SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

CPUC A.10-09-016
SCH #: 2010121032

Final Environmental Impact Report
(Response to Comments)

Prepared for
California Public Utilities Commission

August 2012

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CHAPTER 1
Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) to document its analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Lakeview Substation Project (Project) proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE, or Applicant). The Final EIR consists of this Response to Comments document and the January 2012 Lakeview Substation Project Draft EIR (SCH No. 2010121032). The CPUC will use this Final EIR in conjunction with other information developed in its formal record when considering whether to approve the application for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages between 50 kV and 200 kV that the Applicant submitted on September 17, 2010.

The Draft EIR published in January 2012 detailed the Project, evaluated and described the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project, identified those impacts that could be significant, and presented mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft EIR also evaluated alternatives to the Project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA. A digital copy of the Draft EIR is included on a CD inside the front cover of this document. A digital copy of this Final EIR is included on the same CD.

1.2 Project Overview

SCE proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 115/12 kV unattended, automated, 56 MVA low-profile substation (the Lakeview Substation) and related facilities on an approximately 5.4 acre parcel located at the southwest corner of Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street, in the community of Lakeview, within unincorporated Riverside County, California. SCE would establish vehicular access to the proposed Lakeview Substation site from 10th Street. In addition to the proposed Lakeview Substation, the Project would include the installation of two subtransmission source line segments; construction of two underground 12 kV distribution “getaways”; telecommunications (fiber-optic) infrastructure work; and the decommissioning of two existing substations.

The getaways would exit the substation site via two vaults proposed to be installed underground, outside the substation walls either on the substation site, on private property, or in franchise on 10th Street and Reservoir Avenue. Getaway 1 would exit the substation site to the northeast, toward 10th Street, approximately 50 to 75 feet into a new vault. Getaway 2 would exit the

substation site to the southeast, toward Reservoir Avenue, approximately 50 to 75 feet into a new vault. The two vaults would be connected by a duct bank that would be up to approximately 900 feet in length.

Two 115 kV subtransmission source line segments would connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line. One segment would be approximately 1.8 miles in length to form the new Valley-Lakeview 115 kV subtransmission line; the other would be approximately 1.5 miles in length to form the new Lakeview-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line.

Telecommunications infrastructure work (overhead and underground) would connect the proposed substation to nearby substations. Two new diverse fiber-optic cable routes would connect the Lakeview Substation to the existing Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable. The connection points with the Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable are each located approximately 1 mile from the proposed Lakeview Substation.

The Draft EIR included analysis of a third fiber-optic cable route that would have connected the terminus of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 to the existing Moval Substation. Subsequent to publication of the Draft EIR, the Applicant replaced this component of the Project (Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3) with proposed installation of new underground fiber-optic cable at and near the existing Alessandro Substation in the City of Moreno Valley.

New fiber-optic equipment also would be installed at the existing Valley, Cajalco, Moval, and Bunker substations. Upgrades to existing fiber-optical communications equipment would occur at the following existing substations: Valley, Eastside, Stetson, Mayberry, and Nelson Substation. All communications equipment installations and upgrades would occur within existing structures: no ground disturbance would be required for this telecommunications work.

The Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations also would be decommissioned. The Nuevo Substation is located near the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Palm Drive. The temporary Model Pole Top Substation is located at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and East Lakeview Avenue. Each would be retired and underground and overhead facilities removed from the site once the proposed Lakeview Substation becomes operational.

The purpose of the Project is to improve the reliability and system operational flexibility of the existing electrical system serving that portion of unincorporated Riverside County (including the communities of Nuevo and Lakeview) now served by SCE's Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations (the "Electrical Needs Area"), which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers. In 2007, SCE projected that the capacity at Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2009, and the temporary Model Pole Top Substation was constructed to provide an interim means to serve the electrical demand in the area until a new substation could be constructed to provide for the long-term capacity, reliability, and system operational flexibility needs of the Electrical Needs Area. The energy demand in this area is expected to exceed the existing capacity in the 2014 timeframe. If approved, the Project would serve forecasted electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area beyond 2032.

1.3 Organization of Final EIR

As required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, the Final EIR consists of the following elements:

(a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft;

(b) Comments received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary;

(c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies that commented on the Draft EIR;

(d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and

(e) Any other information added by the lead agency.

The Final EIR for the Project contains information in response to concerns that were raised during the public comment period (January 12, 2012, through March 5, 2012). In addition to the Draft EIR, which is contained on the CD located inside the front cover of hard copies of this document, the Final EIR contains three chapters and multiple appendices.

- **Chapter 1** is an introductory chapter that describes the purpose as well as the organization of the Final EIR, and provides a brief description of the Project.
- **Chapter 2** describes the organization of the comment letters and summary of the oral comments made at the public meeting, as well as the coding system used to identify individual comments. It also provides responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR, and includes a list of all agencies, organizations, and individuals that submitted comments.
- **Chapter 3** contains all text changes to the Draft EIR, which include clarifications and refinements of information presented in the Draft EIR as well as corrections and updates to information in the Draft EIR. In some instances, the text of the Draft EIR has been revised in response to a comment; these changes also are set forth in Chapter 3.
- **Appendices** that provide supporting documentation for information presented in the Final EIR.

CHAPTER 2
Comments and Responses

This chapter lists the public agencies, organizations, and individuals who provided comments on the Draft EIR, provides copies of written comments received, and responds to those comments. As required by CEQA, these responses to comments address significant environmental issues raised (Pub. Res. Code § 21091(d); CEQA Guidelines §§ 15088(a), 15132).

2.1 Opportunities for Public Comment on the Draft EIR

Notification

On January 12, 2012, the CPUC published and distributed the Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft EIR to advise interested local, regional, and state agencies, and members of the public, that a Draft EIR had been issued for the Project. The NOP solicited both written and oral comments on the Draft EIR during a 45-day comment period (January 12, 2012, through February 27, 2012), and provided information on a forthcoming public comment meeting. The CPUC extended the comment period by seven days, from February 27 to March 5, 2012. Additionally, the NOA presented the background, purpose, description, and location of the Project, as well as the contact name to request additional information about the Project.

In addition to the NOA, the CPUC published notice of the public comment meeting in The Press-Enterprise, a daily newspaper of general circulation in Riverside County, on January 20 and January 21, 2012, as well as via the CPUC's Project-dedicated website. An electronic copy of the NOA and the Draft EIR were posted on the Project website at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lakeview/index.html. The NOA, newspaper notices, and a screenshot of the Project website are provided in Appendices A, B, and C, respectively. Notifications provided basic Project information, the date, time, and location of the public comment meeting, and a brief explanation of the public meeting process. The public was encouraged to submit written comments and concerns regarding the Project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR by mail, facsimile, or email to the CPUC.

Public Comment Meeting

The CPUC conducted a public comment meeting on February 9, 2012, from 6:00 pm at the Eastern Municipal Water District, at 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, California. Approximately four members of the public attended the public comment meeting. Four agency representatives also attended: Michael Rosauer and Myra Prestidge of the CPUC, and Janna Scott and Cory Barringhaus of ESA, the CPUC's EIR consultant. Meeting attendees were encouraged to sign in,

and materials including presentation slides, comment cards, copies of the NOA, and speaker cards were made available.

A presentation was given at the meeting that included an overview of the CPUC's decision-making process, including the environmental review process; the regional context, Project background, Project objectives, Project description, Project alternatives, and role of agencies, organizations, and members of the public as participants in the environmental review process. Following the presentation, public comments were taken. Oral comments have been summarized, and all attendees were encouraged to submit written comments.

2.2 Comments on the Draft EIR

Written Comments

Thirteen (13) comment letters were received on the Draft EIR, including one from the Applicant, five from public agencies, and seven from organizations and individuals. The comment letters received on the Draft EIR are listed below in Section 2.4. Each comment letter has been assigned an alphabet letter and a comment number designating order of receipt within each of the categories identified above. The letter from the Applicant is designated with a capital "A," agency letters are designated with the letter "B," and organizations' and individuals' letters are designated by the letter "C." For example, the third letter received from an agency was from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and is identified as letter B3. Individual comments within letters are marked sequentially with numbers, such as B3-1, B3-2, and so forth. Copies of all letters received are provided below.

Public Meeting Comments

Two people spoke at the February 9, 2012, public comment meeting. Summaries of their oral comments are provided below, designated by the letter "D." Speakers were encouraged to submit follow-up written comments so that the full text and intent of their comments could be documented and addressed. Each of the speakers did so.

2.3 Responses to Comments

The responses to comments provided in this chapter address significant environmental issues that were raised during the environmental review period (Pub. Res. Code § 21091(d); CEQA Guidelines §§ 15088(a), 15132). They are intended to provide clarification and refinement of information presented in the Draft EIR, to correct or update information in the Draft EIR and, in some instances, to respond to a comment received on the Draft EIR. For example, in its comments on the Draft EIR, the Applicant proposed certain design changes intended to reduce potential environmental effects of the Project. These design changes are explained, and associated environmental effects are analyzed on a resource-by-resource basis in Section 2.5.

Where responses to comments have resulted in changes to the text of the Draft EIR, these changes are shown using the following conventions:

1) Text added to the wording in the Draft EIR is shown in underline,
2) Text deleted from the wording in the Draft EIR is shown in ~~strikeout~~, and
3) Text changes are shown not only in indented paragraphs within the relevant response in this Chapter 2, but also are shown in Chapter 3, which aggregates all changes to the Draft EIR.

Some comments received on the Draft EIR did not address the adequacy or accuracy of the environmental analysis or did not identify any other significant environmental issue requiring a response; rather, these comments were directed toward the perceived merits or demerits of the Project, provided information, or expressed an opinion without specifying why the Draft EIR analysis was inadequate. The CPUC, as the CEQA lead agency, acknowledges the receipt of these types of comments; however, limited responses are provided to these comments as they do not relate to the adequacy or accuracy of the Draft EIR or otherwise raise significant environmental issues.

2.4 List of Commenters

Table 2-1 lists all who provided written or oral comments on the Draft EIR.

TABLE 2-1
COMMENTERS ON THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Comment Letter	Commenter	Date
Applicant		
A1	Southern California Edison, Tammy Jones	March 5, 2012
Tribes and Agencies Written Comments		
B1	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Anna Hoover, Cultural Analyst	March 2, 2012
B2	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kennon A. Corey, Assistant Field Supervisor and California Department of Fish and Game, Jeff Brandt, Senior Environmental Scientist	March 5, 2012
B3	South Coast Air Quality Management District, Ian MacMillan, Program Supervisor, Inter-Governmental Review	March 2, 2012
B4	Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, Glenn Robertson, CEQA Coordinator	March 6, 2012
B5	Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, Carolyn Syms-Luna, Executive Director	February 6, 2012
B6	Riverside County Fire Department, Ben R. Johnson, Planning & Development Supervisor	March 8, 2012
Organizations and Individuals Written Comments		
C1	Lozeau Drury, LLP, Richard Drury, on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184	February 10, 2012
C2	Lozeau Drury, LLP, Richard Drury, on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184	February 13, 2012

TABLE 2-1
COMMENTERS ON THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Comment Letter	Commenter	Date
Organizations and Individuals Written Comments (cont.)		
C3	Lozeau Drury, LLP, Richard Drury, on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184	February 14, 2012
C4	Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley, Susan Nash, President	February 24, 2012
C5	Thomas F. Ybarrola, Trustee of the Ybarrola Living Trust	February 27, 2012
C6	Lozeau Drury, LLP, Samuel B. Johnston, on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America and John Martinez and Andrew Arechiga	March, 5, 2012
Public Comment Meeting		
D1	Sue Nash & Tom Paulek, Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley	February 9, 2012
D2	Tom Ybarrola	February 9, 2012

2.5 Applicant-proposed Project Design Changes

Commenters and Comments Addressed

Commenter	Comment Number(s)
SCE	**Work at Alessandro Substation & Removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route No. 3.** 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 28, 34, 35, 46, 54, 69, 80, 86, 87, 88, 95, 97, 105, 110, 113, 119, 120, 121, 122, 129, 135, 137, 142, 143, 145, 152, 154, 155, 162, 166, 170, 167, 173, 175, 176, 178, 179, 184, 187, 189, 191, 194, 195, 196, 198, 204, 207, 208, 209, 211, 212, 216, 217, 223, 229, 231, 234, 235, 236, 242, 243, 244, 249, 250, 251, 253, 255, 256, 257, 258, 260, 261, 262, 266, 276, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286, 287, 289, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 304, 305, 308, 309, 310, 314, 316, 217, 318, 319, 320, 323, 324, 326, 327, 329, 331, 333, 344, 345, 337, 338, 339, 341, 342, 345, 347, 349, 354, 356, 359, 360, 363, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 375, 376, 377, 379, 381, 383, 384, 389, 391, 393, 394

Summary of Issues Raised

A. Following publication of the Draft EIR, the Applicant elected not to proceed with its request for a permit to construct Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.

B. In lieu of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, the Applicant requested permission to connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the existing Alessandro Substation by installing new fiber-optic cable underground.

A. Removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3

The previously proposed overhead and underground portions of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 are shown in blue on Draft EIR Figure 2-2 (p. 2-5). If approved, the route would have connected the

terminus of proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 to the existing Moval Substation and would have been located within a Core Reserve identified by the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKRHCP) administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority (RCHCA). The underground portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 had been proposed within approximately 50 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Swaps Street and within approximately 200 feet of the Riverside County Fire Department's Moreno Beach Fire Station located on Bay Avenue. The overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 had been proposed within approximately 500 feet of at least one residence along Alessandro Boulevard, approximately 50 to 100 feet of 28 residences along Broadiaea Avenue, and approximately 150 feet and 200 feet from a residential trailer park and a horse ranch along Davis Road, respectively.

As analyzed in the Draft EIR, the construction, operation, and maintenance of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 could have resulted in adverse impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat (a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and as threatened under state law) (see Draft EIR Table 4.4-2, p. 4.4-13); planning species considered in the Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (see Draft EIR Table 4.4-3, p. 4.4-25); special-status plant species (see Biological Resources Impact 4.4-1); sensitive natural communities regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (see Biological Resources Impact 4.4-5); dozens of cultural resources, including prehistoric archaeological sites, prehistoric isolated artifacts, historic-era archaeological sites and other resources, and multi-component archaeological sites (see, e.g., Draft EIR Section 4.5.1, p. 4.5-7); increased risk of fire (see Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impact 4.9-6); and other resources and resource values.

The Applicant's withdrawal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 avoids all of the impacts identified in the Draft EIR related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.

B. Newly Proposed Alessandro Substation-related Fiber-Optic Work

Introduction

Instead of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, the Applicant now proposes to install new fiber-optic cable underground to connect the Project to the power grid via its existing Alessandro Substation. The description provided below is based on SCE's comments on the Draft EIR as supplemented by its May 2012 response to Data Request 6, in which the CPUC sought additional data and information about the proposal.

The work at Alessandro Substation does not require fiber-optic cable installation from the proposed Lakeview Substation to Alessandro Substation. Instead, the necessary fiber-optic connectivity of the Project to the existing system would be provided by the proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2, which would connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to an existing cable (Bunker-Nelson) that is connected to Alessandro Substation. There also are existing fiber-optic lines that connect the Alessandro Substation to the Moval Substation. The proposed work at Alessandro Substation would be necessary to create diverse paths for these existing lines. Final EIR Figure 2-1, *Revised Project*, shows the new work at the Alessandro Substation.

This subsection 2.5(B) describes the activities required to construct, operate, and maintain the newly proposed underground fiber-optic work in the vicinity of the Alessandro Substation, identifies associated revisions to Draft EIR Chapter 2, *Project Description*, and analyzes the potential environmental effects of the new work for each CEQA topic.

