Subj: **Planning for Southline Power Line and El Nino Specialists to Come to Area**
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KEEPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMED!

TRI-NEWS
CENTRAL
J·6 Mescal Skyline

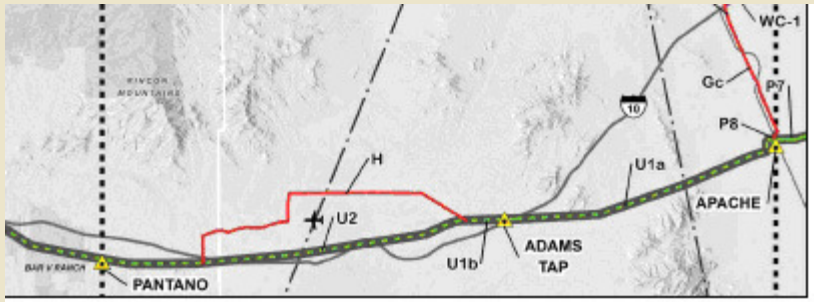
CDO ANNUAL MEETING - DELAYED TO CO-ORDINATE WITH SOUTHLINE PRESENTATION

CDO has contacted Southline representatives to request a meeting with the J6/Mescal/Skyline communities.

CDO has presented an initial list of questions that are of interest to area property owners:

1. What are next steps now that Final Study has been completed? When do they anticipate the Record of Decision being filed, and is Alternative Route H bypassing the residential and commercial area of Mescal still a viable

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RELEASED FOR SOUTHLINE PROJECT



Illustrates the Agency Preferred Route U2 (green dashes over black ribbon) that closely follows I-10 and the existing power lines thru Mescal. An alternative (H) is also shown in red that bypasses the residential and commercial area.

The release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed construction, operation, and maintenance of a high-voltage power line was announced November 9, 2015. The first segment of this 360 mile project proposed by Southline Transmission, LLC, would be a new double circuit 345-kilovolt line from a substation in Afton, New Mexico (south of Las Cruces), to a substation in Apache, Arizona (south of Willcox). This 225-mile segment would provide up to 1,000 megawatts of initial rated capacity.

The second segment, possibly impacting those living and visiting in the Mescal, J-6, Skyline areas, would be an upgrading and rebuilding of about 130 miles of existing

LATEST ON EL NINO - WHAT IS YET TO COME

Mike Crimmins, Investigator for CLIMAS, U of A, returns for public presentation as to what we can expect with El Nino at the January 20th Community Watershed Alliance Meeting held at Benson City Hall.

Mike Crimmins is on the faculty of the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science and is a Climate Science Extension Specialist for Arizona Cooperative Extension. His

option?

2. What can local property owners expect since the existing Right of Way needs to be increased from 100' to 150'?

3. What are the known impacts during construction and maintenance of the upgrade related to Health and Safety, Noise, and Visual Resources?

4. What are the latest simulations relevant to area pole design and method of installation?

5. Additional community questions submitted to CDO at info@cdonewsletter.com.

According to Southline representative, the above questions require input from both Southline and Western Area Power Administration. We were told to expect a response by Jan. 15th.

In 2011, CDO hosted a community meeting to

transmission lines. The Upgrade will pass through the tri-community area as it connects the Apache substation and the Saguaro substation, northwest of Tucson. It would provide capacity for an additional 1,000 megawatts of electricity.

The Draft and subsequent Final EIS assessed and analyzed potential changes that may be caused by this project and disclosed the effects on the decision-makers and public. The EIS considered potential project modifications and alternatives and mitigation measures that could be used to minimize the impacts along various routes.

The Final EIS includes the following changes to the agencies' preferred alternative previously identified in the April 2014 Draft EIS:

- The route around the Lordsburg Playa in New Mexico now more closely follows existing infrastructure;
- The route through the Willcox Playa in Arizona remains the same, but additional mitigation measures are established for sensitive migratory bird resources;
- The route near Tucson was moved to avoid residential and economic developments.

The EIS is not a decision document. It is the foundation for a project record of decision (ROD), which is likely to be issued by early 2016. The BLM Las Cruces District Manager will issue the ROD, which in part, will determine whether a right-of-way (ROW) is granted allowing use of public lands for the transmission line. The ROD will also determine the most appropriate route across BLM-administered public lands for the transmission line, if the ROW is granted.

Western will use the analysis in Final EIS to inform its decision making. Western's decision will include determining how to respond to the Project proposed by Southline. In addition, Western would consider the nature and extent of its participation in the proposed Project, and whether it will provide funding.

extension and research work supports resource management across multiple sectors including rangelands, forests/wildfire, and water resources as well as informing policy and decision makers.

Mr. Crimmins also serves as a drought monitoring expert on the Arizona Governor's Drought Task Force and has worked with counties across Arizona to implement drought preparedness and impact monitoring plans.

Community Watershed Alliance Wednesday, January 20th, 6:00 P.M. Benson City Hall.

review the initial proposals with representatives from both entities.

INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE CDO BOARD?

If you are a member of CDO and are interested in running for office, please drop a brief note to info@cdonewsletter.com with your contact information and a few lines as to how you can assist in fullfilling the mission of our organization.

Western will announce its decision in a ROD in the Federal Register no sooner than 30 days after publication of the Final EIS. No ROD was posted on website at publication of this article.

The rebuild and upgrade segment of the Project would include tubular steel poles measuring 90 to 130 feet tall; the distance between structures would range from 700 to 1,100 feet depending on terrain and other factors. The existing Right of Way for the rebuild and upgrade segment is 150 feet wide.

Southline Transmission, LLC, is a subsidiary of Hunt Power, L.P., which develops and invests in entrepreneurial electric and gas utility opportunities. It is part of a larger privately held group of entities managed by the Ray L. Hunt family. Black Forest Partners, L.P., is the project manager for Southline Transmission, LLC.

Information on the project is available from Mark Mackiewicz, BLM National Project Manager, at (435) 636-3616 or mmackiew@blm.gov**. Additional information is posted at** www.blm.gov/nm/southline**.**

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