

APS Plans Expansion to Serve Growing Communities

The West Valley is growing. An area that was once sparsely populated is becoming more developed.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Arizona Department

of Economic Security show that most cities in the West Valley are growing at a faster rate than the rest of Maricopa County. In fact, the population of the City of Goodyear increased by more

than 200% – from 6,258 in 1990 to 18,911 in 2000. Researchers expect this growth pattern to continue with as many as 600,000 new residents in the West Valley by 2010.

Growth means more homes, businesses and schools. Growth also means greater demand for electricity. The existing electrical infrastructure cannot accommodate this booming growth.

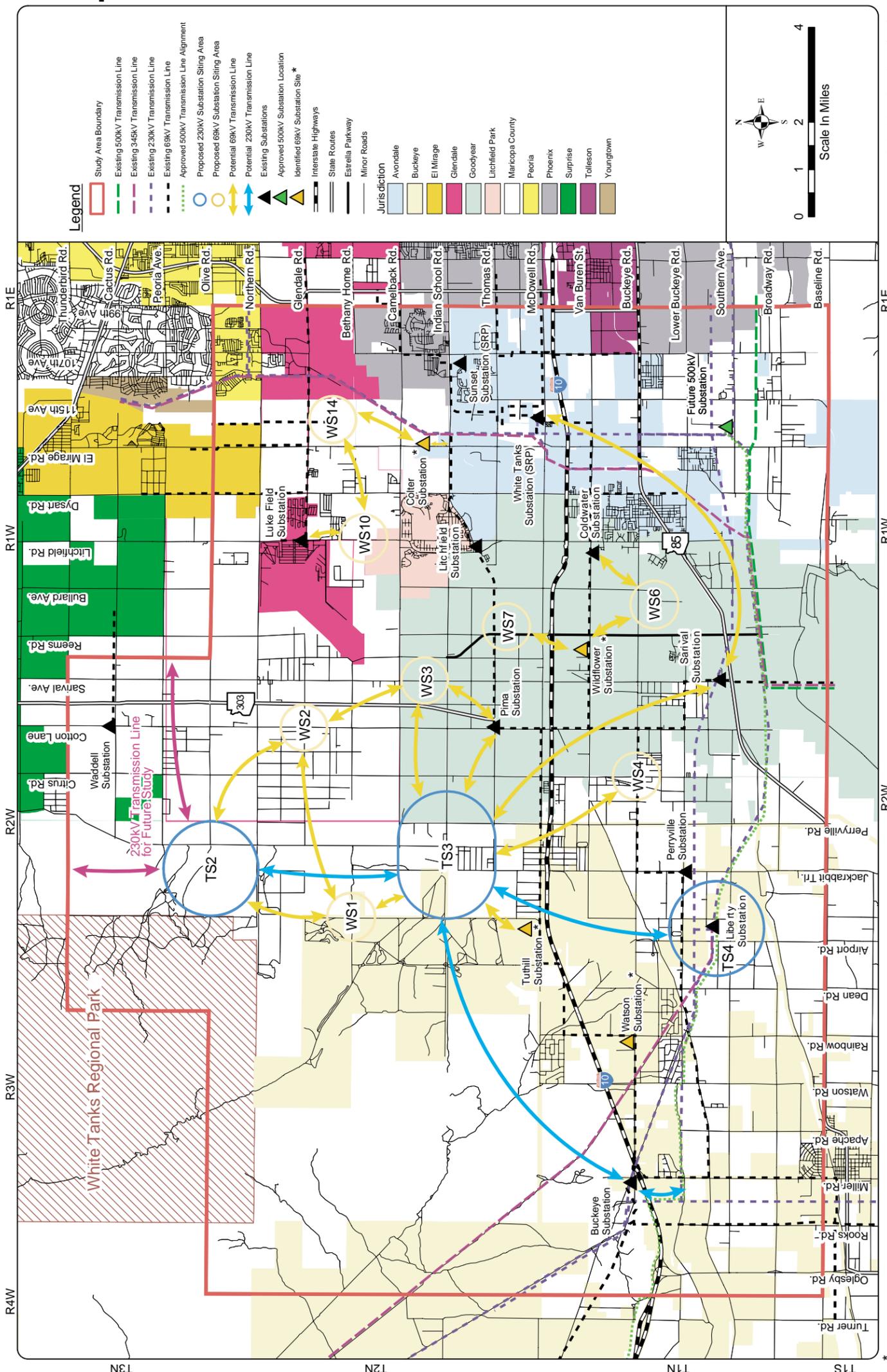
APS is working to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for electricity in the area by expanding the electrical system. The West Valley-South Power Line and Substation Project will include three 230 kilovolt (kV) substations, twelve 69kV substations and related power lines. The substations and power lines will provide electricity directly to Avondale, Buckeye, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Maricopa County.

