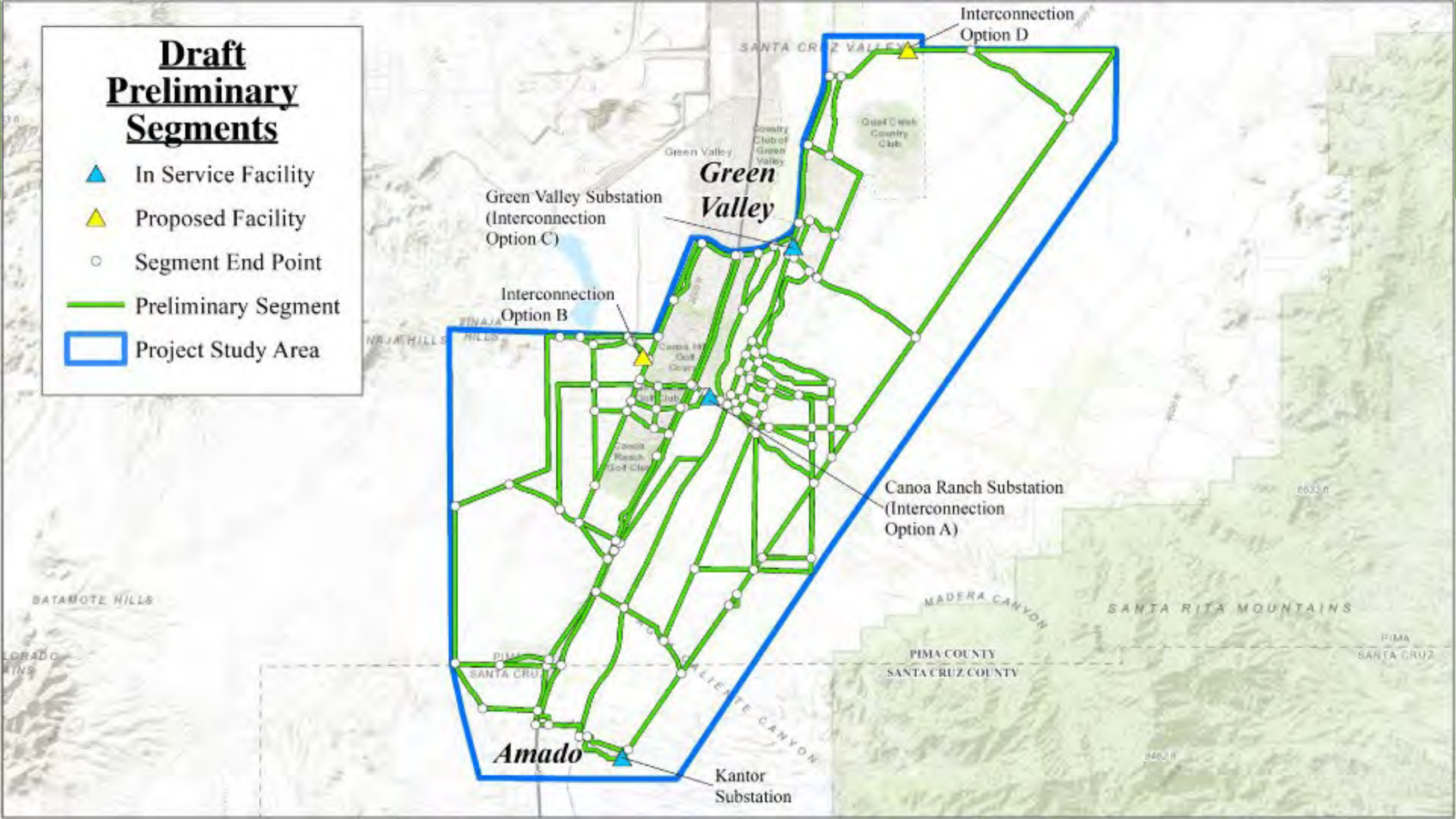
- Facility
- Removed Facility
- Project Study Area



