



# SDG&E SALT CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT SCOPING REPORT

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Application A. 13-09-014

September 2014



# SDG&E SALT CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT SCOPING REPORT

**Prepared for:**

California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Prepared by:**

Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
650-373-1200

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## INTRODUCTION

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### PROJECT BACKGROUND

San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on September 25, 2013, for a Permit to Construct (PTC) (Application No. 13-09-014). The application was deemed complete on May 19, 2014. The proposed project includes the following components:

- **Salt Creek Substation:** Construction of a 69/12-kilovolt (kV) distribution substation in southeastern Chula Vista referred to as the Salt Creek Substation. The proposed substation would include three distribution circuits to tie in to the existing distribution network at Hunte Parkway. It also would include an underground loop-in of the existing 69-kV transmission line (TL 6910) and fiber optic line located in the SDG&E transmission corridor adjacent to the proposed substation location.
- **TL 6965:** Construction of approximately 5 miles of aboveground 69-kV power line and approximately 1,000 feet of underground power line between Miguel Substation and the proposed Salt Creek Substation. The aboveground power line would be installed on 41 new steel poles and eight existing steel poles.
- **Miguel Substation Modifications:** Addition of a new rack at Miguel Substation to accommodate TL 6965.

### PURPOSE OF SCOPING

This scoping report describes the CPUC's CEQA scoping process and contains the comments received on the proposed project during the EIR scoping period. The CPUC will use scoping comments to:

- Define the range of issues and alternatives for the proposed project for evaluation in the EIR
- Focus the environmental analysis
- Identify potential environmental impacts for consideration in the EIR
- Identify potential mitigation measures for consideration in the EIR

Comments received during the scoping process are part of the public record as documented in this scoping report. The comments and questions received during the public scoping process have been reviewed and considered by the CPUC in determining the appropriate scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR.

## SCOPING SUMMARY

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### OVERVIEW

The CEQA process provides opportunities for agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide input. This section describes the scoping process and how CPUC provided notice to the public on how to participate in the CEQA process.

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The CPUC determined that preparation of an EIR would be appropriate. The CPUC issued an NOP on August 15, 2014, to inform the public and agencies of its intention to prepare an EIR (see Appendix A). The NOP also solicited comments on the scope of the EIR during the 30-day scoping period. The scoping period ended on September 15, 2014. Table 1 contains CEQA NOP requirements and describes how the CPUC distributed the NOP.

Table 1: Summary of CEQA NOP Requirements and CPUC Noticing	
CEQA Requirement	CPUC Noticing
To each responsible <sup>1</sup> and trustee agency <sup>2</sup> advising them of its intention to prepare an EIR (CEQA Guidelines § 15082).	√
Consultation with persons and organizations prior to completing the Draft EIR is optional under CEQA. When such scoping occurs, it should be a part of agency consultation under Section 15082 to the extent that combining agency consultation and public scoping is feasible (CEQA Guidelines § 15083).	√ Mailed copies of the NOP to residents within 500 feet of the project alignment.
Notes:	
<sup>1</sup> Any public agency, other than the lead agency, which has discretionary approval power over a project (CEQA Guidelines § 15381)	
<sup>2</sup> State agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of California (CEQA Guidelines § 15386)	

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

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### Comment Letters

Four comment letters from public agencies, four comment letters from private residents, and one letter from SDG&E were received during the comment period (Appendix B). The comment letters are summarized in Table 2.

Comments from public agencies concerned the following topics:

- Support for the project by the City of Chula Vista
- Recommendations by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to protect archeological resources
- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) Encroachment Permit
- Suggestions by the City of Chula Vista Development Services Department to address aesthetic, biological, and water quality impacts to the City of Chula Vista Otay Valley Regional Park and the Otay Ranch Preserve.

Letters from private residents mainly concerned the following topics:

- Health issues associated with living in close proximity to substations and transmission lines, including health issues associated with effects from electric and magnetic fields (EMF).
- Noise
- Pollution
- Home values
- Alternatives for substation locations
- Alternatives for the power line alignment and undergrounding of the power line

SDG&E commented about the need of the project, the support from the City of Chula Vista, and reiterated that the selection of the site was a multi-year process.

