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# PLANNING FOR AND MAXIMIZING THE USE OF EXISTING RIGHTS OF WAY



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NRDC

#### What is NRDC?

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NRDC uses law, science and the support of 1.3 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things.

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# Agenda

- Rights of Way considerations
- Transmission design consideration
- Planning Considerations for new ROWs
- Options for extending the life of existing ROWs
  - Short term technologies, fixes
  - Longer term options
    - Reconductoring
    - Reconstruction
    - Parallel routing



# Planning: Rights of Way are Precious

- Extremely difficult to site
- ROWs should be intended to meet present and future needs
- Could take more than a decade to site
- Mitigation costs can be high
- ATC from western interconnection power plant retirements needs to be factored in
- Transmission should be designed to be scalable/ upgradable
- Transmission should be designed to meet longer term goals



# ROW planning should consider grid needs

- Does the location serve renewable energy resource areas the state prioritizes?
  - Low environmental conflicts
  - Supports economic development
  - Reduces community impacts
  - Access to high quality renewable resources
  - Facilitates access to available storage

# Planning, ctd.



- Does the location enhance grid modernization and expansion goals
  - Will it serve to future system upgrade/expansion needs?
    - Increase flows and allow for 

       ¬ RE transfers to neighboring balancing areas
    - Reduce congestion in existing lines
    - Logically improve system topology

# Planning CTD.



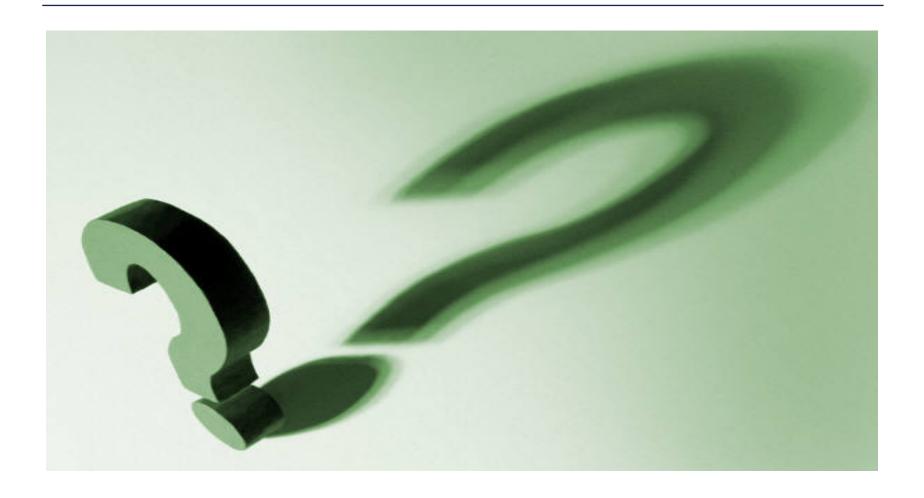
- Is it designed to be expandable?
  - Towers that can accommodate higher voltage rating conductors
  - Towers that allow for adding a circuit

# **Extending ROW life**

New technologies and enhanced electronics can help

- Flow controllers reduce congestion
- PMUs (synchrophasors) and automation
- High capacity conductors
  - Where towers cannot easily or cost effectively be replaced
  - Defer or altogether avoid reconstruction
  - Increase transfer capacity with same or similar voltage ratings

# **Questions?**





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