Description of the Newly Proposed Alessandro Substation-related Fiber-Optic Work

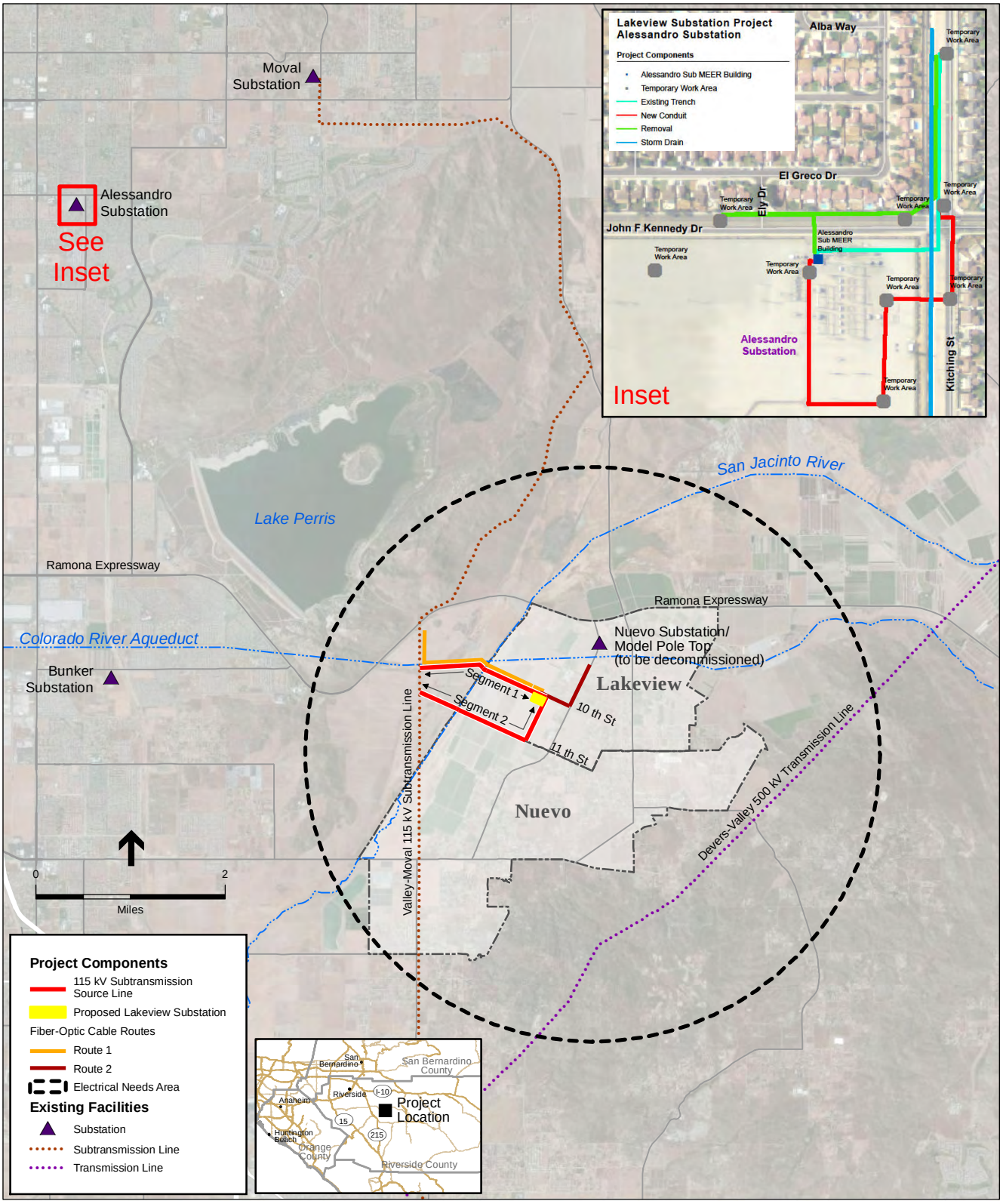
The Alessandro Substation is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street in the City of Moreno Valley. The newly proposed fiber-optic cable work would include work within the boundaries of the existing substation site, within existing John F. Kennedy Drive, within existing Kitching Street, and underneath a concrete storm drain.

From an existing pole on the west side of Kitching Street approximately 450 feet north of John F. Kennedy Drive, one new fiber-optic cable would be installed within an existing underground conduit south to an existing vault located at the northwest corner of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. The fiber-optic cable would continue within an existing underground conduit south across John F. Kennedy Drive and west for approximately 750 feet to the mechanical and electrical equipment room (MEER) located in the northeast quadrant of the Alessandro Substation site.

New underground conduit from the existing vault at Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive would be installed south across John F. Kennedy Drive for approximately 358 feet to an existing manhole located on the east side of Kitching Street. From this existing manhole, new underground conduit would be installed west across Kitching Street for approximately 200 feet to the Alessandro Substation. To install the new conduit, a directional bore would be used to bore under the existing concrete-lined Perris Valley Storm Drain (Riverside County Flood Control District channel) that runs north/south between Kitching Street and the Alessandro Substation. The directional bore under the channel would take place approximately 300 feet south of John F. Kennedy Drive in an east/west direction from Kitching Street to the Alessandro Substation. The bore would be approximately 200 feet in length, 7 inches in diameter, and approximately 20 feet deep. Bore pits would be approximately 2 feet wide by 8 feet long and 4 feet deep. Within the Alessandro Substation site, approximately 1,400 feet of new underground conduit would be installed to the existing MEER as well as three 4-foot by 4-foot by 6-foot manholes.

With the installation of the new fiber-optic cable, some existing fiber-optic cable would be removed from existing vaults and poles along Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive and within Alessandro Substation for approximately 2,000 feet.

Related construction activities would include excavation, preparation of temporary work areas, pull and tension sites, boring activities, and installation of vaults. Heavy construction equipment required to install the underground fiber-optic cable would include one backhoe and one concrete mixer. In addition to this equipment, fiber-optic cable installation in Kitching Street would require removal of pavement, which would require the use of a mounted or handheld jackhammer. With the



SOURCE: SCE, 2010/2012

Lakeview Substation Project. 207584.08

Figure 2-1

Revised Project

exception of boring under the storm drain adjacent to Kitching Street, typical construction activities associated with the fiber-optic cable installation would not be concentrated at the same location for an extended period; rather, they would progress linearly along the proposed corridors. The boring under the storm drain would be stationary; the duration of the actual boring activity would be less than one day.

New trench for telecommunications work at the Alessandro Substation would be approximately 1.5 feet wide by 3 feet deep and 2,000 feet long, of which approximately 500 feet would be outside the substation site. Approximately 96.3 cubic yards of soil for trenching outside the substation and bore pits would be excavated and hauled away to an authorized disposal facility within 30 miles of the site. This work would take approximately three trips per day for three days. Approximately 311 cubic yards of concrete slurry for backfilling manholes and trenches inside and outside the substation would be delivered from a commercial supplier within 30 miles of the Project area. This would require approximately four trips per day for seven days.

One previously disturbed temporary work area would be located in the northwest quadrant of the Alessandro Substation site measuring approximately 500 feet by 200 feet for material and equipment laydown and staging. In the eastern half of the substation site there would be three previously disturbed temporary work areas approximately 150 feet by 100 feet for manhole installation and pull and tension sites to route the new conduit and fiber-optic cable through the substation site and into the MEER. Outside the substation site there would be five previously disturbed work areas approximately 150 feet by 100 feet located on Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive.

The temporary work area for material and equipment laydown and staging in the previously disturbed area of Alessandro Substation would not require any site preparation or restoration. Pull and tension sites within the previously disturbed area of Alessandro Substation and the adjacent Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive would not require any site preparation or restoration.

Site preparation and restoration for trenching in Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive would include saw-cutting the required trench width and removing asphalt, excavating the necessary depth to install conduit, and backfilling and repaving streets to City of Moreno Valley standards. Site preparation and restoration for trenching and manhole installation within the Alessandro Substation site would include excavating the necessary depth to install conduit and manholes, and backfilling and restoring the surface to its previous condition.

Site preparation and restoration for the bore pits in Kitching Street would include saw-cutting the required area and removing asphalt, excavating the necessary depth for drilling, and backfilling and repaving the street to City of Moreno Valley standards. For the bore pits within the Alessandro Substation site or adjacent bare landscape area, work would include excavating the necessary depth for drilling, backfilling, and restoring the surface to its previous condition.

The fiber-optic cable installation would be within approximately 150 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Rencher Court, within approximately 160 feet of the backyards of at least two residences along Josephine Court, within approximately 25 feet of the backyards of at

least four residences along Kitching Street, and within approximately 840 feet of Armada Elementary School to the west. Construction activities related to installation of the underground fiber-optic cable within Kitching Street would be the closest activities to occur near existing sensitive receptors. Underground construction activities along Kitching Street would occur approximately 25 feet from residences fronting San Lupe Avenue.

Analysis of Potential Environmental Impacts Created by the Newly Proposed Work

Aesthetics

The proposed work at Alessandro Substation would occur on the flat valley floor within the urban limits of the City of Moreno Valley. The site is surrounded by residential subdivisions with walled perimeters approximately 6 feet high that are fronted with variable levels of landscaping, such as trees and shrubs. A large concrete storm drain parallels the eastern side of the substation and follows the north-south trending Kitching Street. The site itself is surrounded by a chain link fence, contains little to no landscaping, and is generally out of visual character with the surrounding area, including disharmonious metallic industrial features in an otherwise residential setting. For these reasons, the existing visual quality of the site is low.

Because the site is located in a flat urban setting, the viewshed of the site also is limited. Distant views would be blocked by houses and other urban development such that the substation is only visible from close range. Views of the site are restricted to motorists, cyclists, and/or pedestrians passing the site on adjacent roadways (i.e., a short stretch of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive), as well as residents located immediately adjacent to the substation. The site is not visible from any state or local scenic highway and does not constitute a visual or scenic resource. There would be no permanent above-ground visual change noticeable to a casual observer (replaced pavement may appear a different color). The visual effects of construction activity would be minor and temporary and the need for temporary nighttime lighting during construction is not anticipated.

For these reasons, with or without the design change, the Project would have less than significant impacts related to aesthetics.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would avoid some of the 1.4 acres of Prime Farmland that otherwise would be affected by the telecommunications routes as shown in the Draft EIR on Figure 4.2-1 and in Table 4.2-2 (pp. 4.2-4, 4.2-8).

The work proposed at Alessandro Substation, including temporary laydown and staging areas, would be located within previously disturbed areas mapped as “Urban and Built-Up Lands” by the Department of Conservation (DOC, 2010).[1] These previously disturbed locations similarly are not subject to a Williamson Act contract, nor do they contain forest or timber land. Therefore, this

[1] Department of Conservation (DOC), 2010. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, *2010 Riverside County Important Farmland Map, Sheet 1 of 3*, published January 2012.

work would not convert Farmland to non-agricultural use, conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract, conflict with or cause rezoning of forest or timber land result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, or involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. For these reasons, the conclusions of the analysis in Draft EIR Section 4.2 related to agriculture and forestry resources would remain the same with or without the Project design change.

Air Quality

The newly proposed Alessandro Substation-related fiber-optic work would result in the construction of fewer underground and overhead fiber-optic cable facilities compared to the previously proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 identified in the Draft EIR. The majority of the construction-related activities that would be associated with the newly proposed fiber-optic work would be similar to those described in the Draft EIR for the previously proposed Route 3. However, unlike Route 3, the newly proposed fiber-optic cable would be installed underground for approximately 200 feet using directional bore technology to avoid the storm drain channel just east of Alessandro Substation.

In its comment letter on the Draft EIR, SCE provided specific assumptions relative to the newly proposed Alessandro Substation-related fiber-optic work that necessitate revisions to the Draft EIR air quality emission estimates, including total number of days for the overhead and underground installations, mileage for vehicles traveling on unpaved road surfaces, and water truck trips (see SCE Comment Letter A1b, Comment A1b-137). Based on these assumptions and as discussed in more detail below, the CPUC and its EIR consultant recreated the emissions model to verify the calculations provided by SCE before relying on them in the EIR.

However, SCE did not provide assumptions relative to the newly proposed directional drilling. In the absence of directional drilling assumptions from SCE, the CPUC developed conservative worst-case assumptions that would be associated with the newly proposed directional drilling in order to estimate the associated emissions. SCE has indicated that directional drilling is expected to last for less than one day. Per the requirements identified in Draft EIR noise Mitigation Measure 4.13-1, all construction activities within the City of Moreno Valley would be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Therefore, the analysis of potential impacts assumes that a medium sized bore rig (i.e., 213 horsepower [hp]) and a small generator set (85 hp) would operate continuously for a 13-hour period. It also assumes that directional drilling activities would not occur on the same day as other fiber-optic construction activities (e.g., open trench installation, pit excavation, overhead cable installations, etc.).

Impacts on Regional Air Quality. Using SCE's construction assumptions (as described in SCE Comment A1B-137), as well as conservative worst-case assumptions related to directional drilling, peak daily emissions have been estimated for the newly proposed fiber-optic work and are presented below in Table 2-2 (see Appendix F, *Air Quality Calculation Revisions*, and Response A1b-137 for emission estimate details and assumptions). Table 2-2 also includes a comparison of the newly proposed fiber-optic work construction emission estimates relative to the previously

TABLE 2-2
ESTIMATED EMISSIONS –
NEWLY PROPOSED ALESSANDRO SUBSTATION-RELATED FIBER-OPTIC WORK

Source	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Control Building Comm. Room*	0.24	2.27	0.45	0	0.26	0.02
Overhead Cable Installation	2.85	13.13	30.75	0.04	13.75	2.15
Underground Facility Installation	2.95	13.71	22.24	0.04	1.56	1.12
Underground Cable Installation	2.95	12.25	28.19	0.04	1.34	0.91
Optical Systems Installation*	0.57	5.51	0.56	0.01	0.64	0.04
Newly Proposed Fiber-Optic Work Total	**9.56**	**46.88**	**82.20**	**0.13**	**17.54**	**4.24**
Previously Proposed Fiber-Optic Work (Route 3) Total	7.40	36.80	63.80	0.10	69.10	8.70
Difference	+2.16	+10.08	+18.40	+0.03	-51.56	-4.46
Revised Peak Daily Total for Proposed Project	**45.06**	**239.08**	**427.40**	**0.63**	**273.14**	**48.14**
SCAQMD CEQA Significance Threshold	75	550	100	150	150	55
***Significant*?**	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

*No changes have been made subsequent to the Draft EIR.

proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 work described in the Draft EIR. As described in the table, maximum daily construction emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and sulfur oxides (SO_x) would be higher for the newly proposed fiber-optic work compared to the emission estimates for Route 3, while maximum daily emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 would be reduced under the newly proposed fiber-optic work compared to the emission estimates for the previously proposed Route 3. The increased emissions are primarily attributed to the equipment exhaust related to the operations of the directional bore rig included in the underground facility installation emission estimates, while the decreased emissions represent lower fugitive dust levels attributed to less travel on unpaved roads during overhead cable installation.

The differences in emissions presented in Table 2-2 demonstrate that, with or without the Project design changes, the conclusions of the impact determination presented in the Draft EIR remain the same relative to the potential for the Project to result in substantial contributions to violations of ozone and particulate matter air quality standards. Implementation of Draft EIR Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 4.3-1b still would be required to reduce emissions, but emissions of NO_x and PM10 would continue to be above South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds for NO_x and PM10 and the associated impact would (with or without the design changes) be significant and unavoidable. With regard to the comparison of alternatives relative to air quality impacts, the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 portion for Alternatives 1 and 2 also would be replaced with the newly proposed fiber-optic work and all other parts of the alternatives would be the same as described in the Draft EIR. Therefore, the regional air quality impact comparisons relative to the alternatives are unchanged as a result of the Project design changes.

Impacts on Sensitive Receptors. The SCAQMD has developed look-up tables that can be used to evaluate the potential for emissions during construction to cause localized exceedances of the ambient air quality standards at sensitive receptor locations. As described above, it is assumed that directional drilling activities would require continuous operations of a 213 hp bore rig and an 85 hp generator for a 13-hour period. For a conservative analysis, it also is assumed that directional drilling would occur in the eastern-most pit, which would be as close as 25 feet to the backyards of the closest residents that back up to Kitching Street. As shown in Table 2-3, the maximum daily on-site emissions for construction that would be associated with the newly proposed fiber-optic cable directional drilling would not exceed the SCAQMD's maximum allowable localized significance thresholds (see Appendix F, *Air Quality Calculation Revisions*, for on-site emission estimate details and assumptions). Maximum day on-site emissions associated with the newly proposed fiber-optic directional drilling would be only 2 pounds more for CO, but 6 pounds less than the maximum on-site emissions that would be associated with the proposed underground fiber-optic cable installation. The on-site emission estimates for the newly proposed underground fiber-optic cable installation are the same as those identified in the Draft EIR for the previously proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3; therefore, with the proposed design changes, the Project's impact related to localized exceedances of the ambient air quality standards at sensitive receptor locations would continue to be less than significant.

TABLE 2-3
NEWLY PROPOSED FIBER-OPTIC DIRECTIONAL DRILLING – LOCALIZED SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

Project Component	CO	NO_x	PM10	PM2.5
Telecommunications Construction Emissions (lbs/day)	11	22	1	1
Maximum Allowable Emissions (lbs/day)*	602	118	4	3
Exceedance?	No	No	No	No

* Maximum allowable emissions based on 1-acre site and using values for Perris Valley source/receptor area. Note that the closest sensitive receptor to these activities would be at a distance of approximately 8 meters (approximately 25 feet). Because SCAQMD does not have LSTs for distances less than 25 meters, it is impossible to estimate an LST level for 8 meters using linear interpolation, Therefore, LST levels at 25 meters where used for the maximum allowable emissions for these construction activities.