**SALT CREEK PROJECT SCOPING REPORT**

<b>Table 2: Summary of Public Comments</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comment Summary</b>
<b>Public Agencies</b>	
Jacob Armstrong, Branch Chief California Department of Transportation	Any work performed within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) will require an encroachment permit.
Gayle Totton, Associate Government Program Analyst Native American Heritage Commission	NAHC recommends contacting the appropriate regional archeological information center for a records search to determine the presence of archeological resources and to determine the need for an archeological survey. If an archeological survey is deemed necessary, NACH recommends the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey. NAHC recommends contacting the Native American Heritage Commission. NAHC recommends that mitigation measures per CEQA Guidelines 15064.5 Public Resource Code (PRC) 5097.98, Health and Safety Code 7050.5 be included in the mitigation plan.
Gary Halbert, P.E., AICP, Assistant City Manager City of Chula Vista	The City of Chula Vista supports the development of the proposed project.
Marilyn R.F. Pongeggi, Principal Planner City of Chula Vista Development Services Department	<p>The EIR should address impacts caused by construction and operation on the OVRP and the applicant should coordinate directly with City of Chula Vista Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) staff regarding potential aesthetic impacts on the view of OVRP. The EIR should address compatible edge treatments and appropriate buffers adjacent to the OVRP. The EIR should include an analysis of the project's consistency with the OVRP Design Standards and Guidelines (section 5.3.3). The EIR should analyze the project's consistency with minimization of alteration of natural landforms, use of three dimensional relief for building elevations that face OVRP in order to provide visual architectural interest and articulation for those building frontages that can be viewed from the OVRP, minimization of lights that cause high levels of illumination adjacent to the OVRP, outdoor storage areas, refuse collection areas and loading areas located in interior side yards or properly screened to reduce visual impacts to the OVRP.</p> <p>The EIR should address impacts to biological resources, including edge effects on the Otay Ranch Preserve, caused by the installation of additional lighting, noise, drainage, release of toxic substances, and invasive species. The EIR should include a Biological Resource Technical Report that analyzes the project's consistency with applicable policies, goals, and objectives of the Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan (Phase I and II).</p> <p>The EIR should address impacts to water quality and describe measures to comply with federal, state, and local storm water regulations.</p>
<b>Private Residents</b>	
Steven Espiritu	Concern that the current voltage and propose increase in voltage will have an adverse effect on the residents of his home. Mr. Espiritu asked what studies have been conducted about electric field and their effects on humans or animals.

**SALT CREEK PROJECT SCOPING REPORT**

<b>Table 2: Summary of Public Comments</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comment Summary</b>
Maria S. Pons-Sorolla	Ms. Pons-Sorolla commented about having problems with hard water systems in the area and the need to improve water systems.
Robert Friedrich	Mr. Friedrich expressed his concern about health issues associated with living in close proximity to substations and transmission lines. Mr. Friedrich proposed that the substation be moved further south into the canyon, away from people, schools, and neighborhoods. Mr. Friedrich commented that if this option were not possible, to move the substation elsewhere but not in close proximity to the Windingwalk Community.
Gerardo Javier Arias Lopez	Mr. Lopez expressed his concern about health issues associated with high voltage overload and EMF on the existing poles in the Windingwalk community. Mr. Lopez is concerned about noise and pollution due to the addition of the 69-kV line. Mr. Lopez is also concerned about the effect to their home values and the home values of their entire community. Mr. Lopez asked that alternative alignments and configurations be analyzed.
<b>SDG&amp;E</b>	
Andy Renger SDG&E	The project will provide additional capacity to serve existing load and future load growth in the southeast Chula Vista area, and improve service reliability and minimize the potential for outages or service disruptions. SDG&E reiterates that the selection of the proposed site south of Hunte Parkway was a multi-year process that involved extensive coordination and ultimately consensus with the City of Chula Vista.

**APPENDIX A**  
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, and Interested Parties

**From:** Connie Chen, Environmental Project Manager

**Subject:** NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Salt Creek Substation Project (A-13-09-014)

**Date:** August 15, 2014

**Introduction**

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed an application A. 13-09-014 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on September 25, 2013, for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Salt Creek Substation Project (Proposed Project). The CPUC has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the Proposed Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts. The CPUC is serving as the lead agency for preparation of the EIR. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to interested agencies and members of the public to inform the recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of the EIR and to request comments from the public on the scope of the EIR.

