



Bakersfield Power Connect

Project Update



Bakersfield Power Connect *Desdoble el documento para leerlo en español.*

Learn more at pge.com/bakersfieldpc or by calling 1-888-743-0195 or emailing bakersfieldpc@pge.com.

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Open to
learn more about
**Bakersfield
Power Connect**



Safety at Your New Substation

The safety and security of our substations is a top priority for PG&E. We will implement safety and security measures at the new Bakersfield Power Connect substation that meet the highest established standards for critical infrastructure protection, including protective perimeter fencing and lighting, card-restricted access to the site, motion sensors and 24/7 video surveillance, among other features.



Motion Detectors



Cameras



Fencing



Lighting



What is Bakersfield Power Connect?

Bakersfield Power Connect is a proposed infrastructure project that will provide increased electric reliability for **100,000 electric customers in Bakersfield** and the surrounding rural communities of Kern County. The project will include construction of a new substation, enhancements to existing substations and upgrades to existing transmission lines in the area.

Second Series of Open Houses Introduces Project Site Alternatives

In January, the Bakersfield Power Connect team unveiled potential project site alternatives during a second series of public open houses. Incorporating field research and based on input received during the first round of outreach conducted last fall, the team presented seven potential sites for the new substation.

Open houses were held at Tevis Junior High School, the Friendship House Community Center and the Kern Agricultural Pavilion to ensure those living and working closest to the proposed locations and other anticipated project elements were provided with convenient opportunities to attend and provide feedback on the potential sites. The engaged group of attendees provided insightful comments on various aspects of the project, including which sites and areas would minimize impacts.

"PG&E is committed to developing Bakersfield Power Connect in coordination with the communities it will serve. We appreciate those who attended the open houses and the valuable feedback they provided to our team. We will take these comments into consideration as we further refine the project," said Denise Newton, senior manager of PG&E's Kern Division.

The team will now undertake additional environmental analysis, which coupled with the input received, will help refine the project and lead to the selection of a proposed project site and alternatives. These open houses were part of Phase 2 of PG&E's three-part outreach program. Following these next steps, the team will conduct additional outreach to share the refined project prior to its submittal to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).



Those interested in learning more about Bakersfield Power Connect or submitting comments may visit the project website at pge.com/bakersfieldpc at any time.



How are Potential Substation Sites Selected?

PG&E is committed to siting and designing Bakersfield Power Connect in a way that avoids and minimizes environmental impacts to the greatest extent possible. To develop potential project site alternatives, a siting study was conducted to analyze the feasibility of select sites with regard to environmental impacts and constructability.

The team identified eight potential site alternatives and studied their compatibility with the project requirements. Sites were selected with regard to their proximity to the intersection of existing transmission lines serving the area that the substation will need to be connected to, then ranked based on a stringent set of criteria. Seven locations emerged as the most suitable. These seven sites were shared at community open houses for feedback and will now be subject to more robust analysis, after which a proposed location and two to three alternatives will be identified.

Learn more and provide your feedback at pge.com/bakersfieldpc or by calling 1-888-743-0195 or emailing bakersfieldpc@pge.com.

Potential Substation Sites Were Analyzed Based on a Stringent Set of Criteria:

- » Conflicts with established land uses, including agricultural land uses
- » Effects on agricultural operations
- » Sensitive resource and habitat areas
- » Length of new transmission line needed for required interconnection
- » Constructability and engineering conflicts
- » Permitting requirements
- » Costs to customers
- » Impacts to nearby communities



Substations, such as the one pictured, convert energy so that it may be safely carried over long distances and delivered to homes and businesses. The new substation design will be determined as the project moves forward.

Understanding the Need, Learning the Benefits

The Bakersfield area has experienced significant economic growth since the initial electric transmission infrastructure was built decades ago. PG&E is preparing to meet the needs of the Bakersfield area—which has nearly tripled in size during the last 30 years—by investing in our infrastructure to help meet the evolving demands from the region’s agricultural and industrial sectors.

Bakersfield Power Connect will increase capacity and redundancy of Bakersfield’s electric system and provide the flexibility needed to protect against power outages.

- It will **ensure electric reliability**, helping the region stay in front of growing energy demand and provide greater flexibility to adapt to changes, especially during times of peak use.
- It will help **spur economic growth**, promoting a strong commercial environment that will support the continued economic recovery and growth of the region’s agricultural sector.
- It will **increase efficiency** in the electric system, maximizing the grid’s ability to move electricity safely and reliably.
- It will **provide security** for the local grid, using advanced technology to implement safety and security measures that meet the highest established standards for critical infrastructure protection.

Bakersfield Power Connect will help ensure the region’s residents and businesses continue to have safe and reliable energy in the years ahead.



What are Substations, and Why are They Important?

A substation is a power station that switches, changes or regulates voltage in the electric system so that electricity can move safely and reliably across the power grid. Our transportation system provides a simple comparison. Think of transmission lines as freeways and distribution lines as local streets. Substations serve as the on- and off-ramps between freeways and local streets.

- Once electricity is generated, transmission substations convert electricity to high voltages, so it can be efficiently carried over long distances.
- Transmission lines move high-voltage electricity across the state. As electricity approaches the region where it will be used, substations lower the voltage.
- Distribution lines carry electricity at lower voltages and safely deliver it to homes and businesses.

The new Bakersfield Power Connect substation will be located on approximately 12-15 acres of land and will lower the voltage of electricity so it can be safely transported across the local electric system that serves Bakersfield and the surrounding communities.