Particulate exhaust emissions from diesel-fueled engines (i.e., DPM) have been identified as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) by the California Air Resource Board (CARB). As described in Table 2-3 (above), maximum PM2.5 emissions from on-site equipment related to the newly proposed fiber-optic cable work would be up to 1 pound per day.[2] Because the maximum daily emissions are miniscule and would occur for only one day compared to the 70-year exposure used in health risk assessments, DPM emissions that would be associated with the Project as revised by the proposed design changes would not result in an exceedance of SCAQMD TAC significance thresholds (i.e., the Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk would be less than 10 in 1 million; the Cancer Burden would be less than 0.5 excess cancer cases, and the Chronic and Acute Hazard Index would be less than 1.0). Therefore, the health risk from short-term DPM emissions would be negligible and this impact would remain less than significant.

[2] PM2.5 exhaust emissions are conservatively used here as a surrogate for DPM.

Other Potential Air Quality Impacts. Impacts of the Project with or without the proposed design changes related to conflicts with the Air Quality Management Plan, operational activity emissions, cumulative emissions, and odors would be substantially the same as those described in Draft EIR Section 4.3.

Biological Resources

The removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would substantially reduce the Project footprint within habitat for special-status plants and wildlife, as identified in Draft EIR in Table 4.4-1 (p. 4.4-4) and avoid impacts to biological resources and wetlands located within the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 alignment. By removing the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, the following impacts would be reduced or eliminated:

- Potential impacts to rare plants would not occur in the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 alignment and additional botanical surveys of this alignment would not be required. Mitigation Measure 4.4-1 no longer would apply to the Project.

- As described in Draft EIR Impact 4.4-2 (p. 4.4-30), potential impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat would be avoided in the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 alignment, as would potential impacts to non-listed species, including: silvery legless lizard, orange-throated whiptail, northern red-diamond rattlesnake, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, Cooper's hawk, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, golden eagle, burrowing owl, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, California horned lark, merlin, prairie falcon, American peregrine falcon, loggerhead shrike, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, San Diego desert woodrat, and American badger.

- Potential less-than-significant impacts associated with Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 will be avoided for: migratory birds (Impact 4.4-3, Draft EIR, p. 4.4-31); raptors (Impact 4.4-4, Draft EIR, p. 4.4-31); Riversidean sage scrub and alkali wetland habitat, which are sensitive natural communities (Impact 4.4-5, Draft EIR, p. 4.4-33); and wildlife movement corridors (Impact 4.4-6, Draft EIR, p. 4.4-33).

Proposed activities at the Alessandro Substation would occur on bare, disturbed ground within the fenced facility. New trenching and conduit installation activities would occur within the established Alessandro Substation and within nearby portions of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. All of the new Alessandro Substation elements would occur within barren, disturbed, or developed areas that do not provide habitat for sensitive plants or wildlife. In reviewing the potential impacts of proposed activities at the Alessandro Substation, the list of regionally identified special-status species in Draft EIR Table 4.4-2 (pp. 4.4-9 to 4.4-16) was reviewed and compared to the California Natural Diversity Database (July 2012 update). Based on this review, no special-status plant or wildlife resources are expected within the facility or in any of the related project areas on Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. New conduit would be installed beneath an existing concrete storm drain channel and would not impact to waters of the state or waters of the U.S. For these reasons, implementation of the proposed activities at the Alessandro Substation would have no effect on conclusions reached in the Draft EIR regarding potential conflict with the Western Riverside MSHCP or the Stephen's kangaroo rat HCP. Therefore, with or without the newly

proposed work at the Alessandro Substation, the biological resource-related impact conclusions documented in the Draft EIR would remain the same.

Cultural Resources

The removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would reduce the Project footprint within archaeologically sensitive areas and avoid impacts to cultural resources located within the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 alignment. By removing Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, the following impacts would be reduced or eliminated:

- There is no longer potential for the Project to impact the seven unevaluated archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6) that are located adjacent to Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. Five archaeological resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3) are still located within the Project area; however, these were evaluated as not eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, or local register, or otherwise qualify as an historical resource under CEQA. Therefore, impacts to these resources would be less than significant.

- Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a, 4.5-1b and 4.5-1c no longer would be necessary, as there would be no impact to resources P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6 following the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.

Impacts to unknown archaeological resources, paleontological resources, and human remains would be the same.

The new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would result in a less-than-significant impact to historical resources, archaeological resources, and human remains. Proposed activities at the Alessandro Substation would occur within disturbed ground within and around the fenced industrial facility. New trenching and conduit installation activities would occur within the established Alessandro Substation and within nearby portions of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. All of the new Alessandro Substation elements would occur within disturbed or developed areas and ground disturbance would be limited to previously disturbed areas in which historical resources, archaeological resources, and human remains are not likely to be identified. In the unlikely event of the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources, Mitigation Measures 4.5-2b and 4.5-4 would mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in an effect to a unique paleontological or geological resource, as the ground disturbance would be limited to previously disturbed areas in which these resources are not likely to be identified.

Energy Conservation

With or without the design change, Project construction would require an amount of energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels and electricity (see Draft EIR Section 4.6, p. 4.6-7). This work would not interrupt existing local SCE service, would not result in long-term depletion of non-renewable energy resources, and would not permanently increase reliance on energy resources that are not renewable. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b (Draft EIR, p. 4.3-17)

would ensure that fuel energy consumed in the construction phase would not be wasted through unnecessary idling or through the operation of poorly maintained equipment.

The Project design change would contribute to the Project's beneficial impact on local and regional energy supplies. No impact would occur with respect to requirements for additional capacity. With or without the Alessandro Substation work, the Project would result in a temporary increase in use of electricity during construction. However, given the negligible amount of electricity required, neither construction nor operation would impact peak or base power demands, and no impact would occur. With or without the design change, the Project would comply with existing energy standards, resulting in a less-than-significant impact with respect to this criterion (see Draft EIR, pp. 4.6-8 and 4.6-9).

The proposed design change would contribute to increasing the capacity and efficiency of energy delivery to the grid and would result in no adverse impact on energy resources. Construction and operation of the newly proposed work at the Alessandro Substation would consume energy during transportation of labor and materials to and from the site. However, with or without the design change, the Project would comply with applicable energy standards, and potential impacts to construction-related transportation energy use would be less than significant.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

The work at and near the existing Alessandro Substation would occur on the flat valley floor within the urban limits of the City of Moreno Valley. Like the rest of the Project, the Alessandro Substation site is underlain by relatively flat unconsolidated valley deposits (i.e., gravel, sand, and silt deposited by streams). The Alessandro Substation is within a geologic environment similar to that of the proposed Lakeview Substation: it is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or a landslide-prone area, would be subject to similar levels of groundshaking, and would be exposed to similar soil and groundwater conditions (CDMG, 1974; CalEMA, 2012).[3,4] Therefore, the site of the newly proposed work would not be exposed to new or more severe geologic hazards than those discussed in the Draft EIR. Further, the work at Alessandro Substation primarily would involve installation of below-ground equipment, and the only above-ground structure would be an existing unmanned MEER building. Installation of these components would be performed in accordance with modern engineering practices and the provisions of the California Building Code related to earthwork and grading, as well as local requirements for in-street work. In the unlikely event that the proposed telecommunications facilities suffer damage during an earthquake, such damage would not expose the public to any additional risk relative to that analyzed and disclosed in the Draft EIR.

For the above reasons, with or without the Project design change, the conclusions of the analysis in Draft EIR Section 4.7 would be the same.

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3 California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG), 1974. *State of California Special Studies Zones, Sunnymead Quadrangle, Official Map*, effective July 1, 1974.

4 California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), 2012, MyPlan Report Web Mapping Portal, available at http://myplan.calema.ca.gov, accessed July 26, 2012.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As revised by the proposed design changes, the Project would result in the construction of less underground and overhead fiber-optic cable facilities compared to the Project as initially proposed and analyzed in the Draft EIR. In its comment letter on the Draft EIR, SCE provided specific assumptions relative to the newly proposed fiber-optic work that affect the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission estimates for the Project, including total number days for the overhead and underground installations and an increase in water truck trips (see SCE Comment Letter A1b, Comment A1b-137). SCE did not provide assumptions relative to the newly proposed directional drilling, so the CPUC developed conservative worst-case directional drilling assumptions in order to estimate the associated emissions and evaluate potential related effects. As described above under *Air Quality*, it is assumed that a medium-sized bore rig (i.e., 213 hp) and a small generator set (85 hp) would operate continuously for a 13-hour period during directional drilling.

Using SCE's construction assumptions (as described in SCE Comment A1B-137), as well as the assumptions developed by the CPUC and described under "Air Quality" related to directional drilling, GHG construction emissions that would be associated with the newly proposed fiber-optic work have been estimated (see Appendix F, *Air Quality Calculation Revisions*, for emission estimate details and assumptions). The estimated total emissions of GHGs that would be generated by construction activities associated with the newly proposed work is 65 metric tons CO_2e, which is approximately 45 fewer metric tons than would have been generated during construction of the Project as initially proposed. As revised, the Project would result in a decrease in total Project construction GHG emissions of approximately 3 percent compared to SCE's initial proposal. GHG construction emissions would be slightly reduced due to the newly proposed fiber-optic cable work; however, with or without the Project design changes, the impact related to the generation of GHG emissions would be less than significant. Accordingly, implementation of the proposed Project design changes would not result in any change to the conclusions reached in the Draft EIR related to potential conflicts with plans.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Because the Alessandro Substation-related fiber-optic work is outside the regulatory agency database search area reviewed for identification of hazardous materials sites in the vicinity of the Project, a new database search was conducted and results reviewed for this analysis (EDR, 2012).[5] No hazardous materials sites with known soil or groundwater contamination were identified in this area; therefore, the impact determinations related to location on a hazardous materials site and the potential to encounter hazardous materials in soil or groundwater during Project construction would be the same for the Alessandro Substation work as for the Project. While the Alessandro Substation is located within 0.25 mile of one school and seven childcare facilities, the impact determination related to hazardous materials use within 0.25 mile of schools would be the same as the Project. Similarly, the location of the Alessandro Substation fiber-optic work would not alter the impact determinations related to airports and potential to interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. The fiber-optic work at the Alessandro

[5] Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR), 2012. *Substation, John F. Kennedy Drive/Kitching Street, Moreno Valley, CA, Inquiry No. 03250918.1r*, February 1, 2012.

Substation would not be located in a high fire zone; therefore, Impact 4.9-6 (Draft EIR, p. 4.9-17) would be less than significant and Mitigation Measure 4.9-6 associated with the Project as proposed no longer would be required. Although the total length of the Alessandro Substation-related fiber-optic work would be shorter than Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, this work would not substantially lessen the kinds and amounts of hazardous materials associated with Project construction or operation and, therefore, impact conclusions for the Alessandro Substation-related fiber-optic work would be the same as the Project pertaining to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or hazards to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. In summary, with or without the proposed design change, the conclusions of the analysis in Draft EIR Section 4.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, would be the same related to significance criteria a) through h).

Hydrology and Water Quality

The work at Alessandro Substation would occur on the flat valley floor within the urban limits of the City of Moreno Valley. The Alessandro Substation site is within a developed urban area rather than being located in a predominantly rural/open space region. The only nearby surface water is in the form of intermittent flows in concrete channels that make up the city's urban storm drain system. The site is not within a 100-year flood hazard zone (the drainage canal is able to convey the 100-year flood) (CalEMA, 2012).[6] The same types of potential impacts to water quality discussed in the Draft EIR, primarily during construction, would be possible as a result of proposed work at the Alessandro Substation for the same reasons. The analysis and conclusions presented in the Draft EIR would be the same with or without the Project design change because the nature and type of work proposed at the Alessandro Substation would be the same as for the Project as initially proposed, and the same federal, state, and local water quality standards and regulations (all of which are discussed in the Draft EIR) would apply. Long-term changes to drainage patterns associated with grading, changes in topography, or increases in impervious surfaces would be minimal, since the proposed work would replace asphalt in some areas, but would not increase the amount of impervious surface. For the above reasons, the conclusions of the analysis presented in the Draft EIR would be the same with or without the Project design change.

Land Use and Planning

Removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would avoid an inconsistency identified in the Draft EIR related to the City of Moreno Valley General Plan Policy 7.7.2, which requires new electrical and communication lines installed under the city's land use jurisdiction to be placed underground, because it would avoid placing any above-ground communication lines within the city. Therefore, the impact related to conflicting with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation would be avoided and no impact would occur. Additionally, this change may avoid some potential conflicts with the Western Riverside MSHCP by reducing impacts to biological resources as described above.

6 CalEMA, 2012, MyPlan Report Web Mapping Portal, available at http://myplan.calema.ca.gov, accessed July 26, 2012.

The work proposed at Alessandro Substation would be located within the boundaries of the existing substation site, within existing roadways, and underneath a concrete storm drain, and therefore would not physically divide an established community. Because this work would take place exclusively within parcels designated R5, *Residential: Maximum 5 du/ac*, in which public utility uses are conditionally permitted by the Moreno Valley Zoning Ordinance (Draft EIR p. 4.11-6), it would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. In any event, the CPUC's jurisdiction over projects like this one under General Order No. 131-D supersedes local agencies' land use and planning documents like the city's zoning ordinance. Like the rest of the Project area, the Alessandro Substation is located within the Western Riverside MSHCP. However, this work would occur only within previously disturbed areas, and along with other Project components would be subject to Mitigation Measure 4.11-1, which would ensure compliance with the applicable provisions of the MSHCP (Draft EIR p. 4.11-10). Therefore, the impact of the Alessandro Substation work related to potential conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan would be less than significant after mitigation.

Mineral Resources

The analysis and conclusions presented in the Mineral Resources section of the Draft EIR are equally accurate and applicable with or without the proposed Project changes.

The closest mine to the Alessandro Substation is the Nason Street Pit (USGS record numbers 10077122 and 10188990), located approximately 2.6 miles to the northeast of the existing substation. This mine is not currently active; however, in the past it produced granite and crushed and broken stone from surface operations (USGS, 1991).[7]

The Alessandro Substation is located in an area mapped as MRZ-3, which is an area where the available geologic information indicates that materials suitable for use as construction aggregate (i.e., sand and gravel) exist or are likely to exist; however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined (LSA, 2000).

The Moreno Valley General Plan Conservation Element notes that "The mineral resources known to be located within the study area are common materials: sand, gravel and rock" and does not describe any locally important mineral resources (City of Moreno Valley, 2006).8

Because the previously proposed work for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would not occur; and because the work to occur at the Alessandro Substation would be within previously developed areas and because no known locally important mineral resources or resources of value to the region are located within the proposed area of disturbance, the Project, as revised, would cause no impact to a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan due to construction, operation, and maintenance of this work.

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7 USGS. 1991. Mineral Resources Data System (MRDS) entries and Google Earth view for Nason Street Pit. Available online at http://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/show-mrds.php?dep_id=10077122, accessed August 1, 2012.

8 City of Moreno Valley. 2006. Moreno Valley General Plan, Chapter 7 – Conservation. Available online at http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/city_hall/general-plan/06gpfinal/gp/7-conserv.pdf.

Noise

Potential Impacts Related to City of Moreno Municipal Codes. The newly proposed fiber-optic work would be constructed entirely within the City of Moreno Valley. The City of Moreno Valley has adopted maximum continuous sound level limits in its municipal code, including 90 dBA for sounds that occur continuously for 8 hours or longer. Construction activities related to installation of the newly proposed underground fiber-optic cable within the east side of Kitching Street would be the closest activities to occur near existing sensitive receptors. Underground construction activities along Kitching Street would occur as close as 25 feet from residences along San Lupe Avenue.

Heavy construction equipment that would be required for open trench underground fiber-optic cable installation would include one backhoe, one concrete mixer, and a jack hammer. Backhoes, concrete mixers, and jack hammers can be expected to generate maximum sound levels at 50 feet of approximately 80 dBA, 85 dBA, and 88 dBA, respectively (FTA, 2006), which at 25 feet would be equivalent to 86 dBA, 91 dBA, and 94 dBA, respectively. The jack hammer would likely be operated at a distance in front of the backhoe and concrete mixer; however, it is reasonable to assume that the backhoe and concrete mixer would operate in close proximity to one another, which would result in a maximum combined continuous sound level at 25 feet of approximately 92 dBA. Therefore, noise levels at 25 feet adjacent to the jack hammer or backhoe and concrete mixer would exceed the city's maximum continuous sound level limits. However, open trench construction activities would proceed in a linear fashion at a rate of approximately 100 feet per day, which would limit the maximum noise exposure period at any one location to no more than a few hours. Therefore, the 8-hour noise level associated with open trench fiber-optic installation at any one location would be less than the combined maximum noise level, and so it would be unlikely that open trench construction activities would result in noise levels that would exceed the 8-hour City of Moreno Valley maximum continuous sound level limits at any single location.

