

## PG&E plans major San Joaquin County transmission line expansion

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LODI — PG&E is preparing for its biggest expansion in the northern San Joaquin Valley in years.

The utility plans to build new 230-volt transmission lines that would connect PG&E's existing Lockeford Substation, east of Lodi, and Eight Mile Substation, just north of Stockton, to the Lodi Electric Utility's Industrial Substation in Lodi, as well as upgrades to those substations.

The expansion would affect 50,000 households and businesses in parts of Stockton, Lodi, Lockeford, Victor, Acampo and Thornton.

PG&E said the lines are necessary because of urban and agricultural growth projections in the area. They would also provide redundancy, which would mean fewer and shorter power outages.

Three years ago the California Independent System Operator, which manages California's electrical grid, identified the need for new transmission in San Joaquin County.

The expansion could also lead to lower electricity rates for Lodi Electric Utility customers.

The utility company will host a series of open houses in early December to inform residents about its plans and to listen to suggestions about possible routes for the lines. Construction will require purchasing easements from landowners.

The first meeting is at Tokay High School's cafeteria, 1111 W. Century Blvd. in Lodi from 4 to 7 p.m., Dec. 2.

The second is at the Elkhorn School Multipurpose Room, 10505 David Rd. in Stockton from 4 to 7 p.m., Dec. 3.

Residents can read more about the plan and look at a map on [PG&E's website](#).