SDG&E's application (Application No. 13-09-014), Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), and additional information on the CEQA process are available for public review at the CPUC Energy Division CEQA Unit and at the following website:  
[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt\\_Creek/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/index.html)

**Project Description**

The primary objectives of the Proposed Project are (i) to provide additional capacity to serve existing load and future load growth in the southeast Chula Vista area, and (ii) to enhance the distribution and power network to improve electrical service reliability and minimize the potential for long-term outages or service disruptions.

To meet these objectives, the Proposed Project includes the following components, shown in Figure 1:

- **Salt Creek Substation:** Construction and operation of a new 120-megavolt-ampere (MVA), 69/12- kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation in southeast Chula Vista. The proposed substation would include three distribution circuits to tie into the existing distribution network at Hunte Parkway. The substation also would include an underground loop-in of the existing 69-kV transmission line (TL 6910) and fiber optic line located in the SDG&E transmission corridor adjacent to the proposed substation site.
- **TL 6965:** Construction of approximately 5 miles of aboveground 69-kV power line and approximately 1,000 feet of underground power line between Miguel Substation and the proposed Salt Creek Substation. The aboveground power line would be installed on 41 new steel poles and eight existing steel poles.
- **Miguel Substation Modifications:** Addition of a new rack at Miguel Substation for TL 6965.

## **Project Location**

The Proposed Project is located in southwest San Diego County within the City of Chula Vista, California, and in unincorporated San Diego County (Figure 1). The proposed Salt Creek Substation would be located south of Hunte Parkway, east of Eastlake Parkway, in Chula Vista, on an 11-acre parcel of land that is currently undeveloped. The proposed 69-kV power line would be located within SDG&E's existing Right-of-way (ROW) between the Miguel Substation and the proposed Salt Creek Substation.

## **Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects**

The CPUC is preparing an EIR to evaluate potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project in accordance with CEQA. The EIR will address impacts of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project.

Specific areas of analysis to be addressed in the EIR include:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Where feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. Potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Project, when considered in context with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area, will also be addressed in the EIR.

The EIR will include an evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project that could potentially reduce, eliminate, or avoid impacts of the Proposed Project, in compliance with CEQA.

## **Mitigation Measures.**

SDG&E has proposed measures (Applicant Proposed Measures) that could reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the Proposed Project. The EIR will contain an evaluation of the effectiveness of these measures. The CPUC will develop mitigation measures to reduce impacts, if required. The CPUC would define measures to be implemented as a condition of project approval (if the project is approved) when the CPUC makes its final decision on the Proposed Project. The CPUC would require implementation of a mitigation monitoring program if the project or some alternative is approved

## **Alternatives**

SDG&E analyzed eight alternative locations for the Salt Creek Substation and five alternative alignments and configurations for the 69-kV powerline that could potentially meet the objectives and reduce impacts. These alternatives were presented in the PEA. The CPUC will evaluate the feasibility of the PEA alternatives and determine if they meet CEQA requirements to be an alternative to the Proposed Project. The CPUC will likely develop other alternatives for evaluation in the EIR, which could include minor reroutes and different structure designs within the ROW and different substation locations or configurations that could meet the Proposed Project objectives. Input received during the scoping period will be considered in the EIR. Other alternatives may also be proposed based on the impacts of the Proposed Project.

### Scoping Comments

The CPUC is soliciting information regarding the environmental topics and project alternatives that the EIR should address. **Due to the time limits mandated by State law, please send your response at the earliest possible date, but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15, 2014.** Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject.