However, the drill rig and generator that would be associated with the directional drill activities would be stationary and would be expected to produce maximum noise levels of up to 89 dBA at 50 feet (Ventura County, 2010), and 81 dBA at 50 feet, respectively (FTA, 2006). The combined maximum noise level at the backyards of the nearest residences along Kitching Street that would be associated with directional drilling could be up to 96 dBA, which would exceed the city's maximum continuous sound level limits. If the directional drill rig would be located at the western bore pit within Alessandro Substation, it would be approximately 225 feet from the residences that back-up to Kitching Street. At 225 feet, the combined maximum noise level that would be associated with directional drilling could be up to 77 dBA, which would not exceed the city's maximum continuous sound level limits. Therefore, to ensure the city's maximum continuous sound level limits would not be exceeded, this Final EIR includes Mitigation Measure 4.13-1a, which, if adopted, would require SCE to locate the directional drill rig at the western bore pit (see also Response A1b-316).

In addition, construction activities that would be associated with the Project design changes would be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. per the City of Moreno Valley municipal code and Draft EIR Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.

Potential Impacts Related to Increasing Ambient Noise Levels. As described above, backhoes, concrete mixers, and jack hammers can be expected to generate maximum sound levels at 25 feet of 86 dBA, 91 dBA, and 94 dBA, respectively. The jack hammer would likely operate at a distance in front of the backhoe and concrete mixer; however, it is reasonable to assume that the backhoe and concrete mixer would operate in close proximity to one another, which would result in a maximum combined continuous sound level of approximately 92 dBA at 25 feet. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has identified a daytime hourly L_{eq} level of 90 dBA as a noise level where adverse community reaction could occur (FTA, 2006). Therefore, given that the loudest noise levels at the nearest residences would be up to 94 dBA, the temporary increase in local noise levels would be expected to cause a substantial nuisance to nearby residences. To ensure maximum 1-hour noise levels do not exceed 90 dBA at sensitive receptor locations, Draft EIR Mitigation Measure 4.13-4 has been revised to require SCE and/or its contractors to develop a Construction Noise Reduction Plan, which would reduce noise levels by at least 5 dBA (see also Response A1b-322).

Other Potential Noise and Vibration Impacts. Impacts of the Project with or without the proposed design changes related to operational activity noise and exposure to vibration levels would be substantially the same as those described in Draft EIR Section 4.13.

Population and Housing

The construction of the newly proposed improvements at Alessandro Substation would provide temporary employment opportunities, and, during operation and maintenance, the Alessandro Substation site would be maintained periodically by existing SCE personnel. This work would not directly induce population growth by creating new permanent jobs, and short-term housing demand created during construction could be accommodated by existing housing units as described in Section 4.14, *Population and Housing* (Draft EIR, p. 4.14-2). The improvements proposed for Alessandro Substation would allow SCE to continue to provide electrical service in its Electrical Needs Area and to meet forecasted demand projections, and so, with or without the design change, the Project would not indirectly induce substantial population growth by increasing the electrical capacity in the area. Accordingly, the Project would cause a less-than-significant impact related to population and housing regardless of whether the design change were implemented. Additionally, the newly proposed work would not displace housing or people and would not result in the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, and would have no impact with respect to these criteria.

Public Services

As described above, work proposed at and near the Alessandro Substation would not result in a significant increase in local population or housing. Construction would require a limited number of temporary personnel, and operation and maintenance would require no new staff. Therefore, this work would not affect baseline service ratios, response time goals, or other service goals of fire protection, police, schools, or other public services. The Project, with or without this design change, would cause no impact related to the provision of new or physically altered facilities used by these services.

Recreation

The work at Alessandro Substation would be constructed inside the existing substation fence line on land currently used by SCE for industrial purposes and beneath adjacent roadways. Therefore, it would not affect existing recreational facilities in the area. No other work would be done within the City of Moreno Valley. Because the Project, with or without this design change, would require a limited number of temporary construction workers, it would not result in increased use of existing recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, and this impact would be less than significant. Additionally, this work would not include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and so no impact would result with respect to this criterion with or without the Project design change.

Transportation and Traffic

Portions of the newly proposed fiber-optic cable would be installed underground within City of Moreno Valley roadways Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive, and some existing overhead and underground fiber-optic cable would be removed from vaults and poles along Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. John F. Kennedy Drive is an east-west four-lane road that extends from Heacock Street to Lasselle Street with an average daily traffic (ADT) count collected in 2006 of 11,600 vehicles west of Kitching Street (City of Moreno Valley, 2006). The segment of Kitching Street that could be affected by the newly proposed fiber-optic cable work is a north-south two-lane road that extends from its southern terminus, south of Krameria Avenue, to the Moreno Valley Freeway, approximately 2.5 miles north of Alessandro Substation. In 2006, Kitching Street north of John F. Kennedy Drive had an average ADT count of 5,300 vehicles (City of Moreno Valley, 2006).

Potential Impacts Related to Increased Traffic Congestion During Construction. The newly proposed fiber-optic cable would be installed in a trench from the northwestern corner of the John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street intersection to a location within the east side of Kitching Street approximately 300 feet south of John F. Kennedy Drive. From this location the conduit would be installed from a bore pit in the east side of Kitching Street to Alessandro Substation using directional bore technology. All of the fiber-optic cable work, both underground and overhead, within the city public road ROWs would require an encroachment permit from the City of Moreno Valley.

During installation of the duct banks for the fiber-optic cable in John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street, travel corridors would be restricted during trenching, directional drilling, installation, and backfilling. Although trenching, directional drilling, and backfilling of the duct bank would only take a few days, travel in this area during these activities may be subject to short delays during lane closures and use of flagging or other control methods to conduct traffic safely through the construction area. Additionally, existing above-ground and underground fiber-optic cable removal may result in similar temporary traffic delays along John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street. Work within roadways would be subject to an encroachment permit from the City of Moreno Valley, and SCE and/or its construction contractors would be required to comply with the permit requirements for traffic control. However, the proposed Project with the design changes would result in similar short-term impacts related to increased traffic congestion during

construction that would occur under the initially proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. Potentially significant traffic impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of Draft EIR Mitigation Measure 4.17-1, which would require SCE to prepare a Traffic Management Plan subject to the approval of the City of Moreno Valley.

Potential Impact to Emergency Access. John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street do not serve as direct access routes to residences; however, in places where components of the newly proposed fiber optic cables would require a short-term lane closure, construction activities would need to be coordinated with the local jurisdiction to avoid the closure of any emergency access route. Implementation of Draft EIR Mitigation Measure 4.17-4 would require the construction contractor to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers to minimize disruption to emergency vehicle access along John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street. Implementation of this measure would ensure potential Project impacts associated with temporary effects on emergency access would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Other Potential Transportation and Traffic Impacts. Impacts of the Project with or without the proposed design changes related to Project operational traffic, effects on pedestrian and bicycle traffic, conflicts with congestion management plans, change in air traffic patterns, and increased hazards due to design features would be substantially the same as those described in Draft EIR Section 4.17.

Utilities and Service Systems

Similar to construction of the rest of the Project, construction at Alessandro Substation would include use of a portable chemical toilet. As described in Section 4.18, *Utilities and Service Systems*, the use of such facilities would not result in wastewater discharge on-site, and maintenance would not exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements of the SARWQCB (Draft EIR, p 4.18-6). Consequently, with or without this design change, the Project would cause no impact relative to this CEQA consideration.

An increase in construction-related water use of approximately 30,000 gallons of water per day would be associated with excavation and installation within and adjacent to the Alessandro Substation. As described for other Project water requirements (Draft EIR, p. 4.18-6), treatment needs would not exceed the existing capacities of water treatment plants serving the Project area. In addition, because most of this water would be used for dust suppression and would evaporate from the site, the remaining wastewater treatment needs would not exceed the existing capacities of wastewater treatment plants serving the Project area. Therefore, with or without the proposed work at Alessandro Substation, the Project would not require the expansion or construction of water or wastewater treatment facilities. This impact would be less than significant.

The proposed work at Alessandro Substation would occur within previously disturbed areas that would be restored to previous condition after the completion of construction. This work would not introduce new impervious surfaces and would not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, with or without the Project design change, no impact would occur related to this consideration.

As described above, construction activities associated with the newly proposed Alessandro Substation work would require an additional 30,000 gallons of water per day. This consumption would not result in a need for new or expanded water entitlements or resources and would have a less-than-significant impact on the water supply in the area. As described above, the proposed work would not result in discharges of wastewater to a wastewater treatment facility that would exceed its capacity. Therefore, with or without this design change, the Project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the Project's demand in addition to its existing commitments.

The work at Alessandro Substation would include the removal and disposal of asphalt and a minimal amount of fiber-optic cable. Some additional construction waste also may be generated. Currently, each of the three landfills within 30 miles of the Project site have more than adequate available remaining capacities to accommodate the solid waste generated by the Project without or without this design change (see Draft EIR Table 4.18-1, p. 4.18-2). Therefore, the Project would not be served by a landfill with insufficient capacity to accommodate its solid waste disposal needs. The Project, with or without this design change, would result in a less-than-significant impact related to this consideration.

The proposed work would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Operation and maintenance activities would consist of routine maintenance and emergency repair that are not expected to generate solid waste. As a result, Project construction, with or without the design change, would have no impact with respect to the applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Project operation and maintenance activities would consist of routine maintenance and emergency repair. These activities are not expected to generate solid waste subject to federal, state, or local statutes or regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur regardless of the Project design change.

2.6 Individual Responses

This section includes the letters received, with individual comments delineated as indicated above, followed by responses to each comment.

SCE's comments on the Draft EIR (Letter A) include a cover letter accompanied by a table with 398 individually numbered rows of comments. Consecutive numbering of comments beginning with the letter and continuing to the end of the table would result in renumbering of the comments provided in the table. To avoid any confusion that may be caused thereby, these responses to comments refer to the cover letter as "Letter A1a" and to the table as "Letter A1b."

Comment Letter A1a

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Tammy Jones
Attorney
Tammy.Jones@sce.com

March 5, 2012

VIA U.S. MAIL

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Email: lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

Re: *SCE's Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH #2010121032) for the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016)*

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) circulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on January 12, 2012. On behalf of Southern California Edison (SCE), the proponent of the Lakeview Substation project (Proposed Project) that is the subject of the DEIR, this comment letter and the enclosed table address issues that apply to the entire DEIR. While SCE fully supports the CPUC's determination that the Proposed Project is the Environmentally Superior Alternative, the enclosed table details a number of revisions that should be incorporated into the Final EIR. In addition, this comment letter describes some minor changes to the Proposed Project that should similarly be incorporated in the Final EIR. The changes described in both documents should not change the CPUC's determination that the Proposed Project is the Environmentally Superior Alternative since the changes do not lead to any additional impacts that were not discussed in the DEIR.

1. The Need Date For the Proposed Project Has Shifted To 2014.

As identified in SCE's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), SCE projected that the capacity at Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2009. Because the Proposed Project could not be licensed and permitted by 2009, a temporary substation was constructed (Model Pole Top) to provide an interim means to serve the electrical demand in the area until the Proposed Project could be constructed. Although construction of Model Pole Top temporarily added 10 MVA of transformer capacity, it does not significantly improve reliability and system operational flexibility on either a near-term or a long-term basis. Based on these considerations, and the fact that the Nuevo Substation has insufficient capacity to reliably serve the existing and forecasted demand within the Environmental Needs Area (ENA) on a long-term basis, SCE estimated that the Proposed Project would be needed by mid-2013. A1a-1

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Based on SCE's most current load projections (which are updated each year), SCE has determined that the capacity of Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2014, rather than mid-2013. Consequently, the need date for the Proposed Project is now 2014. A1a-1 cont.

2. 12kV Distribution Mitigation Is No Longer Needed.

The change in need for the Proposed Project has provided some short-term relief, such that the temporary 12kV distribution line (as identified in the DEIR) that would need to be constructed between Nuevo and Bunker substations in order to implement Alternative 1 (phased construction) will no longer be required. However, SCE will still need to rely on Model Pole Top as temporary mitigation until the Proposed Project can be constructed. Continued use of Model Pole Top to provide mitigation poses certain risks since Model Pole Top is distribution-level mitigation and is not considered a long-term solution, as would be those facilities that would be installed as part of the Proposed Project. In addition, since Model Pole Top is limited to 10MVA and serves only a limited geographic area, there are fewer options for use in switching for planned or unplanned outages compared to facilities served by substation-class equipment.

This continued reliance on Model Pole Top causes further risks with Alternative 1 because of the delays that will likely occur as a result of phasing construction. As detailed in SCE's Memorandum to the CPUC dated September 2, 2011, in which SCE analyzed whether Alternative 1 should be considered reasonable in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6 (a) (SCE 2011 Memorandum, attached hereto as Exhibit "A"), SCE determined that phased construction would not be reasonable due to technical, practical and economic constraints. Among those constraints were that SCE would lose the flexibility it needs to account for the uncertainties associated with the timing of land acquisition, and the procurement of permits if it were to phase construction. Phasing construction would also reduce construction scheduling flexibility and reduce SCE's ability to manage unforeseen changes in field construction, risking further delays in the completion of the project. These constraints were similarly identified in the DEIR for SCE's Falcon Ridge Substation Project and as a result, a phased construction alternative was eliminated from further consideration by the CPUC for that project. Accordingly, SCE supports the CPUC's decision to eliminate Alternative 1 from further consideration in the DEIR for the Proposed Project as well. A1a-2

3. The Telecommunication Line Route Has Changed In Order To Further Minimize Environmental Impacts.

In its PEA, SCE proposed Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 to connect the Moval Substation to the existing Bunker Nelson Fiber Optic cable in order to facilitate the connection of Lakeview Substation to the existing telecommunications network. Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 (as described in the DEIR in full detail) generally consisted of placing a telecommunication line on the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV Subtransmission Line poles, as well as potential road rehabilitation along the existing access road. A1a-3

Comment Letter A1a

However, it has since been determined that SCE's existing Valley-Moval 115 kV Subtransmission Line is located within a Core Reserve, as identified by the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKRHCP) administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority (RCHCA). In an effort to minimize potential impacts to the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat by constructing within the Core Reserve (although determined to be minimal and less than significant pursuant to CEQA), an alternative to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 was considered and has been determined to be feasible by SCE. Accordingly, SCE now proposes the underground installation of telecommunications cable at and within the vicinity of Alessandro Substation to replace the work described for Fiber Optic Cable Route 3. The work at and within the vicinity of Alessandro Substation is described in more detail in the comment table prepared by SCE and filed concurrently with this letter, but would generally include installation of telecommunications cable within existing underground conduit and installation of telecommunications cable within new underground conduit. The fiber optic cable work at the existing Alessandro Substation consists of work within the boundaries of the existing substation, within existing John F. Kennedy Drive, and within existing Kitching Street within the City of Moreno Valley. A1a-3 cont.

4. Conclusion

SCE appreciates the CPUC's work in analyzing the Proposed Project, and the opportunity to provide these comments on the DEIR. We look forward to the CPUC's preparation of a Final EIR consistent with the comments provided in this letter and in the enclosed comment table.

Sincerely,

Tammy Jones
Southern California Edison Company

TJ:tlt

Enclosures

LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
1.	Global Edit		Please update all Operating Date references in the text for the reasons discussed in SCE's accompanying letter.	
2.	Global Edit		For consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation as described in SCE's PEA: "temporary Model Pole Top Substation."	Please revise throughout the DEIR where appropriate as follows: "temporary Model Pole Top Substation."
3.	Global Edit		Please correct all references throughout the text of "Avenue A" to "A Avenue."	
4.	Global Edit		Please correct all reference throughout the text of "Reservoir Street" to "Reservoir Avenue."	
5.	TOC	x	SAC in appendix states "*Standard* Aluminum Conductor". Should say "*Stranded*" as reflected in section 3.1.2 of the PEA.	Please revise as follows: "SAC ~~Standard~~ Stranded Aluminum Conductor"
6.	Executive Summary	ES-2	Under the heading **ES-2 Project Objectives**, for consistency purposes please clarify Model Pole Top was constructed as a temporary stop gap measure and is a temporary substation, as described in SCE's PEA. Also, please update the timeframe in which the capacity at Nuevo Substation will be exceeded from 2013 to 2014, per SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "The Electrical Needs Area consists of that part of unincorporated western Riverside County (including the developing areas of Nuevo and Lakeview) now served by SCE's 33/12 kV Nuevo Substation and temporary Model Pole Top Substation, which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers. ~~and presently are at or near capacity:~~. In 2007, SCE projected that the capacity at Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2009, and the temporary Model Pole Top Substation was constructed to provide an interim means to serve the electrical demand in the area until a new substation could be constructed to provide for the long-term capacity, reliability, and system operational flexibility needs of the Electrical Needs Area. The energy demand of the growing communities in this area is expected to exceed the ~~combined energy~~ capacity of the Nuevo ~~existing~~ ~~s~~Substation~~s~~ in the ~~2013~~ 2014 timeframe. If approved, the Project would serve forecasted electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area beyond 2032. The Electrical Needs Area is shown in **Figure ES-1**."
7.	Executive Summary	ES-2	Under the heading **Project Components**, the reference to Reservoir Street should be Reservoir Avenue.	Please revise as follows: "…on private property, or in franchise on 10th street and Reservoir ~~Street~~ Avenue."