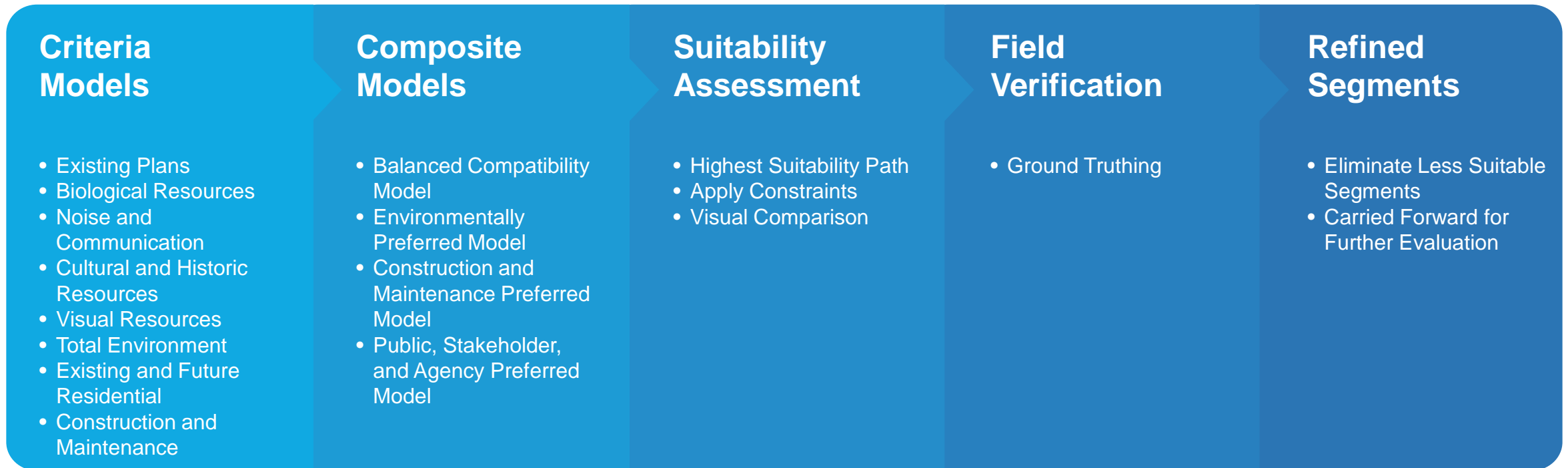


# Draft Preliminary Segments

- ▲ In Service Facility
- ▲ Proposed Facility
- Segment End Point
- Preliminary Segment
- ▭ Project Study Area

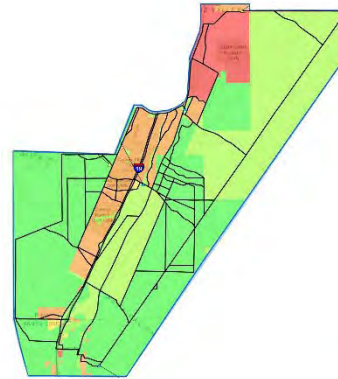
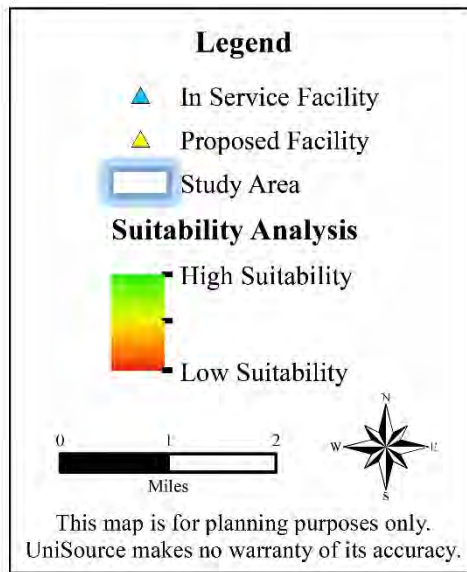


