Outreach Summary & Next Steps

Chelan Dam Substation – March 2019

Background

On Wednesday, March 13, the PUD held two outreach events in Chelan to explain the need for a new substation in southeast Chelan, near the Chelan Dam. Fifteen stakeholders representing commercial and industrial customers, the City, community organizations and project neighbors attended a Stakeholder Luncheon at Campbell's Resort. PUD staff provided an overview presentation, and used a live polling software to collect feedback on the project (see below for results).

Then in the afternoon, PUD staff held a public drop-in session at the Chamber of Commerce, where approximately 25 members of the public attended to learn about the project, ask questions, and submit comments.

PUD staff also presented the Chelan Transmission Fire Hardening Project at both of these events.

How we informed

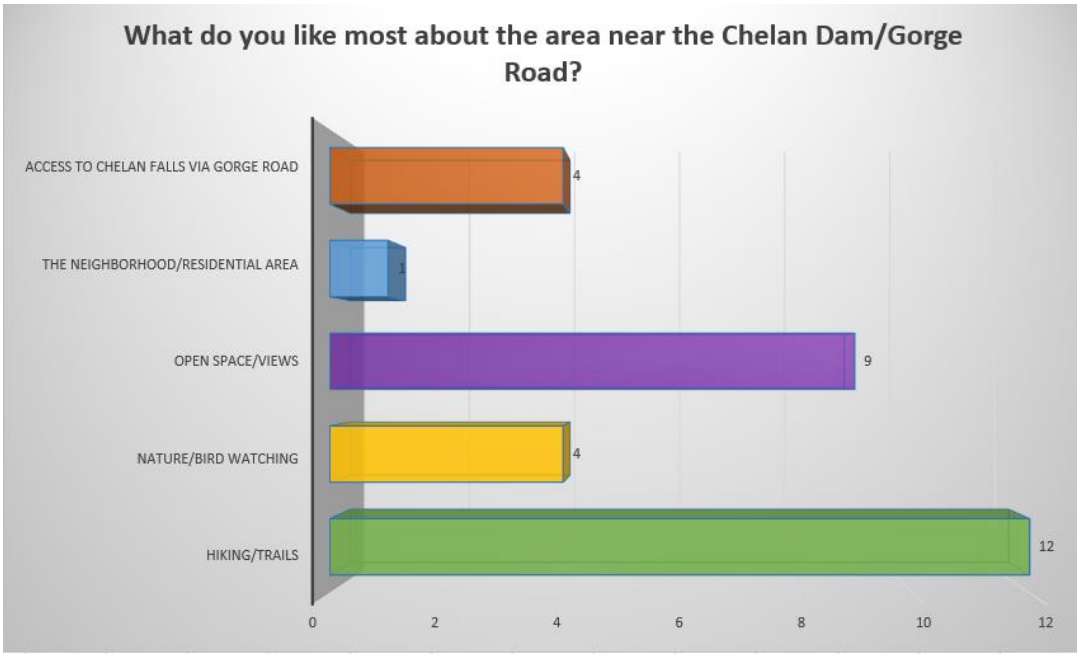
Prior to the outreach, Chelan PUD reached out to stakeholders in the following ways:

- Postcard to Chelan and Chelan Falls customers
- Phone calls and emails to stakeholders to invite them to the luncheon
- Press release and interviews with media (see below for list of media coverage)
- Project website
- Project Fact Sheet

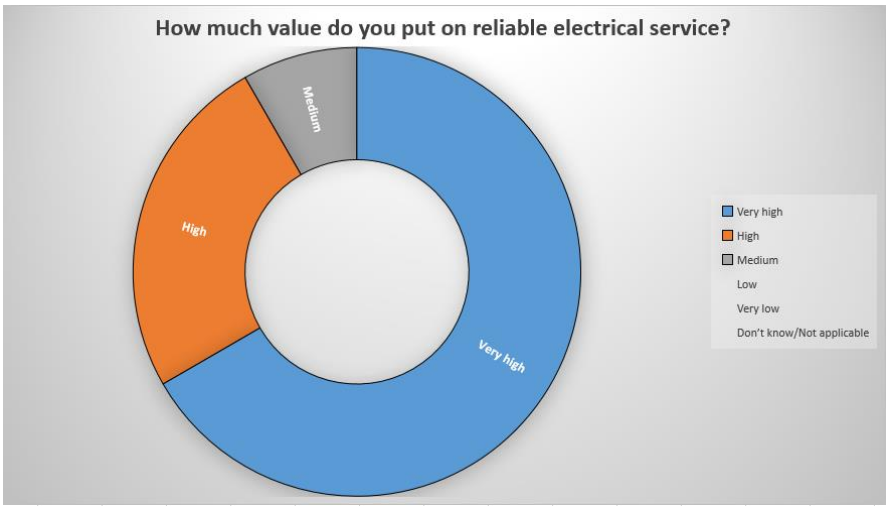
What we heard

At the conclusion of the Stakeholder Luncheon, staff polled the group on five questions about the Chelan Dam Substation.