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LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
8.	Executive Summary	ES-3	Regarding **Figure ES-1 Electrical Needs Area**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
9.	Executive Summary	ES-4	Under the heading **Project Components** regarding the first bullet point, please remove the description related to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "Two new diverse fiber-optic cable routes would connect the Lakeview Substation to the existing Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable and fiber optic cable work at the existing Alessandro Substation ~~and a third new fiber-optic cable route would connect the Moval Substation to the existing Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable~~. The connection points with the Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable are each located approximately 1 mile ~~north of~~ from the proposed Lakeview Substation."
10.	Executive Summary	ES-4	Under the heading **Project Components**, regarding the third bullet point, please remove the description related to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover.	Please revise as follows: "Access road rehabilitation is proposed in case it becomes necessary to conduct Project work along the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line during installation of Fiber-Optic Cable Line Route ~~3~~ 1".
11.	Executive Summary	ES-5	Under the heading, **Applicant Proposed Measures**, regarding APM Bio-2, the last line incorrectly references the section of the PEA where the Worker Environmental Awareness Plan (WEAP) is discussed.	Please revise as follows: "Any significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the [Worker Environmental Awareness Plan (WEAP)] training described in Section ~~2.7.3~~ 3.9 of Chapter 3 [of the PEA].

LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
12.	Executive Summary	ES-5	Under the heading **Applicant Proposed Measures** regarding APM Bio-3, please revise the APM to accurately reflect the habitat assessment work conducted for the Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys for the Proposed Project.	Please revise as follows: "A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys along Segment 1, 2 and 3 and the Proposed Telecommunications Route.~~ for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside, 1996).~~"
13.	Executive Summary	ES-6	Under the heading **Applicant Proposed Measures**, regarding APM Bio-6, additional information should be included explaining that instead of preparing and implementing a mitigation plan, SCE may participate in the MSHCP if significant impacts to native vegetation and/or Special Status Plants are unavoidable.	Please include the following sentence at the end of APM-Bio-6: "In lieu of preparing the abovementioned plan, SCE may participate in the MSHCP,

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
14.	Executive Summary	ES-6	Regarding **APM-BIO-7** the text should indicate that if impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would participate in the WRMSHCP to mitigate impacts to this species.	Please revise as follows: "In order to avoid potential impacts to known populations of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be developed prior to construction to the extent feasible in the final Project Design (Figure 4.4-5). ~~If significant impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, a biologist will be selected to prepare and implement a mitigation plan, which will include detailed descriptions of maintenance appropriate for the mitigation site, monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements, and will have the full authority to suspend any operation which is, in the biologist's opinion, not consistent with the mitigation plan. This plan will be submitted for review to the appropriate agencies.~~ If impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would seek inclusion in the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to this species."
15.	Executive Summary	ES-8	Under the heading **ES.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative**, as explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter, the 12 kV distribution line from Nuevo Substation to Bunker Substation is no longer needed. Additionally, as explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter, Alternative 1: Phased Construction, would pose practical and economic constraints that do not meet the CEQA guidelines feasibility criteria. Based on the information in SCE's accompanying cover letter it is suggested that the rationale for the Environmentally Superior Alternative be updated and conclude that SCE's proposed project is still preferred to Alternative 1.	
16.	Executive Summary	ES-11	Regarding **Table ES-1 Summary of Impacts of and Mitigation Measures for the Project**, all comments relating to impact conclusions as well as mitigation measures can be found later in this comment table's applicable resource section.	

LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
17.	Chapter 1	1-3	Regarding Table 1-1 Summary of Potential Permit Requirements, the following permits should be removed as they are not likely required for the Project: • Nationwide or Individual Permit (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) • Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602) • Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification (or waiver)	Please update the table as requested. • ~~Nationwide or Individual Permit (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act)~~ • ~~Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602)~~ • ~~Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification (or waiver)~~
18.	Chapter 1	1-3	Regarding Table 1-1 Summary of Potential Permit Requirements, the grading permit listed in the table would be secured by SCE if it's ministerial.	Please revise as follows: "Ministerial Grading Permit"
19.	Chapter 2	2-1	Under the heading **2.1 Introduction**, please remove the reference to distribution poles as distribution poles will not be removed as a part of this project.	Please revise as follows: "Existing wooden ~~distribution~~ poles would be removed and a combination of new wood poles and tubular steel poles (TSPs) would be constructed."
20.	Chapter 2	2-1	Under the heading **2.1 Introduction**, to be consistent with the information provided in SCE's PEA, please add the following paragraph to the end of this section.	Please add in the following paragraph: "The Proposed Project components listed above are described in more detail below. The project description is based on planning level assumptions. Exact details would be determined following completion of final engineering using SCE's design and construction standards and specifications, identification of field conditions, availability of labor, material, and equipment, and compliance with applicable environmental and permitting requirements."

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LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
21.	Chapter 2	2-4	Under the heading **2.6.1 Substation Work**, the restroom component is not specifically identified in this section; however, it is implied that a restroom would be constructed and is analyzed in the subsequent resource sections. It is suggested our revision for the restroom be included to be consistent with SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "Currently, there is potable water service available at the site; however, no feasible sewer service option is available. Therefore, a portable chemical unit would be placed within the substation perimeter wall, and maintained by an outside service company.
22.	Chapter 2	2-3	Regarding **Figure 2.1**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 under Project Components for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please remove blue Route 3 fiber optic cable
23.	Chapter 2	2-4	Under the heading **2.5 Overview of the Project**, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please insert additional information regarding the telecommunications work at Alessandro Substation to the 4th bullet point.	Please revise as follows: "Installation of telecommunications facilities at the Lakeview Substation, including fiber-optic telecommunications cable (overhead and underground) to connect the Lakeview Substation to SCE's telecommunications network, installation of telecommunications cable (underground) to connect the Alessandro Substation to the SCE telecommunications network, and upgrades to the telecommunications equipment at the various substations (described in Section 2.5.3, *Telecommunications Description*)"
24.	Chapter 2	2-4	Under the heading **2.6.1 Substation Work**, the description for the proposed construction incorrectly references the sections and should be revised.	Please revise as follows: "This section describes the proposed construction of the Lakeview Substation in Section ~~2.5.1.1~~ 2.6.1.1 and proposed upgrades to specified existing substations in Section ~~2.5.1.2~~ 2.6.1.2. Decommissioning of the existing Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top are described in Section 2.9."

LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCE COMMENTS & SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
25.	Chapter 2	2-4	Under the heading **2.6.1.1 New Lakeview Substation**, the overall substation dimensions and the acreage of the parcel are incorrect and should be revised.	Please revise as follows: "The Lakeview Substation would be a new, approximately ~~330~~ 395 foot by ~~345~~ 403 foot, 115/12 kV unattended, automated 56 MVA low-profile substation constructed on approximately ~~2.7~~ 3 acres of a 5.4-acre parcel located in unincorporated Riverside County. The substation site would be approximately 452 feet long by 525 feet wide. The remaining ~~2.7~~ 2.4 acres of the proposed site would allow for future street improvements and widening, street set-backs, safety buffers, and landscaping."
26.	Chapter 2	2-4	Under the heading **115 kV Switchrack**, please insert the word "approximately" as final engineering has not yet been completed.	Please revise as follows: "One steel 115 kV switchrack, ~~up to~~ approximately 100 feet long by 240 feet wide by 36 feet high would be installed. The switchrack would consist of eight 30-foot-wide positions"
27.	Chapter 2	2-5	Within the detail of **Figure 2-2**, please revise reference to Segment 1's new wood pole count from "25 to 27" to the correct count "26 to 28" as provided in SCE's PEA.	
28.	Chapter 2	2-5	Regarding **Figure 2-2**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 under Project Components for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please remove blue Route 3 fiber optic cable and expand the view to show the location of Alessandro Substation.
29.	Chapter 2	2-7	Under the heading **115 kV Switchrack**, please insert the word "approximately" as final engineering has not yet been completed.	Please revise as follows: "The operating and transfer buses would each be approximately 240 feet long, and consist of one 1590 thousand circular mils (kcmil) Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) for each of the three electrical phases."
30.	Chapter 2	2-7	Under the heading **Two 28 MVA, 115/12 kV Transfomers,** please clarify that the dimension is for the total transformer bank area, which includes more equipment than just the transformers.	Please revise as follows: "~~The~~ Total transformer bank area would be approximately ~~80~~ 160 feet long by ~~52~~ 60 feet wide by ~~34.5~~ 35 feet high."
31.	Chapter 2	2-9	Under the heading **Distribution Getaway**, as previously explained, please replace Reservoir Street with Reservoir Avenue	Please revise as follows: "…or in franchise on 10th Street and Reservoir ~~Street~~ Avenue."

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LAKEVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
32.	Chapter 2	2-9	Under the heading **Distribution Getaway**, please remove the hyphen to clarify there is not a range for the voltage	Please revise as follows: "Within the substation site, distribution circuits would be placed in an underground conduit system. At full build out, the Lakeview Substation could accommodate ~~16~~ sixteen-12 kV distribution circuits."
33.	Chapter 2	2-11	Under the heading **2.6.2 Subtransmission Source Lines**, the total acreage for new ROW should be updated.	Please revise as follows: "Approximately ~~20.6~~ 15 acres of new ROW would be required for these subtransmission source lines. The easement would be 30 feet wide.
34.	Chapter 2	2-13	Under the heading 2.6.4 **Telecommunications Facilities**, please remove the reference to the third new fiber optic cable route for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~and a third new fiber-optic cable route would connect the Moval Substation to the existing Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable.~~ The connection points with the Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable are each located approximately 1 mile ~~north~~ of the proposed substation."

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
35.	Chapter 2	2-14	Please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 under the heading **2.6.4 Telecommunication Facilities** for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "~~The third fiber optic cable would exit the Moval Substation to the south. From inside the substation, cable would be placed in new underground duct banks for approximately 100 feet to the substation perimeter. The cable would continue underground outside the substation for approximately 2,400 feet south on the east side of Moreno Beach Drive. The cable would rise up on a pole approximately 200 feet south of Alessandro Boulevard on the west side of Moreno Beach Drive. In an overhead position, the cable would continue south to south-east on the existing structures of the 115 kV Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line for approximately 45,300 feet, until crossing Ramona Expressway, approximately 0.25 miles west of Bernasconi Road where it would connect to the existing Bunker Nelson fiber cable. The entire route would be approximately 47,800 feet.~~ The fiber optic cable work at the existing Alessandro Substation consists of work within the boundaries of the existing substation, within existing John F. Kennedy Drive, and within existing Kitching Street. From an existing pole on the west side of Kitching Street approximately 450 feet north of John F. Kennedy Drive, SCE would install cable within in existing underground conduit south to an existing vault located at the northwest corner of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive. From the existing vault located at the northwest corner of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive, SCE would install one cable within an existing underground conduit south across John F. Kennedy Drive and west into Alessandro Substation for approximately 750 feet to the MEER building located within the existing Alessandro Substation Property. From the existing vault located at the northwest corner of Kitching Street and John F. Kennedy Drive, SCE would install new underground conduit south across John F. Kennedy Drive for approximately 358 feet to an existing manhole located on the east side of Kitching Street. From the existing manhole located on Kitching Street, SCE would install new underground conduit west across Kitching Street to approximately 200 feet to the east of the perimeter fence of existing Alessandro Substation. In order to install the new conduit, SCE will be required to utilize a directional bore so as to bore under an existing concrete lined storm drain that runs north and south between Kitching Street and Alessandro Substation. Within Alessandro Substation, SCE would install approximately 1,400 feet of new underground conduit to the existing MEER building and three 4' x 4' x 6' manholes."

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36.	Chapter 2	2-14	Under the heading **2.7.2 Geotechnical Investigations**, please clarify initial geotechnical investigation was performed at the Proposed Substation Site and not for the entire project.	Please revise as follows: "SCE conducted an initial geotechnical investigation report for the ~~Project~~ Proposed Substation Site to determine the nature and engineering properties of the subsurface soils and to provide preliminary recommendations for site grading, foundation design, and construction. All site preparation and structural design recommendations provided in the initial geotechnical investigation would be implemented as part of the Project. SCE would contract with a professional geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist to monitor site-preparation and earthwork activities, to ensure structural fills are adequately placed and compacted, and to ensure footings are founded on satisfactory materials."
37.	Chapter 2	2-15	Under the heading **2.7.3 Environmental Surveys,** regarding bullet point number two which states the following, "*Nesting Bird*: If Project construction activities would occur during the nesting season (February 15 – September 15), a qualified biologist would survey construction areas for active nests. If active nests are identified, construction activities would not occur within 200 feet of the active nest." The language should be revised to explain a project specific nesting bird management plan would be developed and include appropriate buffers based on species specific biology and behavior. Additionally, reduction of buffers (as identified in the plan) would be based on recommendations of the biological monitors in the field and approved by the SCE project biologist.	Please revise as follows: "*Nesting Bird*: If Project construction activities would occur during the nesting season (February 15 – September 15), a qualified biologist would survey construction areas for active nests. ~~If active nests are identified, construction activities would not occur within200 feet of the active nest.~~ If active nests are identified, a project specific nesting bird management plan would be developed and include appropriate buffers based on species specific biology and behavior. Additionally, reduction of buffers (as identified in the plan) would be based on recommendations of the biological monitors in the field and approved by the SCE project biologist."
38.	Chapter 2	2-17	Under the heading **2.8 Construction**, please include the following bullet point under the project construction elements.	Please revise as follows: "Decommissioning of the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."

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39.	Chapter 2	2-17	Under the heading **2.8.1 Access Roads**, please add in additional clarification regarding the rehabilitation of the access roads.	Please revise as follows: "For the subtransmission source line segments and Telecommunication Line, access roads would parallel the poles and existing roads would be used where available. If rehabilitation is required for existing roads to accommodate construction activities, related activities could include: grading and repair, vegetation clearance and grubbing, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, re-compaction of the surface, drainage and erosion, to ensure a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, depending upon field construction)."
40.	Chapter 2	2-17	Under the heading **2.8.1 Access Roads**, please add in clarification regarding the installation of new access roads.	Please revise as follows: "New roads (up to 3.5 miles) would be needed to access the new subtransmission source line segments, resulting in a disturbance of approximately ~~8.0~~ 5.94 acres. Construction of new access roads would include clearing the road alignments and grubbing them of vegetation, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, over-excavation and re-compaction, installation of drainage and erosion control devices. Like existing roads, new roads would be constructed to provide a minimum drivable width of 14 feet, with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side. Road gradients would be leveled so that any sustained grade would not exceed 12 percent. A 14 percent gradient would be permitted if grades do not exceed 40 feet in length and are located more than 50 feet from other excessive grades or any curves. Excess excavated material from grading the access roads would be properly disposed of off-site, if required."
41.	Chapter 2	2-18	Under the heading **2.8.1 Access Roads**, please add in additional clarification that design will be determined during final engineering.	Please revise as follows: "Typical construction for an aggregate road base would start with excavating the road at least 18 inches. 10-inches of soil would be restored and compacted to 95 percent density establishing the subgrade. Then, an 8-inch aggregate road base would be placed and compacted to at least 95 percent relative density over the subgrade. Final material selection and design to be determined during final engineering, and coordinated with local agencies."