# Suitability Assessment Methodology





# Suitability Assessment Criteria Models



Existing Plans



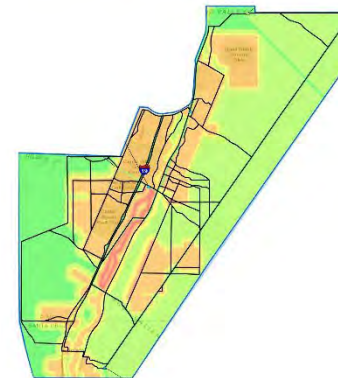
Biological Resources



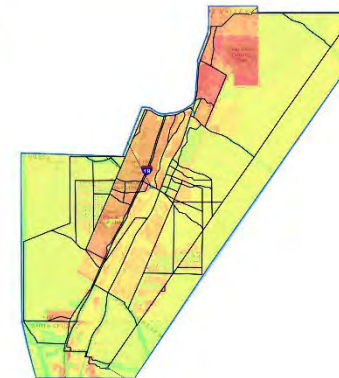
Noise &  
Communication



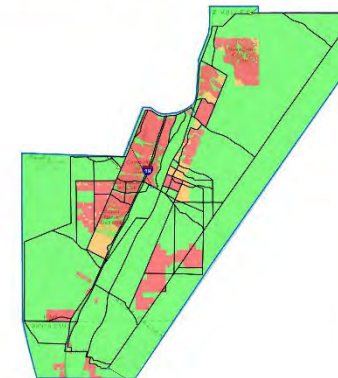
Cultural & Historical  
Resources



Visual Resources



Total Environment



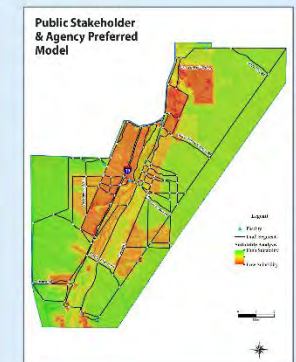
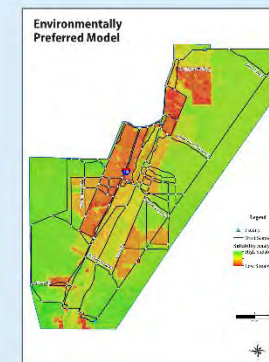
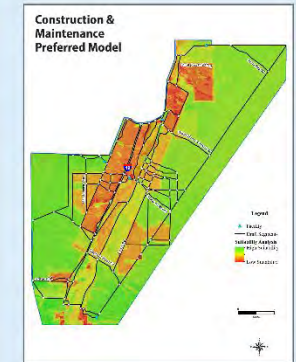
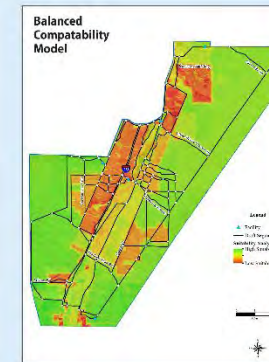
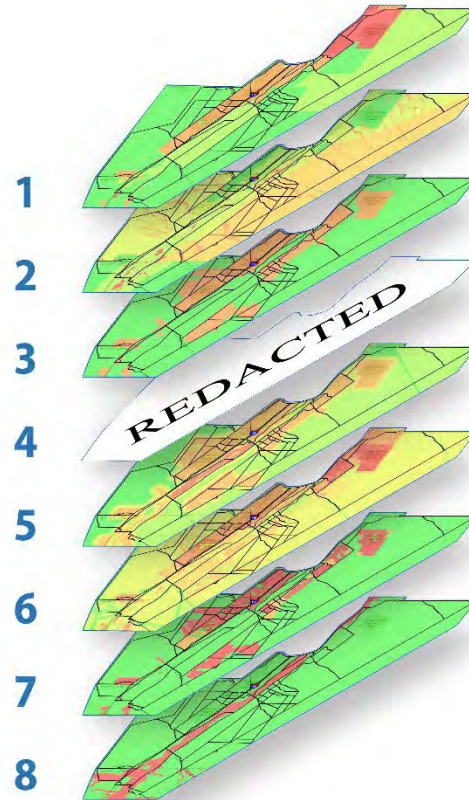
Existing and Future Residential  
Properties Adjacent to  
Transmission Lines