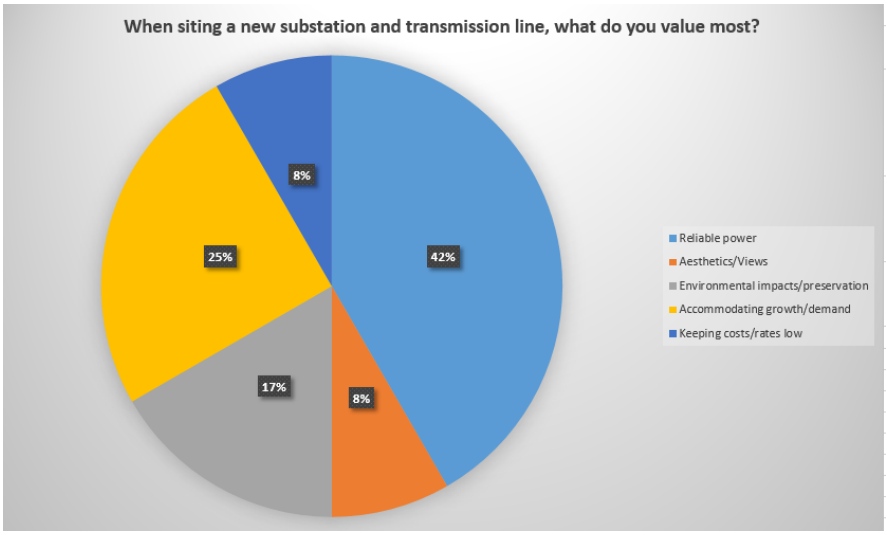
- 100% of respondents said they understand why the PUD is proposing to build a new substation near the Chelan Dam.
- 100% of respondents said that if they had to choose a transmission alignment to connect to the new substation, they would select Option A: from the Chelan Falls Switchyard, along Gorge Road to the substation site.



Respondents were able to choose more than one answer for this question, and generally put a lot of value on hiking, trail access and open space in the area near the Chelan Dam and Gorge Road.



Respondents placed a medium to very high value on maintaining reliable electrical service, with no respondents choosing low or very low.



Half of respondents most valued keeping rates low or maintaining reliable power when considering siting a new substation and transmission line. An additional 25% valued accommodating growth and demand. The remaining 25% valued views, aesthetics and environmental protection.

Comment forms were provided at the drop-in session but no formal comments were received. Staff recorded questions and comments from attendees, including:

- Generally, attendees were supportive of the need to build a new substation.
- Generally, attendees preferred potential transmission route A (Gorge Road) over the other alternatives.
- How is the PUD coordinating with the City/County to anticipate growth and electrical demand?
- Will the new substation be visible from the north side of the gorge?
- How is this project related to the North Shore Substation? When will that substation be online?
- I'm concerned about the aesthetic impacts of a transmission line that crosses the gorge.
- The PUD should site the transmission line and substation on their own property as much as possible.
- Will Gorge Road still be accessible to cars/pedestrians if the transmission line is sited in that area?
- How will construction of a transmission line or substation near Gorge Road impact nesting eagles?
- Has the PUD coordinated with the Trails Alliance and the hang-gliding community?

Media coverage

- Lake Chelan Now – Making Waves Season 2 Episode 6
- Lake Chelan Now – PUD Plans for Additional Lake Chelan Valley Substations
- Lake Chelan Mirror – Two major PUD projects proposed in Chelan area
- KOZI – New Chelan Substation?

Next steps

Community outreach in March showed general public support for the project need, and the next step is for PUD staff to identify substation site alternatives and use community input to evaluate the alternatives in order to identify a preferred site location. Once a site is selected, the PUD will work with the community to evaluate transmission alternatives to serve the substation.