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42.	Chapter 2	2-18	Regarding **Table 2-2**, please correct the New Access Road component to 3.5 miles for the Number Of Sites. Include an updated Acreage Disturbed During Construction of 5.94 acres and Acres Permanently Disturbed of 5.94 acres. Additionally, please correct the rehabilitation of existing access roads for telecommunications to 1 mile for the Number Of Sites. Include an updated Acreage Disturbed During Construction of 0.7 acres and Acres Permanently Disturbed of 0.7 acres.	
43.	Chapter 2	2-20	Under the heading **2.8.3 Staging Area/Laydown Area**, Table 2-8 on page 2-25 includes information relative to construction and laydown areas for the various subtransmission components. Additionally, regarding the title for Table 2-8 it is suggested that the title be updated to include reference to laydown areas.	Please revise as follows: "~~Up to 90 laydown areas would be required, each no larger than 20,000 square feet (typically 200 feet by 100 feet)~~. For information pertaining to the number and approximate size of laydown areas, please reference Table 2-8." Please revise title in Table 2-8: "Disturbed Acreage (Laydown Area) Calculation (L x W)"
44.	Chapter 2	2-20	Under the heading **2.8.3 Staging Area/Laydown Area**, laydown areas will be controlled by the SWPPP, please revise accordingly.	Please revise as follows: "The laydown areas would be prepared by clearing existing vegetation and grading (SCE, 2011). ~~Soils in the laydown areas would be stabilized as soon as practical after soil disturbing activities have occurred or one day prior to the onset of precipitation."~~
45.	Chapter 2	2-21	Under the heading **Ground Grid,** please revise the text to provide clarification on the construction of the ground grid.	Please revise as follows: "The ground grid consists of bare copper conductor installed in a series of trenches within the substation perimeter to ~~connect~~ ground the various components of the substation. A backhoe would be used to dig the trenches. The grid conductors are buried at a depth of 12 to 18 inches. Ground rods and ground electrodes may also be required depending on soil conditions. ~~, which would be lined with concrete to house the conduit. Where below grade construction would occur (not in fill soil)~~ The design of the ground grid would be based on soil resistivity measurements collected during the geotechnical investigation."

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46.	Chapter 2	2-23	Under the heading **Duct banks and Conduits**, please revise for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "Telecommunications duct banks would be installed in a backhoe-excavated trench approximately 18 inches wide by 36 inches deep. Five-inch PVC conduit would be placed in the open trench, covered with slurry, and then covered with back-filled material and compacted. A 3 foot by 5 foot by 3 foot concrete pull box would be installed near the northwest corner of substation site approximately 20 feet south of the north perimeter wall of the Lakeview Substation. ~~and near the southeast section of Moval Substation, approximately 40 feet west of the east perimeter wall. A concrete manhole, approximately 4 feet by 4 feet by 5 feet, would be installed at the following locations: outside Moval Substation near the east side of Moreno Beach Drive, approximately 465 feet south of Cottonwood Avenue; near the east side of Moreno Beach Drive, approximately 368 feet south of Bay Street; and near the east side of Moreno Beach Drive, approximately 205 feet south of Allessandro Boulevard."~~
47.	Chapter 2	2-21	Under the heading **Equipment Foundations**, please correct the number of TSPs to be consistent with SCE's PEA and CPUC's DEIR Figure 2-3 on page 2-6.	Please revise as follows: "Installation of substation equipment (including switchracks, the MEER, transformer banks, capacitor banks and ~~two~~ four TSPs) would require the construction of concrete foundations."
48.	Chapter 2	2-22	Regarding **Table 2-5**, the footnote states the following "a Excavation "spoils" would be permanently placed on site during the below-ground construction phase" it should be clarified that spoils may be placed on site.	Please revise as follows: "Excavation "spoils" ~~would~~ may be permanently placed on site during the below-ground construction phase."
49.	Chapter 2	2-23	Under the heading **Detention Basin**, please revise to clarify SCE will obtain ministerial permits as required.	Please revise as follows: "Prior to substation construction, SCE would obtain any ministerial ~~a grading~~ permits from the County of Riverside as required, at which time a final site drainage plan would be determined."
50.	Chapter 2	2-24	Under the heading **2.8.4.2 Above-Grade Construction**, please clarify that there will be a total of 20 days for deliveries however the amount of asphalt would not change. Additionally, SCE used the duration of 5 days, as submitted in a previous data request, in order to prepare a conservative air quality analysis.	Please revise as follows: "It would be delivered by trucks approximately 9 times per day for a total duration of ~~5~~20 days (potentially not consecutive) for Lakeview Substation construction (SCE, 2011)."

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51.	Chapter 2	2-25	Regarding **Table 2-8**, please add an additional row to the table for Telecommunications pull and tension sites, quantity 7, disturbance area 150' by 100'. Acreage Disturbed during Construction will be 2.4. Acres to be Restored 2.4. Additionally, regarding Table 2-8, for the 115 kV conductor stringing splicing set up area, please revise the quantity from 4 sites to 3 sites. The revised Acreage Disturbed during Construction will be 1.0. Acres to be Restored 1.0.	
52.	Chapter 2	2-27	Under the heading **2.8.5.4 Conductor/Wire Stringing**, please make this suggested revision to be consistent with Table 2-8.	Please revise as follows: "The dimensions of the area needed for the wire stringing set-ups associated with wire installation are variable and depend upon terrain. These activities generally require an area of approximately ~~50~~ 200 feet wide by 100 feet long."
53.	Chapter 2	2-28	Under the heading **2.8.5.6 Removal of Existing Poles**, for clarification purposes, please revise lines to facilities.	Please revise as follows: "Prior to removal of existing poles, the existing subtransmission lines, distribution lines and telecommunication lines (where applicable) would be transferred to the new poles; all remaining subtransmission, distribution and telecommunication ~~lines~~ facilities that are not reused by SCE would be removed (above- and below-ground) and delivered to a facility for recycling."
54.	Chapter 2	2-28	Under the heading **2.8.5.5 Telecommunications System Installation and Upgrades**, please revise for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "Underground telecommunications facilities would be installed in new and existing duct banks which include pull boxes and manholes, in the substation site, on 10th Street outside of the substation site, in the Alessandro Substation site on John F Kennedy Drive and on Kitching Street ~~in the Moval Substation site and on Moreno Beach Drive outside of the Moval Substation site.~~ Concrete would be delivered to the Project site by trucks approximately four times per day for telecommunications construction for a duration of 7.5 days (SCE, 2011)."

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55.	Chapter 2	2-29	Under the heading **2.8.6.1 Site Cleanup and Restoration**, it should be clarified that the reseeding as described in the following sentence is for soil stabilization purposes: "Activities associated with restoration of these areas would include restoring original contours and reseeding with an appropriate seed mix, to the extent feasible."	Please revise as follows: "Activities associated with restoration of these areas would include restoring original contours and reseeding with an appropriate seed mix for soil stabilization, to the extent feasible."
56.	Chapter 2	2-29	Under the heading **2.8.6.2 Hazardous Materials Use, Storage, and Disposal**, please clarify that wood poles removed would be handled in accordance with California Health & Safety Code Division 20, Article 4, Section 25143.1.5 and hazardous wastes generated during site activities would be disposed at the properly permitted Class I hazardous landfill.	Please revise as follows: "Depending on the type, condition and original chemical treatment, wood poles removed from the site could be reused by SCE for other purposes, disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill. *consistent with the requirements set forth in the California Health & Safety Code Division 20, Article 4, Section 25143.1.5* Hazardous wastes generated during site activities would be disposed at the properly permitted Class I hazardous landfill. There are two major permitted Class I hazardous waste landfills located in California: Chemical Waste Management Kettleman Hills Landfill, located in Kettleman City; and Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Landfill, located in Buttonwillow. The Kettleman Hills facility has approximately 6,000,000 cubic yards of remaining capacity and is not expected to close until 2037-2038. The Buttonwillow facility has approximately 9,500,000 cubic yards of remaining capacity and is not expected to close until 2040."
57.	Chapter 2	2-29	Under the heading **2.8.6.2 Hazardous Materials Use, Storage, and Disposal**, clarification is provided for the handling of non-hazardous waste that is not used as fill.	Please revise as follows: "Non-hazardous waste, including soil that is not used as fill, would be transported to one of the three riverside County solid waste management facilities located within 30 miles of the substation site."

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58.	Chapter 2	2-30	Under the heading **2.9 Decommissioning the Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top Transformer**, the installation of Model Pole Top was completed in 2009 and is consistent with SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "The temporary Model Pole Top Substation was installed at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and East Lakeview Avenue in ~~2007~~ 2009 to supplement capacity at the Nuevo Substation until a new substation project could be constructed to provide electrical service in the Electrical Needs Area."
59.	Chapter 2	2-31	Under the heading **2.9.1 Nuevo 33/12 kV Substation**, please remove the sentence to be consistent with the language in the DEIR that describes the import/export activities.	Please revise as follows: "Site restoration activities would include re-compaction, rough grading to restore contours for drainage purposes so that the rate and direction of stormwater flow after decommissioning would be the same as existing conditions, and reseeding with native or other appropriate seed mix. ~~No import or export of fill/soils would be necessary~~."
60.	Chapter 2	2-32	Under heading **2.9.2 Model Pole Top Substation**, fifth paragraph, Model Pole Top should be referenced as a "temporary Model Pole Top Substation," as described in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "Site restoration activities associated with the temporary Model Pole Top Substation which include re-compaction…"
61.	Chapter 2	2-33	Under the heading **2.10 Project Operation and Maintenance,** SCE does not have the option of ground and/or aerial observation for annual inspections on our subtransmission energized lines.	Please revise as follows: "SCE maintains an inspection frequency of the energized subtransmission overhead facilities a minimum of once per year via ground ~~and/or~~ observation with the option of aerial observation on alternate years."
62.	Chapter 2	2-33	Under the heading **2.11 Water and Wastewater**, please revise to reflect the accurate water usage necessary during construction on a daily basis.	Please revise as follows: "Approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons per day would be necessary, and would be delivered to the site by water trucks eight times a day (SCE, 2011)."
63.	Chapter 2	2-36	Regarding **Table 2-9**, please insert a footnote to clarify the fuel type of the vehicles.	Please insert the following footnote: "Diesel fueled vehicles could be interchangeable with gasoline fueled vehicle as seen in this table based on contractor and/or equipment availability."

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64.	Chapter 2	2-36 – 2-37	Regarding **Table 2-9** under the heading 115 kV Subtransmission Line Construction, please update the number of work days for the following activities: Survey – 13 days Guard Structure Installation – 5 days Remove Existing Wood Poles – 5 days Install TSP Foundation – 41 days Install Subtransmission Wood Poles – 28 days Steep Pole Haul – 9 days Steel Pole Assembly – 9 days Steel Pole Erection – 9 days Install Conductor – 15 days Guard Structure Removal – 4 days	Please revise as follows: Survey – ~~5~~ 13 days Guard Structure Installation – ~~2~~ 5 days Remove Existing Wood Poles – ~~1~~ 5 days Install TSP Foundation – ~~34~~ 41 days Install Subtransmission Wood Poles – ~~19~~ 28 days Steep Pole Haul – ~~5~~ 9 days Steel Pole Assembly – ~~6~~ 9 days Steel Pole Erection – ~~6~~ 9 days Install Conductor – ~~10~~ 15 days Guard Structure Removal – ~~2~~ 4 days
65.	Chapter 2	2-37	Regarding **Table 2-9** under the heading Telecommunications Construction, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please adjust the number of work days for Roads & Landing Work.	Please revise as follows: "~~16~~ 1"

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66.	Chapter 2	2-38	Under the heading **4.4.3 Applicant Proposed Measures** regarding APM-Bio-3: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, please revise the APM to accurately reflect the habitat assessment work conducted for Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys for the Proposed Project.	Please revise as follows: "A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys along Segment 1, 2 and 3 and the Proposed Telecommunications Route.~~ for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside, 1996).~~"
67.	Chapter 2	2-39	Under the heading **2.13.2 Biological Resources**, please incorporate the previously explained edits (Executive Summary comments) regarding APM-Bio-6 and APM-Bio-7.	
68.	Chapter 2	Table 2-2	Regarding **Table 2-2**, please revise the number of miles to be consistent with the description provided on page 2-17. The additional areas needed for the turnaround is described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please revise from 5.1 to 5.94 acres.	Table Row :New Access Roads should read -Number of Sites: ~~3~~ 3.5 miles -Acreage Disturbed during Construction: ~~5.1~~ 5.94 -Acreage Permanently Disturbed: ~~5.1~~ 5.94
69.	Chapter 2	Table 2-2	Regarding Table 2-2, based on the reasons previously provided regarding Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, the number of miles of rehabilitated access roads for telecom need to be updated.	"Rehabilitation of Existing Access Roads for Telecommunications" -Number of Sites: ~~8~~ 1 -Acreage Disturbed during Construction: ~~7.75~~ 0.7 -Acreage Permanently Disturbed: ~~7.75~~ 0.7

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70.	Chapter 3	3-4	Under the heading **3.2.3 Feasibility**, a footnote should be added to the following sentence, "In addition, CEQA requires that the Lead Agency consider site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, general plan consistency, other regulatory limitations…" The footnote should explain that per GO 131-D, local jurisdictions are preempted from enforcing local land use and zoning regulations and discretionary permitting requirements, therefore general plan consistency is included in the analysis, but such general plan policies, goals and land use designations are not applicable to the Proposed Project.	Please insert the following footnote: "CPUC GO 131-D, Section XIV.B states that "local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. However in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters." Consequently, public utilities are directed to consider local regulations and consult with local agencies, but the county and city regulations are not applicable as the county and cities do not have jurisdiction over the Proposed Project."
71.	Chapter 3	3-6	Regarding **Table 3-2 Summary of Alternatives Screening Analysis-Lakeview Substation Project**, the environmental criteria related to Alternative 1 makes mention of Noise criteria more than once, therefore one of the statements should be deleted.	Please revise as follows: "~~Noise: construction noise impacts would be similar and operational noise impacts would be the same as under the project.~~"
72.	Chapter 3	3-6	Regarding **Table 3-2 Summary of Alternatives Screening Analysis-Lakeview Substation Project**, as stated in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove all references to the approximately 2-3 miles of distribution line from Nuevo Substation to Bunker Substation.	
73.	Chapter 3	3-6	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation**, please clarify the alternative 2 relocated substation site will require the same number of TSPs as the proposed substation site.	Please revise as follows: "Require ~~3-5 fewer~~ the same number of TSPs to be constructed at the proposed substation site."
74.	Chapter 3	3-6	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation**, please clarify the distance will be reduce by 1,320 feet.	Please revise as follows: "Not change the location of the proposed alignment running southwest-southeast down 10th and 11th Streets, but would reduce the distance of the run by approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet."

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75.	Chapter 3	3-8	Please see SCE's accompanying letter for concerns related to technical feasibility of Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative..	
76.	Chapter 3	3-8	Regarding Alternative 1, under the heading **Construction**, the text indicates that the construction activities would be extended to an approximate total of 22 months, however SCE's calculation estimates that construction would be extended to approximately 23.6 months which would be rounded to 24 months.	Please revise as follows: "…except for the construction schedule, which would be extended by approximately 10 months to a total of approximately ~~22~~ 24 months to reduce the overlap in construction of four project components…"
77.	Chapter 3	3-9	Under the heading **3.4.2 Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, please also clarify the subtransmission line segment along 11th Street would not run between "A Avenue" and Reservoir Avenue. In addition, the distance will be reduced by 1,320 feet.	Please revise as follows: "The subtransmission line segments along 10th and 11th S~~s~~treets would proceed as proposed for the Project but would not run between "A Avenue ~~A~~" and Reservoir Avenue on 11th Street, and as a result the subtransmission line route for this alternative would be approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet shorter overall than for the Project."
78.	Chapter 3	3-9	Under the heading **Potential New Impacts Created,** please remove reference to the 12kV distribution line as it is no longer required for construction under Alternative 1.	Please revise as follows: ***"~~Potential New Impacts Created~~*** ~~Placement of the temporary distribution line between the Nuevo and Bunker Substations under Alternative 1 would result in an increase in vehicle trips and potential new temporary lane closures, resulting in increased air pollutant emissions, noise effects near sensitive land uses, and transportation and traffic impacts.~~"
79.	Chapter 3	3-10	Regarding **Figure 3-1**, the number of wood poles on 10th Street is incorrect and should be corrected to reflect the correct pole count of 26-28 wood poles on 10th Street. Remove second reference to 3-5 new TSPs at the substation site as there will only be 3-5 total TSPs. Please note wood poles would also be replaced north of 10th Street as well as south of 11th Street within the Valley-Moval 115 kV alignment and are a part of the total count already referenced.	

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80.	Chapter 3	3-10	Regarding **Figure 3-1 Alternative 2**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3from the figure for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter. It is suggested that the view be expanded to include Alessandro Substation.	
81.	Chapter 3	3-11	Regarding Alternative 2, under the heading **Lessen Significant Environmental Impacts**, the document states, "The purpose of Alternative 2 is to reduce the significant environmental impacts of the Project related to air quality by requiring less construction due to shorter length of the subtransmission line routes. This would reduce construction related emissions of NOx and PM10." SCE provided the CPUC with air quality calculations for Alternative 2 that indicated that the NOx and PM10 construction related emissions would not be reduced below the significance levels.	Please revise as follows: "~~The purpose of Alternative 2 is to reduce the significant environmental impacts of the Project related to air quality by requiring less construction due to shorter length of the subtransmission line routes. This would reduce construction related emissions of NOx and PM10.~~"
82.	Chapter 3	3-13	Regarding Alternative 5, under the heading **Description**, please delete the reference to 16 kV as this voltage is not available in this area.	Please revise as follows: "Distributed generation is electricity production that is on-site or close to the load center that could be interconnected at ~~16 kV~~ distribution, subtransmission, or transmission system voltages."
83.	Intro to Environmental	4-2	Under the heading **Introduction to Environmental Analysis**, regarding the fifth bullet point, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please update the description related to telecommunication access road rehabilitation.	Please revise as follows: "Potential telecommunications line access road rehabilitation in case it becomes necessary to conduct Project work ~~along the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line.~~"
84.	Intro to Environmental	4-4 – 4-5	Under the heading **Applicant Proposed Measures**, please make the previously described edits (as explained in Executive Summary) to APM Bio-6 and APM Bio-7.	