Public comments will become part of the public record and will be published in a Scoping Report. You can submit comments in several ways: (1) U.S. mail, (2) e-mail, and (3) fax. Send comments on the scope and content of the EIR to:

**Ms. Connie Chen**  
**SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project**  
**c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.**  
**One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740**  
**San Francisco, CA 94111**  
**Fax: (650) 373-1211**  
**E-mail: saltcreeksub@panoramaenv.com.**

### Issuance of NOP

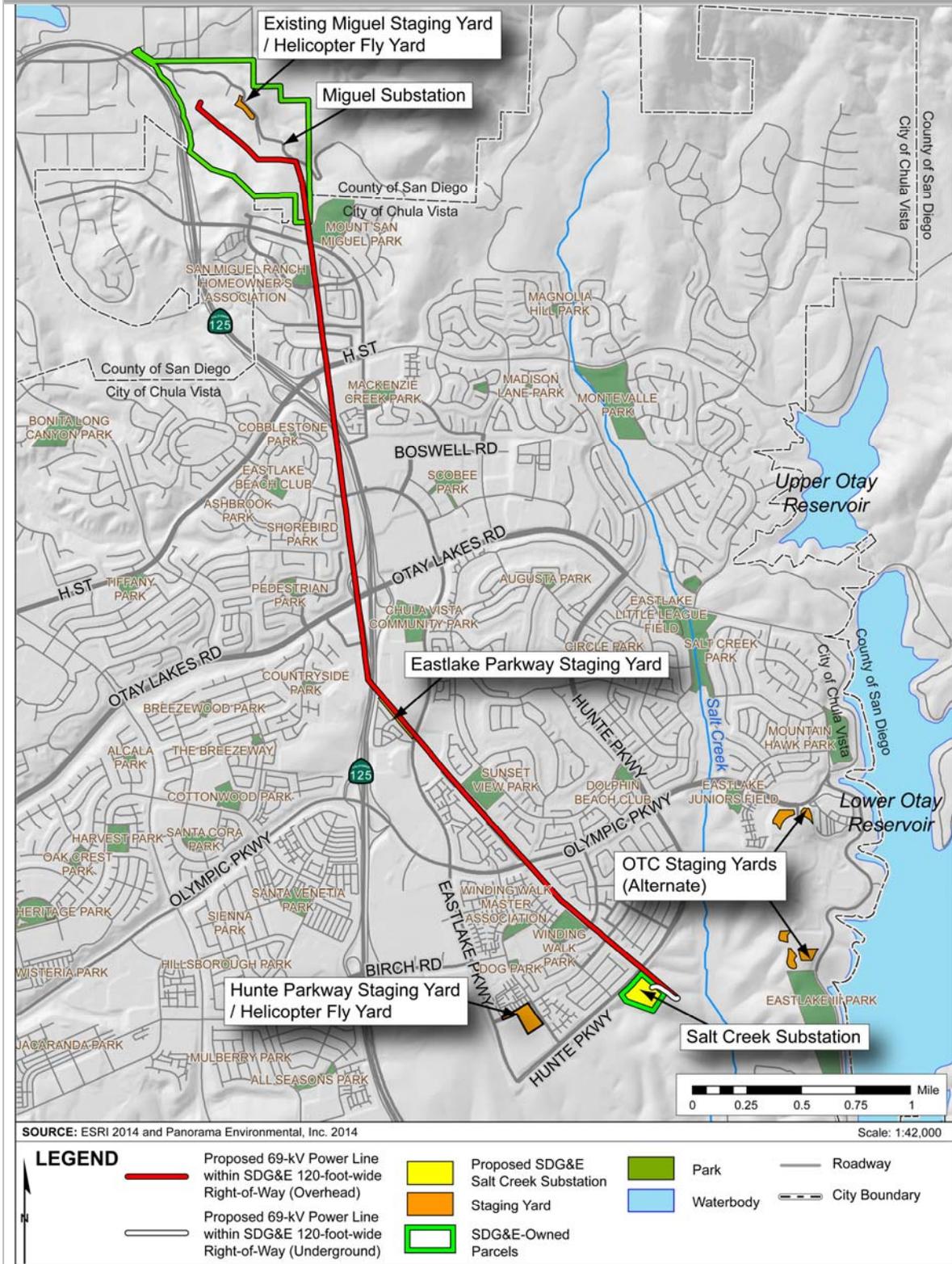
The California Public Utilities Commission hereby issues this Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ August 15, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_

Connie Chen, Project Manager  
Energy Division  
California Public Utilities Commission

Figure 1: Project Area



**APPENDIX B**  
**COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 30-DAY PUBLIC**  
**COMMENT PERIOD**

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 11, DIVISION OF PLANNING  
4050 TAYLOR ST, M.S. 240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110  
PHONE (619) 688-6960  
FAX (619) 688-4299  
TTY 711  
www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

September 1, 2014

11-SD-125

PM 4.1

Salt Creek Substation NOP

Ms. Connie Chen  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Chen:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed Salt Creek Substation project near State Route 125 (SR-125). We have the following comments:

Any work performed within Caltrans right-of-way (R/W) will require an encroachment permit. Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual ([http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment\\_permits\\_manual/index.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment_permits_manual/index.html)) for guidance on utility encroachment.