Construction &  
Maintenance

# Suitability Assessment Composite Models

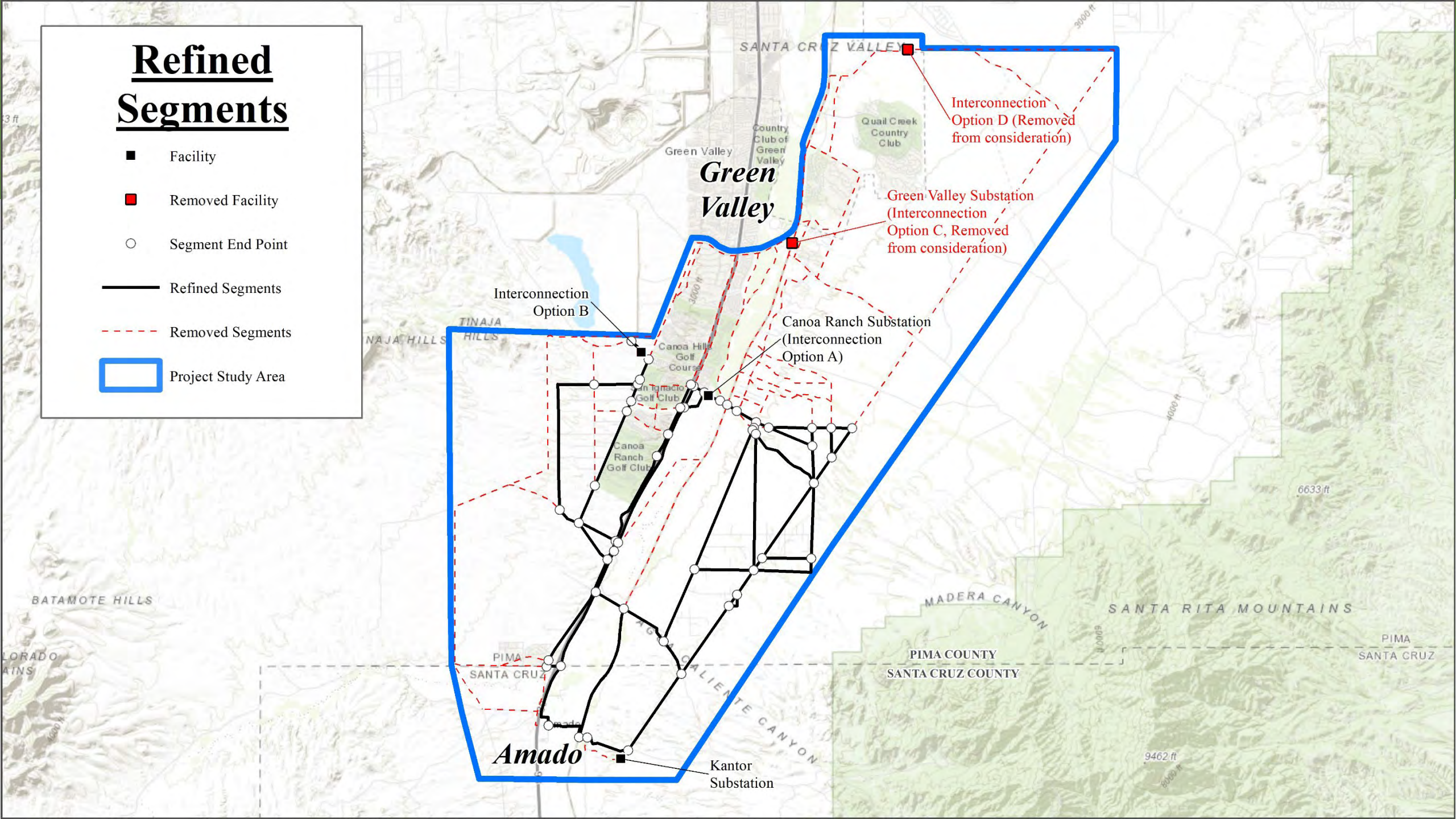
- Criteria 1: Existing Plans
- Criteria 2: Biological Resources
- Criteria 3: Noise & Communication
- Criteria 4: Cultural and Historical Resources
- Criteria 5: Visual Resources
- Criteria 6: Total Environment
- Criteria 7: Existing and Future Residential Properties Adjacent to Transmission Lines
- Criteria 8: Construction & Maintenance