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85.	Intro to Environmental	4.5	Regarding **APM Bio-7**, it should be clarified that if impacts to Crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would participate in the MSHCP.	Please revise as follows: "**APM Bio-7, Avoidance of San Jacinto Valley Crownscale Populations:** In order to avoid potential impacts to known populations of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be developed prior to construction to the extent feasible in the final Project Design ([see PEA] Figure 4.4-5). If significant impacts to San JacintoValley crownscale are unavoidable, ~~a biologist will be selected to prepare and implement a mitigation plan, which will include detailed descriptions of maintenance appropriate for the mitigation site, monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements, and will have the full authority to suspend any operation which is, in the biologist's opinion, not consistent with the mitigation plan. This plan will be submitted for review to the appropriate agencies."~~ SCE would participate in the MSHCP to mitigate for impacts to this species.
86.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-3	On Figure 4.1-1, in the legend under the heading **Fiber Optic Cable Routes**, remove Route 3. On Figure 4.1-1, remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3; include location of Alessandro Substation to provide geographical reference of substations where ground disturbance would occur as a result of construction	Please revise Figure 4.1-1 Visual Study Area and Viewshed to remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and replace with location of Alessandro Substation
87.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-4	Under the heading **Visual Study Area**, please replace the reference to Fiber Optic Route 3 with Fiber Optic Cable installation at Alessandro Substation to be consistent with the change in Project Description.	Please revise as follows: "Fiber-Optic Cable installation at Alessandro Substation ~~Route 3 along the existing Valley-Moval 115kV Subtransmission Line~~ is not included as part of the visual study area because it involves the addition of ~~one~~ underground cable and conduit ~~to an existing transmission line corridor~~ and this does not represent a readily perceivable visual change for public viewers."
88.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-5	On Figure 4.1-2, please remove all references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, per SCE's accompanying cover letter, in the legend under the heading **Fiber Optic Cable Routes**, remove Route 3.	Please revise Figure 4.1-2 Location of Key Observation Points and Context Photographs to remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3.

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89.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-9	Under the heading **Lakeview Substation Site**, the substation is not located at the northwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Reservoir Avenue, but rather at the southwest portion of the intersection.	Please revise as follows: "The Lakeview Substation Site is location in an agricultural field ~~north~~ southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Reservoir Avenue."
90.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-9	Under the heading **Motorists**, the document explains the Ramona Expressway as a designated scenic corridor by Riverside County, however the Ramona Expressway is actually designated as a county eligible scenic highway.	Please revise as follows: "The only relevant County eligible scenic roadway in the visual study are is the Ramona Expressway, which is ~~designated~~ eligible as a scenic corridor by Riverside County…"
91.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-11	Under the heading **Visual Sensitivity**, it appears that the remainder of the following sentence is missing: "However, the visual sensitivity of the Project as viewed from parks and trails is generally in the moderate-to-high range due to the change" The change from "what" should be explained.	Please complete the thought associated with the sentence.
92.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-15	Regarding **Figure 4.1-8 "Existing and Simulated View of Project from KOP-4",** both the Existing View photo and Simulated View photo have been cropped- excluding approximately 1/3 of the original image on the right side of the photo, as seen in the PEA. This portion of the image should be included as a portion of the simulated subtransmission line is now unseen.	Please refer to "PEA Lakeview Substation Project", Volume 1 of 2, filed September 17, 2010. Chapter 4.1, page 4.1-15, Figure 4.1-9a & 9b, show the same Existing View and Simulated View un cropped.
93.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-24	Under the heading **No Impact Significance Determinations**, it should be clarified that fiber optic cables would follow existing or proposed utility lines.	Please revise as follows: "Because the fiber optic cables would not be visible or would follow existing or proposed utility lines, the telecommunications facilities would have a less-than-significant impact with respect to all visual resources significance criteria."
94.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-25	Under the heading **Impact 4.1-1**, it should be clarified that the Ramona Expressway is a County Eligible Scenic Highway not a designated local scenic highway by Riverside County.	Please revise as follows: "While there are no officially designated scenic vista points in the Project area, the Ramona Expressway is ~~designated as a~~ considered an eligible local scenic highway by Riverside County."

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95.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-25	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista**, no additional impacts would result during construction, operation, and maintenance of the underground fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation. This impact is evaluated based on visual impacts from Ramona Expressway, a designated local scenic highway, which is greater than 6 miles from Alessandro Substation; temporary construction activity would not be visible or result in view shed impacts from the construction, operation, and maintenance of Expressway.	
96.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-26	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-1** (Construction), please change exiting to existing when referencing the decommissioning activities.	Please revise as follows: "Decommissioning activities are unlikely to be perceived negatively by the motorist because it is an ~~exiting~~ existing site with low visual quality and similar construction activities are not uncharacteristic of undeveloped areas."
97.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-27	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings,** because construction activity within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be temporary, and because the finished project would be underground, no additional impacts would result.	
98.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-28	Under the heading **KOP 4**, the text references several existing lines, for clarification, there is only one subtransmission line.	Please revise as follows: "Although there are several existing subtransmission and distribution ~~lines~~ structures (or facilities) visible from the San Jacinto River corridor…."

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99.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-28	Under the heading **KOP 4**, regarding APM Aesthetics-1, SCE may not be able to utilize trees in the substation perimeter landscaping design based on standard clearance requirements from the Subtransmission lines and substation equipment, therefore it is suggested that references to trees be removed.	Please revise as follows: "APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter with green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings."
100.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-29	Under the heading **KOP 6**, regarding APM Aesthetics-1, SCE may not be able to utilize trees in the substation perimeter landscaping design based on standard clearance requirements from the Subtransmission lines and substation equipment, therefore it is suggested that references to trees be removed.	Please revise as follows: "APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter, thereby placing green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings and discouraging graffiti.
101.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-31	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** the construction duration would be extended by 12 months, not 10 months. Please revise to reflect the accurate construction duration.	Please revise as follows: "The visual impacts of construction activity would be extended by an additional ~~10~~ 12 months…"
102.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-32	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction**, it should be clarified that phased construction would not reduce the number of personnel, vehicles and machinery operating at any one time at Lakeview Substation, but rather would reduce the number of personnel, vehicles and machinery operating at any one time on the project as a whole.	Please revise as follows: "~~At the proposed Lakeview Substation site~~ For the Project, this is likely to reduce the number of personnel, vehicles, and machinery operating at any one time, thereby reducing the visual clutter and activity of an active construction site, but is not likely to reduce the general visual presence of cleared ground, fencing, material stockpiles or construction-related equipment.
103.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-32	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text references the Lakeview Substation would be located 0.25 miles further away from local roads and residences; however, the distance is likely closer to 0.125 miles.	Please revise as follows: "Under Alternative 2, the proposed Lakeview Substation would be located approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile further away from the affected local roads and residences, thereby significantly reducing the level of visual impact from KOPs 5, 6, 7 and 8."
104.	Chapter 4.1	4.1-33	Under the heading **No Project Alternative**, there are two conflicting statements regarding the impact determination, it is suggested that one be deleted as there is no potential for impact if no facilities are being built.	Please revise as follows: "Under the no Project alternative, there would be no impacts to aesthetics because the Project area would remain in its current condition. ~~As such, while the No Project Alternative would result in reduced impacts compared to the Project, impacts would remain less than significant.~~"

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105.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-1	Under the heading **Regional and Local Setting**, please revise the following description for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and replace it with the information provided regarding the work to occur in the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation: "The majority of the lands within the Project site are located within the Lakeview/Nuevo Planning Area, while portions of the telecommunication system extend into the MSHCP area and the City of Moreno Valley."	Please revise as follows: "The majority of the lands within the Project site are located within the Lakeview/Nuevo Planning Area, while portions of the telecommunication system extend into ~~the MSHCP area and~~ the City of Moreno Valley."
106.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-2	Under the heading **California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**, the definition of Prime Farmland needs to be updated to include additional language relevant to the defining criteria used by the California Department of Conservation (http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/soil_criteria.pdf).	Please include the following language after the last sentence of the existing definition, "Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date."
107.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-2	Under the heading **California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**, the definition of Unique Farmland needs to be updated to include additional language relevant to the defining criteria used by the California Department of Conservation (http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/soil_criteria.pdf).	Please include the following language after the last sentence of the existing definition, "Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date."
108.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-2	Under the heading **California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**, the definition of Farmland of Statewide Importance needs to be updated to include additional language relevant to the defining criteria used by the California Department of Conservation (http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/soil_criteria.pdf).	Please include the following language after the last sentence of the existing definition, "Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date."
109.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-2	Regarding **Table 4.2-1 Farmland Conversion From 2006 – 2008 in Riverside County** the table portrays changes in overall acreage between 2006 and 2008; however, these differences are then labeled as changes from 2004 to 2006 in the right side of the table.	Please revise as follows: "~~2004-2006~~ 2006-2008 Acreage Changes"

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110.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-3	Regarding **Figure 4.2-1 Important Farmland and Williamson Act Contracted Land in the Project Vicinity**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the figure and change the view of the figure to include Alessandro Substation for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
111.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-5	Under the heading, **Riverside County Zoning Ordinance**, per General Order (GO) 131-D, the referenced zoning ordinances would not apply to the Project.	Please insert the following language at the beginning of the existing paragraph, "CPUC General Order 131-D explains that local zoning ordinances would not apply to the Project, therefore, the following information is provided for informational purposes only"

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112.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-6	Regarding **Impact 4.2-1**, since any disturbance will be temporary in nature, there will be no permanent conversion of farmland. Therefore, Mitigation Measures 4.2-1a and 4.2-1b are not warranted. Additionally, Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a would not be warranted because the Project will be required to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ). As required by this permit, additional measures will be implemented to further reduce the impacts to designated Farmland as a result of soil loss, erosion, and sedimentation. Furthermore, SCE will dispose of any excess soil at an appropriately licensed waste facility. Excavation will exceed the three foot depth at the substation location, pole locations, and access roads. The soil at the substation will be recompacted per the grading plan while any excess excavated soils from the pole locations, and access roads will be disposed of at an SCE approved disposal facility. Soil densities would be based upon engineering requirements which would often defer the implementation of returning soil density to within 5% of original soil density. The fugitive dust mitigation requirement for the project requires the use of water to control fugitive dust (SCAQMD Rule 403) and therefore avoiding traveling on wet soil is not feasible. Lastly, SCE may work with individual property owners to develop a different method for disposition of topsoil that is impacted on private property, assuming a mutual agreement may be reached.	Please remove Impact Analysis 4.2-1 and Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a and Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b.

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113.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use,** there would be no additional impacts resulting from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation based on location within the existing substation footprint and roadway.	
114.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-8	As explained above in comment #112, **Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b** is not warranted. Additionally, it should be noted that the mitigation measure is problematic for the following reasons: "Growing season" is undefined and may vary depending on crop type and the particular landowner. Therefore, it does not seem appropriate to include this requirement in the mitigation measure. SCE typically negotiates and compensates the property owner for any crop take and for liability reasons, would not perform crop replacement. Therefore, it does not seem appropriate to include this requirement in the mitigation measure.	
115.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.2-2**, regarding Table 4.2-3 Estimated Permanent Disturbance of Farmland, the table lists permanent impacts to designated Farmland resulting from the listed project components differs from those specified in Table 4.2.2 of the PEA. Additionally, please confirm the total as seen in the table.	SCE suggests that the calculations used to determine the acreage of permanent impacts to designated Farmland resulting from the Subtransmission Source Line and Poles be reconfirmed to ensure their accuracy.

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116.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.2-2**, regarding Table 4.2-3 Estimated Permanent Disturbance of Farmland, **f**ootnote "d" is referenced in the "Total" row; however, no note is provided at the bottom of the table.	Please provide the footnote referenced as "d" in the table.
117.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.2-2**, Regarding **Mitigation Measure 4.2-2**, the measure should clarify that SCE could acquire and establish an easement, rather than granting an easement.	Please revise as follows: "…SCE ~~shall grant a~~ would acquire farmland and would establish an easement for the portion of the land that will no longer be used for agricultural land equal to the acreage converted (e.g. 7.9 acres). This land shall be in an area designated for long-term future agricultural use; or…"
118.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-9	Under the heading **Impact 4.2-2**, several references are made to "7.9 acres" of permanent impacts to designated Farmland; however, based on the data provided in Table 4.2-3 Estimated Permanent Disturbance of Farmland, this should be described as 7.8 acres.	Please update all references to permanent impacts within the text to be consistent with Table 4.2-3.
119.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-9	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract,** there would be no additional impacts resulting from the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation based on location within the existing substation footprint and roadway.	

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120.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-10	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code §12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code §4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code §51104(g),** there would be no additional impacts resulting from the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation based on location within the existing substation footprint and roadway.	
121.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-10	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use,** there would be no additional impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation based on location within the existing substation footprint and roadway.	

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122.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-10	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use,** there would be no additional impacts resulting from the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to based on location within the existing substation footprint and roadway.	
123.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-11	Under heading **Impact 4.2-3**, the discussion includes the following statement: "In addition, there would be a less-than-significant impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth caused by the Project. The Project is proposed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area because existing facilities would not meet forecasted, long-term electrical demand. Therefore, the Project would not induce growth but instead is designed to respond to existing growth and demand trends, and therefore would not be expected to substantially induce or exacerbate conversion of agricultural land. Impacts would be less than significant." While SCE generally agrees with this statement, the first sentence in the paragraph is misleading with regards to the remaining information. The Project will be growth-accommodating, not growth-inducing, and as such, this statement misrepresents potential impacts resulting from this project.	Please revise as follows: "In addition, there would be no ~~a less-than-significant~~ impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth caused by the Project. The Project is proposed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area because existing facilities would not meet forecasted, long-term electrical demand. Therefore, the Project would not induce growth but instead is designed to respond to existing growth and demand trends, and therefore would not be expected to substantially induce or exacerbate conversion of agricultural land. Impacts would be less than significant."

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124.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-11	Regarding **Mitigation Measure 4.2-3**, please add the suggested revision for clarification purposes.	Please revise as follows: "Mitigation Measure 4.2-3: SCE and/or its contractors shall incorporate the following measures into project construction plans and specifications specific to lands designated as Farmland: • Ensure that existing drainage systems at Project sites that are needed for farming activities function as necessary per coordination with the landowner, so that agricultural uses are not disrupted. • Coordinate with landowners to ensure that construction does not impact irrigation and/or other ancillary farming systems to a degree that farming practices cannot be maintained. • Maintain existing levels of water available to farmers via the current irrigation system including, but not be limited to, implementing re-routing and/or temporary irrigation systems. In lieu of implementing the above requirements, SCE shall have the option of negotiating agreements with any affected landowner(s) that shall enable the landowner(s), to the extent practicable, to effect their own irrigation and/or drainage system changes in a manner consistent with the landowner's farming practices and plans."
125.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-11	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** as previously communicated to the CPUC, please clarify the construction duration would occur over a period of 24 months due to construction phasing.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would cause the same acreage of temporary disturbance as the Project to Farmland due to site preparation associated with construction activities as the Project, but temporary impacts would occur over a longer period of time ~~22~~ 24 months due to the construction phasing schedule."