Guidance for utility encroachment is contained in Chapter 600, Table 6.7 (page 6-35) of the Encroachment Permit Manual.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies. If these materials are not included with the encroachment permit application, the applicant will be required to acquire and provide these to Caltrans before the permit application will be accepted. Identification of avoidance and/or mitigation measures will be a condition of the encroachment permit approval as well as procurement of any necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Encroachment permit submittals that are incomplete can result in significant delays in permit approval.

***Freeway traffic control***

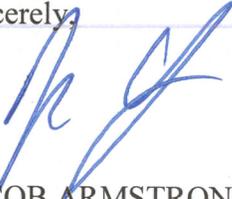
Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual (Appendix E, Transportation Plan Management Guidelines) for guidance on Traffic Control on freeways for the placement of aerial

Ms. Connie Chen  
September 1, 2014  
Page 2

lines. The construction of safety nets is another option that is outlined further in the Caltrans Encroachment Manual (Appendix E, H Support Diagram for Aerial Crossings).

If you have any questions on the comments Caltrans has provided, please contact Roger Sanchez of the Development Review Branch at (619) 688-6494.

Sincerely,



JACOB ARMSTRONG, Branch Chief  
Development Review Branch

1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100  
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
Fax (916) 373-5471



August 14, 2014

Connie Chen  
CA Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

RE: SCH# 2014081032 Salt Creek Substation Project, San Diego County.

Dear Ms. Chen:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
  - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
  - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check. **USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle name, township, range, and section required**
  - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. **Native American Contacts List attached**
- ✓ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated, which are addressed in Public Resources Code (PRC) §5097.98, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, PRC §5097.98, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(e), address the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle Totton".

Gayle Totton  
Associate Government Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse

**Native American Contacts  
San Diego County, California  
August 19, 2014**

La Posta Band of Mission Indians Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson 8 Crestwood Road Boulevard , CA 91905 gparada@lapostacasino. (619) 478-2113 (619) 478-2125	Diegueno/Kumeyaay	Kumeyaay Cultural Historic Committee Ron Christman 56 Viejas Grade Road Alpine , CA 92001 (619) 445-0385	Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation Leroy J. Elliott, Chairperson P.O. Box 1302 Boulevard , CA 91905 ljbirdsinger@aol.com (619) 766-4930 (619) 766-4957 Fax	Diegueno/Kumeyaay	Campo Band of Mission Indians Ralph Goff, Chairperson 36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Campo , CA 91906 chairgoff@aol.com (619) 478-9046 (619) 478-5818 Fax	Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Daniel Tucker, Chairperson 5459 Sycuan Road El Cajon , CA 92019 ssilva@sycuan-nsn.gov (619) 445-2613 (619) 445-1927 Fax	Diegueno/Kumeyaay	Jamul Indian Village Raymond Hunter, Chairperson P.O. Box 612 Jamul , CA 91935 jamulrez@sctdv.net (619) 669-4785	Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians Anthony R. Pico, Chairperson P.O. Box 908 Alpine , CA 91903 jhagen@viejas-nsn.gov (619) 445-3810 (619) 445-5337 Fax	Diegueno/Kumeyaay	Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee Steve Banegas, Spokesperson 1095 Barona Road Lakeside , CA 92040 sbenegas50@gmail.com (619) 742-5587 (619) 443-0681 Fax	Diegueno/Kumeyaay

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Salt Creek Substation Project; located in the city of Chula Vista; San Diego County, California.