“Our goals for this project are to ensure reliable electrical service for these communities, and to site substations and power lines in locations that make the most sense for the most people, minimize environmental impacts, and keep the public informed and involved,” said Steve Goodman, APS Project Manager.

In-service dates for the substations range from 2002 to 2009. APS has worked with local jurisdictions to select sites for four of the most immediately needed 69kV substations. The remaining eight 69kV substations and the three 230kV substation locations have yet to be selected.

APS will seek public input throughout the project planning process. The first phase will allow the public to comment on proposed links and substation sites. The complete siting process may take up to 12 months.

Conceptual Substation Locations and Power Line Connections



Working Draft 02/18/02

Due to the demand for these substations to be in service by 2002-2003, APS has identified some substation sites through negotiations with property owners/developers.

Environmental Considerations in the Siting Process

Siting new power lines and substations involves consideration of several categories of environmental resources, including existing and planned land uses, scenic views, historic and archaeological sites, and biological resources.

A comprehensive and detailed inventory of existing and future land uses, as well as scenic resources, will be conducted for the entire study area. This inventory data will be gathered from aerial photography, field reviews, and specific information regarding planned

land uses provided by each jurisdiction where facilities are proposed. The data will provide the initial information needed to determine opportunities for substation and power line alternatives.

After preliminary alternatives are identified for the proposed facilities, and the public receives an opportunity to comment on these initial alternatives, additional inventories will be conducted for historic and archaeological sites and biological resources within the vicinity of the proposed facility

locations (substation sites and power line alignments).

Each alternative substation site and power line segment (also called a link), will then be evaluated by resource specialists to assess what potential impact each alternative may have.

The various links will then be combined into power line routes. The objective will be to develop routes that minimize impacts. Additional public comment will be solicited on these routes, and some routes will be eliminated from further consideration based on public comments and environmental

considerations.

Finally, routes will be combined into complete system options that meet the electrical needs projected by APS within the study area. Additional public comment will be solicited, then APS will rank the system options based on electrical system requirements; right-of-way acquisition; costs of construction, operation, and maintenance; environmental impacts; and public concerns. Based on these rankings, APS will decide which system option to pursue for permitting purposes.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

5:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 12
Wigwam Resort-Arizona Room
(on Wigwam Blvd between
Litchfield Park and Dysart Roads)

5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13
Destiny Phoenix West RV Park
416 N. Citrus Road, Buckeye
(on Citrus, north of Van Buren
Street)

5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14
Duncan Family Farms
17203 W. Indian School Road,
Goodyear (on Indian School, east
of Cotton Lane)

INFORMATION

For more information, visit the project Web site at <http://siting.apsc.com> or call the project information line at **(623) 932-6636**.

Community Input Is Encouraged

Prior to any construction, APS consults with parties who may be affected by any proposed project. The West Valley-South Power Line and Substation Project provides an opportunity for APS to seek public input on the project as a whole, including the siting process for three 230kV substations and related power lines, as well as several 69kV substations.

"We hope to build these facilities as the West Valley grows," Steve

Goodman, APS Project Manager said. "By involving members of the community during the siting process, we can implement a project that addresses current and future power needs for this area."

APS will seek public comment at key points during the project. Residents, business owners, civic leaders and others will have an opportunity to learn about the project, talk with APS representatives, and comment on proposed routes and substation sites during the first series of open

house events. Future opportunities for public comment will focus on alternative power line routes and system options.

APS will use several communication vehicles to keep the public informed as the project progresses, including newsletters, direct mail, advertising and the project Web site -

<http://siting.apsc.com> and the telephone information line, **(623) 932-6636**.

Once the siting process for the

230 kV facilities is complete the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee will evaluate the project and its impact on the community. These meetings are open to the public and comments are taken. The committee then makes its recommendations to the Arizona Corporation Commission, who decides whether to grant APS the necessary Certificate of Environmental Compatibility. This is required before construction may begin.



WEST VALLEY-SOUTH