# Refined Segments

- Facility
- Removed Facility
- Segment End Point
- Refined Segments
- - - Removed Segments
- ▭ Project Study Area



# Next Steps

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Cost and potential impact on customer rates
2. Impact on existing and planned land uses
3. Proximity to residential areas
4. Impact on Fish, wildlife, and plants, including special status species and their habitat
5. Proximity to sensitive noise receptors (schools, hospitals, assisted living and daycare facilities)
6. Proximity to licensed communication sites
7. Impact on designated scenic areas
8. Impact on mountain views from residential areas
9. Impact on historic and archaeological sites
10. Overall environmental impact
11. Ability to construct, and operate and maintain facilities
12. Compliance with state, county or city ordinances
13. Public health, welfare, and safety

### Phase 1: Pre-Analysis

- Conduct Field
- Develop Study
- Identify Opportunities and Constraints
- Conduct Public Stakeholder
- Develop Preliminary Segments

### Phase 3: Suitability Assessment

- Suitability Assessment
- Suitability Assessment
- View Public and Stakeholder Outreach Segments

### Phase 4: Compatibility Analysis

- Conduct Compatibility Analysis
- Develop Route Alternatives
- Field Review

### Phase 5: Concept Evaluation

- Conduct Public and Stakeholder Outreach
- Identify Preferred Route
- Submit CEC Application
- Public Notification and Hearing



# Project Schedule\*

Under Arizona law, certain transmission line configurations require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) before construction and operation along an approved route.

- Q3 '23-Q2 '24 – Transmission Line Planning and Siting
- Fall 2025 – CEC Application Submittal
- Fall 2025 – Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee Hearing
- Q1 2026 – Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Open Meeting
- 2028 – Phase 1: Project in Service
- 2029 – Phase 2: Project in Service
- 2030 – Phase 3: Project in Service



# Public Participation

- Fill out an online comment form at: [ueasz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north](http://ueasz.com/santa-cruz-reliability-north)
- Send comments via email to: [scrnorth@uesaz.com](mailto:scrnorth@uesaz.com)
- Call (520) 917-6635 and leave a voicemail message
- Mail a letter with comments to:  
ATTN: Santa Cruz Reliability North  
P.O. Box 711  
Mail Stop CB200  
Tucson, AZ 85701-0711

## Public Open House Opportunities

Tuesday, May 20, 2025. 9-11 a.m.

*Hosted by the Green Valley Coordinating Council*

Green Valley Recreation Las Campanas Center

565 W Bell Tower Drive

Green Valley, AZ 85614

Tuesday, May 20, 2025. 5-7 p.m.

Sopori Elementary School

5000 W. Arivaca Rd.

Amado, AZ 85645

# Q&A Session



Please use the raise hand feature in MS Teams

or

Type your question into the chat