**Native American Contacts  
San Diego County, California  
August 19, 2014**

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
ATTN: Julie Hagen, Cultural Resources  
P.O. Box 908 Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
Alpine, CA 91903  
jhagen@viejas-nsn.gov  
(619) 445-3810  
(619) 445-5337

Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee  
Bernice Paipa, Vice Spokesperson  
P.O. 937 Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
Boulevard, CA 91905  
bernicepaipa@gmail.com

lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel  
Clint Linton, Director of Cultural Resources  
P.O. Box 507 Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070  
cjlinton73@aol.com  
(760) 803-5694

Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy  
Mr. Kim Bactad, Executive Director  
2 Kwaaypaay Court Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
El Cajon, CA 91919  
kimbactad@gmail.com  
(619) 659-1008 Office  
(619) 445-0238 Fax

Inter-Tribal Cultural Resource Protection Council  
Frank Brown, Coordinator  
240 Brown Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
Alpine, CA 91901  
frbrown@viejas-nsn.gov  
(619) 884-6437

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Salt Creek Substation Project; located in the city of Chula Vista; San Diego County, California.



CITY OF  
CHULA VISTA

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

August 1, 2013

Ms. Claudia Valenzuela, Public Affairs Manager  
San Diego Gas & Electric  
8330 Century Park Court, CP 31D  
San Diego, CA 92123

**SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project**

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The City of Chula Vista's (City) supports the development of the Salt Creek Substation ("Proposed Project"). The City anticipates that the new Proposed Project will enhance the regional system and support the upcoming projects in the area. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), the City, and other entities have been working together on the planning and design of the Proposed Project, which will serve to support the development of important projects in the Otay Ranch Community, such as the future University and Innovation District. As part of this process, SDG&E and the City have undertaken a variety of activities related to the planning of the proposed project. Some of those activities are summarized below.

Approximately ten years ago, the need to construct a new substation within the Otay Ranch area was identified by SDG&E. SDG&E spent years working intensively on the identification and selection of the site for the new substation. In 2002, SDG&E began working with the City and the University Framework Committee to identify a suitable location for a new substation as part of the early planning efforts for a proposed university within Chula Vista's Otay Ranch area. In early 2007, after extensive discussion and consideration of several substation site alternatives, consensus was reached by SDG&E, the City, and members of the University Framework Committee on the selection of Hunte West (the Proposed Project location) as the preferred substation location. SDG&E spent approximately 2 years working on the substation design with the City. The site acquisition process was suspended in 2008, when the City entered into a Land Offer Agreement with the adjacent property owner, and the Hunte West property was no longer available for development of a substation. This resulted in the need to re-analyze alternative site locations for the Salt Creek Substation. SDG&E worked with the City to analyze three alternative site locations. Based on changes in circumstances in early 2011, Hunte West became available again as a viable location for the proposed Salt Creek Substation. In June 2011, SDG&E purchased the 11.64-acre Hunte West site for development of the Salt Creek Substation to service existing and future development in the surrounding area. SDG&E continued meeting with the City to discuss development plans for the proposed Salt Creek Substation.

The City acknowledges SDG&E initiative and cooperation in initiating and moving forward the development of a new substation at the southeast area of the City. The City appreciates the work that SDG&E has done on this effort and looks forward to continuing to work with SDG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission on processing and implementing the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Gary Halbert, P.E., AICP  
Assistant City Manager



## Development Services Department

---

September 15, 2014

Ms. Connie Chen  
SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project  
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Re: Response to Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report: San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Salt Creek Substation Project

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on the NOP for the above referenced project. As we understand the project, it involves the construction and operation of a new 120-megavolt-ampere (MVA)69/12-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation in southeast Chula Vista. It also includes the construction of approximately 5 miles of aboveground 69-kV power line and approximately 12,000 feet of underground power line between the Miguel Substation and the proposed Salt Creek Substation. The third component of the project is the addition of a new rack at the Miguel Substation for TL6965. The proposed Salt Creek Substation would be located south of Hunte Parkway, and east of Eastlake Parkway on an 11-acre parcel.

### Otay Valley Regional Park

The proposed substation is located to the west of the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) and within the view shed of the Park (OVRP). Please coordinate directly with City of Chula Vista OVRP staff regarding the potential aesthetic impacts of the proposed project on the views from the OVRP. The OVRP consists primarily of areas of sensitive biological resources traversed by trails. Please address the impact of the construction and operation of the Salt Creek Substation as well as the other components of the project on the OVRP (e.g. KOPs within OVRP).

