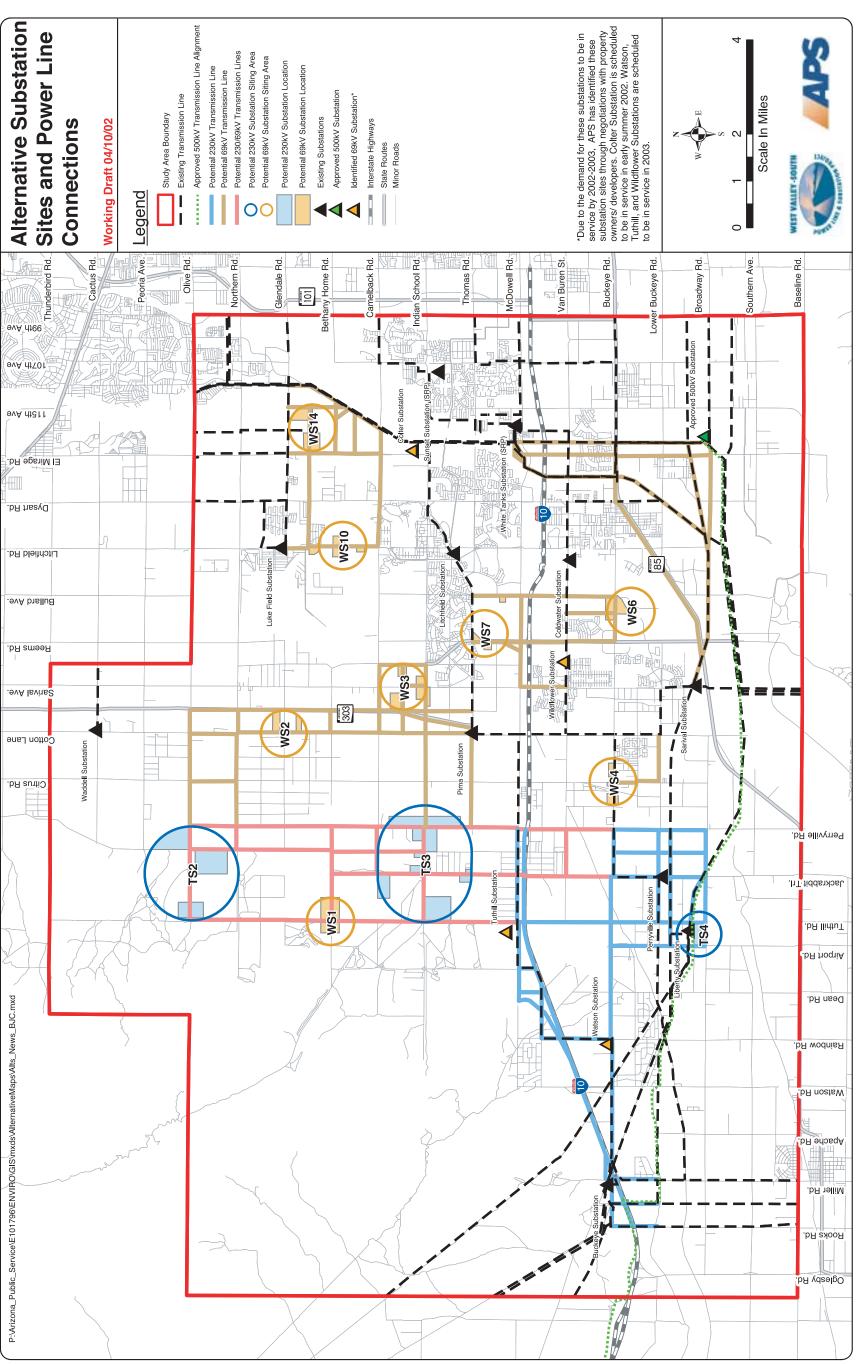


# PROJECT UPDATE

WEST VALLET-SOUTH

APRIL, 2002 NUMBER 2

# **APS Continues to Seek Public Input**



APS continues to seek public input on the West Valley-South Power Line & Substation Project. We are asking for more input on the possible links, or power line segments, that could be connected together to form a power line route between substations. We also are asking for comments on the potential substation locations identified below. Public input, along with other factors discussed in this newsletter, is vital to a vigorous and open siting process. APS believes this approach leads to a project that is both understood and accepted by the public. Please take a few moments to comment on any potential power line route or substation site by street locations. This information may be accessed on the APS Web site at http://siting.apsc.com. If you prefer, you may also leave us a message on the information hotline at (623) 932-6636. Thank you!

### How Power Line Alternatives Are Created

Power line routes are created after assessing power line segments, or links, and their potential impacts on:

- Environmental resources
- The public
- Engineering and design of the facilities
- Constructability of a route or substation
- Right-of-way issues
- Overall cost of building new facilities

Generally, environmental factors considered "higher" or less desirable for building electrical facilities include:

- Residential areas, or areas with existing or planned schools or open spaces, parks or recreation areas or trails, or areas with 12 kV utilities placed underground
- Areas that would impact scenic, cultural or biological resources
- · Areas without access that

require substantial disturbance on soil and vegetation.

Environmental factors typically considered "lower" or more desirable for electrical facilities include:

- Areas along primary and secondary roads with or without existing overhead transmission lines
- Industrial areas, or areas with good construction and maintenance access (e.g., roads), and previously disturbed areas

 The proximity of residences to the proposed power line route or substation also is considered (i.e. the farther away, the better)

After the above-mentioned factors are analyzed and ranked, links are combined into a possible power line route, sometimes called an alternative route, with the objective of minimizing impacts on all factors listed above.

# **Project Summary**

APS is working to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for electricity in the West Valley by building new electrical facilities. Fueled by tremendous growth, APS initiated the West Valley - South Power Line & Substation Project in November. The project includes three 230 kilovolt (kV) substations, twelve 69 kV substation and various 69 kV and 230 kV power lines. These facilities will directly serve Avondale, Buckeye, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Maricopa

County (see project boundaries, inside map).

Since December 2001, APS has met with dozens of individual West Valley leaders to inform them of the project and to gather their input. In February, APS hosted two meetings with community leaders, and city planners and managers for the same purpose. In March, APS hosted three open houses, inviting the public to familiarize themselves with the project, the siting process, and to gather their

input on potential routes and substation sites.

APS has heard from approximately 300 people on the project, to date. This includes inquiries via the Web site, the telephone information line, telephone calls, attendance at the open houses, individual briefings, and other meetings.

So far, two clear positions are being expressed by the public: sentiment against any facilities along the Perryville Road alignment, between Bethany Home Road and Northern Avenue, and sentiment in support of an alignment farther to the west. Several citizens have invited APS to visit with their homeowners associations to address the project in detail. Some have expressed concern on the possible impact of electric facilities on property values; a few have expressed concern over electromagnetic fields; others have inquired about the feasibility of undergrounding power lines.

#### W H A T 'S N E X T

At the next round of open houses, APS will provide an overview of the public input received, address the concerns listed above, and show possible alternative routes and substation locations based on public input, environmental, engineering, right-of-way and construction factors.

Please attend the open houses. There is no formal presentation. You may attend anytime between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Come and see what's new, talk individually with team members, give us your feedback and enjoy light refreshments.

**Wednesday May 15** Buckeye Community Center, 201 Centre Street (south of Monroe and east of Miller Road)

**Thursday, May 16** Scott Libby Elementary School - Activity Center, 18701 W. Thomas Road (corner of Perryville and Thomas roads)

#### **INFORMATION**

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