In accordance with the OVRP design guidelines, "it is important for governing agencies to encourage and influence design practices that blend new development with the natural and cultural setting of the OVRP". To enhance the visual experience for park users and for the protection of native resources within the park, please ensure that the project addresses compatible edge treatments and appropriate buffers adjacent to the OVRP. The EIR should provide an analysis of the project's consistency with the OVRP Design Standards and Guidelines particularly section 5.3.3 of the Design Standards and Guidelines that includes a list of appropriate treatments that will help acknowledge and complement OVRP amenities and resources. The EIR should provide an analysis of the project's consistency with the following:

- Minimization of alteration of natural landforms
- Use of three dimensional relief for building elevations that face the OVRP in order to provide visual architectural interest and articulation for those building frontages that can be viewed from the OVRP.
- Minimization of lights that cause high levels of illumination adjacent to the OVRP.
- Outdoor storage areas, refuse collection areas and loading areas located in interior side yards or properly screened to reduce visual impacts to the OVRP

### Biological Impacts

The Substation is proposed to be located on a site that is adjacent to the Otay Ranch Preserve. Therefore the expansion of the facility may impact sensitive biological resources. The EIR should analyze the potential impacts to biological resources from the project including edge effects on the Preserve. These edge effects include the installation of additional lighting, noise (during construction and on-going), drainage, release of toxic substances, and invasive species. The analysis should include preparation of a Biological Technical Report that includes a thorough analysis of the project's consistency with the applicable policies, goals, and objectives of the Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan (Phases I and II).

### Stormwater Issues

The EIR should address the impact of the proposed project on water quality and explain what measures will be taken to comply with federal, state, and local storm water regulations.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this NOP and look forward to working with you during the preparation of the EIR and to reviewing the completed document. The City of Chula Vista requests notification prior to any and all scheduled public meetings, hearings, and workshops, and availability of draft documents related to the proposed project. Please send notices to my attention. If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please contact me at (619) 585-5707.

Sincerely,



Marilyn R.F. Pongeggi  
Principal Planner

Cc: Ed Batchelder, Planning Manager  
Scott Donaghe, Principal Planner  
Glen Laube, Associate Planner  
Lynnette Tessitore-Lopez, Associate Planner

**Susanne Heim**

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**From:** Stephen Espiritu  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2014 6:10 PM  
**To:** saltcreeksub@panoramaenv.com  
**Subject:** Project A-13-09-014

I live adjacent to the proposed project.

What studies do you have on electrical fields and their effects on humans or animals? I worry that the current voltage and proposed increase voltage to the proposed areas will have adverse effects on me and my family.

thanks,  
Stephen Espiritu  
(619)518-6391

1759 Copper Penny Dr.  
Chula Vista, CA 91915

## Susanne Heim

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**From:** MARIA S.PONS SOROLLA  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 16, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** .  
**Subject:** RESPONSE TO YOU ABOUT CPUC IN MY AREA

Good Morning Ms. Connie Chen,

I got the letter in the mail last night( August 15) about CPUC in my area( Chula Vista, CA San Diego area). I already read the letter about CPUC. I was post response by 500pm last night but I arrived home after 700pm and the letter arrived the same date for the deadline. I want to add one thing that we need to improve water system so we are having problem with hard water system in the area.

Name: Maria S. Pons-Sorolla

Address: 2221 Capistrano Way Unit#5  
Chula Vista, CA 91915

Telephone Number: 619-502-9423( video phone for deaf and I have an interpreter on the screen)

## Susanne Heim

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**From:** Robert Friedrich  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 17, 2014 8:47 PM  
**To:** saltcreeksub@panoramaenv.com  
**Cc:** aworrall@hightechhigh.org; tvillarreal@prescottmgt.com  
**Subject:** Project A-13-09-014 - Public Utilities Commission Proposed Electrical Substation on Hunte Parkway

Dear Ms Chen

I received your correspondence PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION for PROJECT A-13-09-014 and the request for responses before September 15, 2014 and I ask that you accept my response as a vote against the proposed location of the sub station.

Sub Stations and Powerline are known causes of a number of disorders, some as severe as cancers as Im sure you are well aware of. An example of such effects is well documented in this site from Australia, although the effects are of course not limited to one country.

<http://www.ecolibria.com.au/Resources/electromagnetic-radiation-emr-and-potential-adverse-health-affects>

There are a myriad of studies and tests which have been conducted on this subject matter and there are certain recommend minimum distances which should be observed when building a sub station in a residential neighborhood, or in the case of this project, across the street and 100 meters away from a Public School - High Tech High.

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt\\_Creek/images/Scoping\\_Meeting\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/images/Scoping_Meeting_Presentation.pdf)

Id like to propose the PUC move the sub station 100 meters further south into the canyon, out of the way from people, out of the way from schools and existing neighborhoods.

If thats not a viable solution, then move it somewhere else, but not right next to the Windingwalk Community.

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt\\_Creek/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/index.html)

I have copied Mrs Anne Worrall the Director at the High Tech High School for her awareness as well as the office at Windingwalk Community Office, although IM sure they should have received copies of the PUC Letter as well.

Thank you

Robert Friedrich  
2244 Flowerpot Lane  
Resident of the Community



Leo Mena &lt;leo.mena@panoramaenv.com&gt;

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**Salt Creek Substation Project (A-13-09-014)**

1 message

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**Gerardo Javier Arias Lopez** <garias3270@hotmail.com> Mon, Sep 15, 2014 at 9:32 AM  
To: "saltcreeksub@panoramaenv.com" <saltcreeksub@panoramaenv.com>, "garias@energylabs.com" <garias@energylabs.com>, "judithcarolinamc@hotmail.com" <judithcarolinamc@hotmail.com>, Tom Villarreal <tvillarreal@prescottmgt.com>, Cena Martin <cmartin@prescottmgt.com>

Ms. Connie Chen,  
SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project  
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.

To whom it may concern;

We are absolutely concerned about the Salt Creek Substation Project. We are a Family that move to live on East Chula Vista area about 6 years ago, my wife and three kids that needs a home free of stray voltage and electromagnetic fields. We live exactly behind to to the steel poles in where this project is considering to load an additional 69-KV power line and it will be very dangerous for our Windingwalk community in Otay Ranch.

Our main concerns about this project are:

- Unexplained illnesses due to the high voltage over load on the existing steel poles in our Windingwalk community (Cancer, Gastrointestinal Problems, Nerve Damages, Asthma, etc.)
- More noise and pollution due to the additional 69-KV.
- Affectation in the home values on the entire community.

Please analyzed and consider other alternative alignments and configurations for the 69-kV power line to reduce impacts. We personally won't allow this project in our Windingwalk community.

Gerardo Javier Arias Lopez  
and Judith Millan de Arias  
1654 Falling Star Dr  
Chula Vista, Ca. 91915  
Phone: (619) 572 6384



Andy Renger  
Project Manager – T&D Project Development  
8315 Century Park Ct. CP21C  
San Diego, CA 92123-1548  
Tel. 858.654.1835 Cell 619.764.9049 Fax 858.637.3770  
ARenger@SempraUtilities.com

September 15, 2014

Ms. Connie Chen  
SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project  
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Subject: San Diego Gas & Electric Co. (SDG&E) Comments to the State of California Public Utilities Commission Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Salt Creek Substation Project (A-13-09-014)

Dear Ms. Chen,

SDG&E appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the scope of the EIR as outlined in the NOP issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on August 15, 2014. As you know, the Permit to Construct (PTC) application was filed by SDG&E on September 25, 2013 and deemed complete on May 19, 2014. The application proposes the construction of a new 69/12-kV substation (Salt Creek Substation) and the looping in of an existing 69-kV power line (TL 6910) into Salt Creek substation. The project also proposes the installation of a new 69-kV power line (TL 6965) from an existing substation to the proposed Salt Creek Substation alongside existent power lines. The project will provide additional capacity to serve existing load and future load growth in the southeast Chula Vista area, and improve service reliability and minimize the potential for outages or service disruptions.

As part of the CEQA process, the CPUC and their environmental consultant Panorama Environmental, Inc. are analyzing alternatives to aspects of the proposed project such as substation site location. SDG&E would like to reiterate that the selection of the proposed site south of Hunte Parkway was a multi-year process that involved extensive coordination and ultimately consensus with the City of Chula Vista. A copy of the Letter of Support for the SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project has been attached to this letter.

SDG&E appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR and looks forward to our continued cooperation on bringing this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AR", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Renger