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126.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-12	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternatives**, it states, "However, because Alternative 2 would require 3to 5 fewer wood poles and 0.54 fewer mile of new access roads, the total permanent disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Unique Farmland*, and *Farmland of Statewide Importance* would be slightly less than the Project." SCE calculated that for Alternative 2, 11th Street would require 0.17 fewer miles of rehabilitated access road, Reservoir Avenue would require 0.50 fewer miles of access road, but 0.50 miles of new access road would be needed on A Avenue. SCE's calculations do not support the DEIRs conclusion that there are 0.54 fewer miles of access road, therefore it is suggested that the data be reconfirmed to ensure its accuracy.	
127.	Chapter 4.2	4.2-12	Under the **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, please revise to reflect the length of subtransmission source line route for Alternative 2 would be 1,320 feet shorter than the Proposed Project.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 2 would disturb less Farmland than the Project during both construction and operation. Construction of Alternative 2 would cause temporary disturbance to Farmland similar to the Project, but because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet and Alternative 2 would require 3 to 5 fewer wood poles and 0.54 less mile of new access roads, the total temporary disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Farmland of Statewide Importance*, and *Unique Farmland* would be slightly less than the Project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.2-1a and 4.2-1b would support the continued productive use of Farmland in the Project area once construction is complete. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The proposed Lakeview Substation would be constructed on Prime Farmland and, like the Project, would permanently disturb 5.4 acres of Prime Farmland. However, because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet and Alternative 2…"

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128.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-4	Under the heading **Criteria Air Pollutants**, ozone, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) carbon monoxide (CO), and PM10/2.5 are described as concerns within the Project Study Area. Following in Table 4.3-1 monitoring data for CO are not presented and/or is not described as unavailable. Additionally, Table 4.3-1 should present monitoring data for all available criteria pollutants. Although the other pollutants may not be "of concern within the area," presenting the data supports the statement. Please revise to include other criteria pollutants in Table 4.3-1 as available.	Please revise as follows: In Table 4.3-1, include monitoring data for CO, or provide footnote that describes CO monitoring data are not available.
129.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-6	Under the heading **Fiber-Optic Cable Routes**, the text regarding the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 should be deleted for the reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter and should be replaced with information related to the new telecommunications work at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: ~~The underground portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be within approximately 50 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Swaps Street and would be within approximately 200 feet of a Riverside County Fire Department Moreno Beach Fire Station that is along Bay Avenue. The overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be within approximately 500 feet of at least one residence along Alessandro Boulevard, approximately 50 to 100 feet of 28 residences along Broadiaea Avenue, and approximately 150 feet and 200 feet from a residential trailer park and a horse ranch along Davis Road, respectively.~~ The Fiber-Optic Cable installation at Alessandro Substation would be within approximately 150 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Rencher Court, within approximately 160 feet of the backyards of at least two residences along Josephine Court, within approximately 25 feet of the backyards of at least four residences along Kitching Street, and within approximately 840 feet of Armada Elementary school to the west."

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130.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-6	Under the heading **Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top Transformer**, please revise description to be consistent with Project Description references and SCE's PEA.	Please revise heading as follows: Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top ~~Transformer~~ Substations Please revise as follows: "The Nuevo Substation is approximately 200 feet from a residence along Palm Avenue and the temporary Model Pole Top ~~Transformer~~ Substations…"

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131.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-7	Under the heading **Diesel Risk Reduction and Diesel Fuel Regulations**, include additional information related to In-Use Off-Road and On-Road Diesel Regulation and its impacts to fleets.	Please revise as follows: California's Diesel ~~Risk Reduction and Diesel Fuel Regulations~~ Programs **Risk Reduction Plan** As part of California's Diesel Risk Reduction Plan, CARB has passed numerous regulations to reduce diesel emissions from vehicles and equipment that are already in use. Combining these retrofit regulations with new engine standards for diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment, CARB intends to reduce DPM emissions by 85 percent from year 2000 levels by 2020. **Diesel Fuels** California Diesel Fuel Regulations (13 Cal. Code Regs. §§2281-2285; 17 Cal. Code Regs. §93114) provide standards for motor vehicle fuels and diesel fuel. **In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation** CARB's In-Use Off-road Diesel Vehicle Regulation establishes various requirements for owners of off-road diesel vehicles, with engine ratings of 25 horsepower (HP) and greater, to reduce NOx and DPM. Requirements to date have included reporting fleet vehicles to the CARB; obtaining a CARB-issued equipment identification number for all diesel-fleet vehicles; and, developing and implementing a written idling policy restricting non-essential idling to less than 5-minutes. Emission performance requirements become effective January 2014, and establish fleet average targets for NOx emission reductions. Emission performance can be achieved through fleet turnover and use of newer model year equipment, as well as installation of certified retrofit equipment such as a particulate filter. **On-Road Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicle Regulation** CARB's On-road Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (In-Use) Regulation applies to diesel-fueled trucks and busses with a gross vehicle weight greater than 14,000 lbs. The regulation establishes a phase-in schedule for fleet owners and operators to reduce emissions of PM through fleet turnover and/or installation of retrofit equipment such as exhaust filters. The phase in schedule initiated January 1, 2012, and applies to fleets based on model year.

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132.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-8	In **Table 4.3-2**, footnotes should be included clarifying the 1-hr NAAQS for NOx and SO_2, and 24-hr standard for PM_{10}.	Please revise as follows: In the "Averaging Time" column for 1-hr NOx and 24-hr PM2.5, add footnote 1. In Table 4.3-2, include: 1. Standard is based on the 98th percentile value, averaged over three years. Please revise as follows: In the "Averaging Time" column for 1-hr SO_2, add footnote 2. In Table 4.3-2, include: 2. Standard is based on the 99th percentile value of 1-hr daily maximum concentration, averaged over three years.
133.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-9	Under the heading **Regulation IV – Prohibitions, Rule 402 – Nuisance,** additional language should be presented explaining the requirements related to odors. As currently stated, it is not clear that this rule is aimed at reducing and controlling odor impacts.	Please revise as follows: "This rule prohibits the discharge of air contaminants or other material, including odorous material, in quantities that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public."
134.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-14	Under the heading **Approach to Analysis**, 3rd paragraph, emission factors utilized to calculate emissions were obtained from SCAQMD and Emfac2007. The CARB released new emission factor models in September 2011; analysis should present justification for not using the newer models and emission factors.	Please revise as follows: "The CARB released new mobile source emission factor modeling tools in September 2011, for the evaluation of tail-pipe emissions from on-road vehicles and off-road equipment. The new models account for updated fleet inventories and regulatory changes. These models were not used in the evaluation based on timing of the analysis."

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135.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-14	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan,** based on the emissions reductions achieved from additional water usage and reduced truck trips resulting from removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, and additional fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, there would be no change in impact determination for this criteria.	
136.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-15	Under the heading **Impact 4.3-1**, 2nd paragraph, please clarify for consistency purposes that Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as described in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "The maximum daily emissions that would be generated during construction of each of the Project components (i.e., proposed Lakeview Substation, distribution getaways, subtransmission source lines, and telecommunication system), as well as during demolition of the Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations..." "Demolition of the Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations would occur." "…during demolition of the Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."

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137.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-15	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation,** based on the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, and additional fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation as well as other project specifications based on design (i.e. additional water usage), the following adjustments were made in the air quality calculations, and require changes to peak daily emissions presented in Table 4.3-6: increased water truck daily mileage for Substation grading (from 12 to 24 miles), based on the increased daily water use (see Table 8 in spreadsheets); changed the receptor distance for the LST analysis for the telecommunications construction to 25 meters to reflect the houses along Kitching street (see Table 5 in Appendix C); decreased the number of days for overhead telecommunications construction from 44 to 15 (see Table 37 in Appendix C); decreased the unpaved mileage for vehicles during overhead telecommunication construction from 17 mi. to 4 mi. (see Table 37 in Appendix C); increased the number of days for underground telecommunications construction from 6 days to 10 days; added 4 trips by a 4,000 gal. water truck to the overhead telecommunications construction (see Table 37 in Appendix C). There is no change to significance determination as a result of these revisions.	Please revise as follows: **Revised Table 4.3-6** **Project Component** / **PM10 (lb/day)** / **PM2.5 (lb/day)** Telecommunications Construction / ~~69.1~~ 31.2 / ~~8.7~~ 5.0 CONSTRUCTION MAXIMUM DAILY[b] / ~~324.7~~ 288.55 / ~~52.6~~ 48.98
138.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-16	Under the heading **Table 4.3-6**, 3rd paragraph, 3rd sentence describes that PM10 emission reductions have been factored in to the emissions presented in Table 4.3-6. Recommend presenting the control efficiency that has been applied, or reference the location in the document where this can be found.	Please revise as follows: "It should be noted that the PM_{10} emission estimates presented in Table 4.3-6 factor in emission reductions that would be achieved by implemented BACMs, which are general in nature to offer flexibility in implementation. PM10 emission reductions range between 57, 60, and 90% based on limiting vehicle speed on unpaved roads and surfaces, watering during grading and bulldozing activities, and watering soil, respectively."

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139.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-16	In **Table 4.3-6**, the table does not present emissions calculations after mitigation has been implemented.	Please add a line in the table that presents the peak daily emissions as mitigated, accounting for the 20% and 45% reduction in NOx and PM10 achieved through implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a.
140.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-16	Under the heading **Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a,** please revise the mitigation measure to provide clarification on implementation.	"For diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment of more than 50 horsepower ~~and on-road diesel fueled vehicles~~, SCE shall ensure achievement of a Project-wide fleet-average 20 percent NOx reduction and 45 percent PM10 exhaust reduction compared to ~~the most recent CARB fleet average~~ estimated unmitigated emissions, as presented in this DEIR. An Exhaust Emissions Control Plan, to achieve these reductions, shall be submitted to CPUC for review and approval prior to commencement of construction activities. ~~Construction activities cannot commence until the plan has been approved.~~ Acceptable options for reducing emissions include the use of ~~late~~ newer model engines meeting USEPA Tier 3 standards (or better), and a recordkeeping protocol demonstrating compliance with USEPA Tier 3 standards (or better), low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and or/or other options as such become available. If compliant rental equipment cannot be obtained to reduce NOx or PM10 emissions in accordance with the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan, documentation shall be provided from two local rental companies stating that the rental company does not have the required diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment or that the vehicle is a specialized vehicle that is not available to rent."
141.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-17	Under the heading **Significance after Mitigation**, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence includes an incorrect reference to BAAQMD, which should be changed to SCAQMD.	Please revise as follows: "As noted above, implementation of the ~~BA~~SCAQMD fugitive dust BACMs

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142.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-18	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)**, the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and additional PM emission reductions achieved during unpaved roadway water would reduce NOx and PM10; however, emissions of NOx and PM10 would remain significant and unavoidable due to concentrated construction equipment activity and would still contribute to a cumulatively considerable significant increase, when compared with other projects. No change in significance determination would result from the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.	
143.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-19	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations,** construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation would not result in a change in significance determination related to receptor exposure. Construction emissions, although decrease for PM10, would still result in a significant, localized impact.	
144.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-20	In **Table 4.3-8**, in the cell with **Nuevo Substation Demolition**, the allowable NOx emissions are listed as 201 lbs/day. The correct value is 161 lbs/day per SCAQMD LST lookup table (see Appendix C, Table 5)	Please revise as follows: Maximum Allowable Emissions (lbs/day)[b] = ~~201~~ 161

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145.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-21	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people** since construction activities associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation would be temporary and spatially dispersed, and would take place in a rural area, these activities would not affect a substantial number of people. Therefore, impacts from odors generated by construction within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be less than significant. No additional odorous impacts would result during operation or maintenance activities.	
146.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-21	Under the heading **4.2.5 Alternatives**, section heading should be corrected to 4.3.5.	Please revise heading as follows: "~~4.2.5~~ 4.3.5 Alternatives"
147.	Chapter 4.3	4.3-22	In **Table 4.3-9**, recommend modifying table to be consistent with Table 4.3-10. This includes presentation of the "Highest Peak Daily" and "Percent Change Compared to Project".	
148.	Appendix C	C-3	In **Revised Table 5**, units for column titled "Daily Onsite Emissions" should be revised from lb/lbs to lb/day.	Please revise units in Revised Table 5 as follows: lb/~~lbs~~day
149.	Appendix C	C-13	In **Table Motor Vehicle Categories and Numbers**, under Distribution Civil, the column "Basis for Number" for the dump truck should be corrected; calculation is based on 315 CY, but 450 CY is presented.	Please revise as follows: "Based on 315 CY (Table 3.1) over 9 days and 10 CY/truck: ~~450~~315 / 9 / 10 = 3.5"
150.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-1	Under the heading **Introduction**, please add the 2011 survey report, (to be provided under separate cover) to the following bullet point: "- special-status plants (Bonterra, 2010b)"	Please incorporate a new reference.
151.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-2	Under the heading **Regional,** the reference in the text regarding the Lakeview-Valley-Moval 155 kV subtransmission line is incorrect and should be revised to reflect the proper name and voltage.	Please revise as follows: "Portions of SCE's existing ~~Lakeview~~ Valley-Moval ~~155~~ 115 kV~~v~~ …."

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152.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-4	Under heading **Table 4.4-1**, update the acreages under **Proposed Fiber Optic Cable Route** to reflect the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. Specifically, remove 9.10 acres of Riversidean Sage Scrub Please revise Table 4.4-1 accordingly.	
153.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-6	Under the heading **Waters of the U.S.**, the reference to Fiber-Optic Cable Route 2 is incorrect and should be revised to Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1.	Please revise as follows: "The San Jacinto River is spanned by each of the proposed subtransmission source line segments, the new alternative subtransmission source line alignment associated with Alternative 2, and by Fiber-Optic Cable Route ~~2~~ 1, which would connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable."
154.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-6	Regarding the section describing **Riversidean Sage Scrub**, per SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove all references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and please also remove this section as it relates to this route only.	Please delete this section.
155.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-9	Regarding **Table 4.4-2**, please remove the column Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
156.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-14	Regarding **Table 4.4-2**, the San Jacinto Valley crownscale, is misclassified in the table specifically for Subtransmission Line Segment 2.	Please revise as follows: "~~Present. Occurs in the alignment near the San Jacinto River.~~ Absent. Suitable habitat."
157.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-17	Under the heading **Riverside Fairy Shrimp,** the text should describe the results of the surveys that were conducted for this species (BonTerra 2010f) and state that a habitat assessment made by a permitted fairy shrimp biologist identified no suitable habitat within project impact areas.	Please revise as follows: "The result of the 2010 Riverside Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment determined that there was no suitable habitat for this species within the footprint of the Proposed Project (BonTerra 2010f). Designated critical habitat for this species does not occur in the study area for the project or alternatives (USFWS 2001; 2004b)."

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158.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-17 & 4.4-18	Under the heading **Stephen's kangaroo rat,** the text should describe the results of the surveys that were conducted for this species (BonTerra 2011, BonTerra, 2010d; SJM Biological Consultants, 2011) and reference the report's appendix figure depicting the location of detections and suitable habitat in relation to project features.	Please revise as follows: "Numerous occurrences are reported in the study area (CDFG, 2011) and this species was detected along the Subtransmission Line Segment 1 during focused surveys for the Project (Bonterra, 2010d; 2011)
159.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-18	Under the heading **Special Status Plants**, regarding the San Jacinto River crownscale, it should be clarified that the species is not present on Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2.	Please revise as follows: This species is documented by CDFG in the San Jacinto River corridor within Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~ (CDFG, 2011; BonTerra, 2010b).
160.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-24	Under the heading **Local**, a discussion should be added regarding the Stephen's kangaroo rat habitat conservation plan, which is administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority.	
161.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-24	Under the heading Local, it should be noted that this information is provided for informational purposes only and that the local land use regulations do not apply to the Project, per CPUC General Order 131-D.	Please revise as follows: "CPUC General Order No. 131-D explains that local land use regulations would not apply to the Project. However, for information purpose, CPUC staff considered local plans and policies to inform the significance determination related to the protection of biological resources in the study area."
162.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-25	Regarding **Table 4.4-3 MSHCP Criteria Cells in the Project Area,** please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	

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163.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-27	Under the heading **4.4.3 Applicant Proposed Measures** regarding APM-Bio-3: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, please revise the APM to accurately reflect the habitat assessment work conducted for Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys for the Proposed Project.	Please revise as follows: "A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys along Segment 1, 2 and 3 and the Proposed Telecommunications Route.~~ for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside, 1996)."~~
164.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-28 to 4.4.-29	Under the heading **4.4.3 Applicant Proposed Measures,** please make the previously requested revisions (Executive Summary) to APM-BIO-6 and APM-BIO-7.	

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165.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-28	Under the heading **4.4.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**, regarding the impact analysis in this section of the document the following needs to be considered: This section needs to apply the criteria described on page 4.4-26 to assess the magnitude of the impact on biological resources, and the uniqueness and sensitivity of the potentially impacted resources. At a minimum the DEIR needs to provide an acreage table indicating the extent of impacts to the habitat types within the project area. The PEA includes such acreage tables (Tables 4.4-3 – 4.4-9) and these tables should be summarized in the DEIR. The PEA indicates that with the exception of 0.2 acres of impacts to alkali grassland, all impacts would be occurring to non-sensitive habitat types (ruderal, disturbed, agricultural, ornamental). The DEIR needs to assess the impacts to the alkali grassland, and also needs to emphasize the low impact nature of this project and the fact that direct construction impacts will be occurring almost entirely in habitats that do not support sensitive biological resources. The indirect construction impacts (e.g., effects of construction dust, sedimentation, changes in hydrology, introduction of weeds) on special-status species also needs to be discussed. Based on the relatively minor impacts expected to result from Project construction, these indirect impacts are likely to be less than significant, but this conclusion needs to be supported in the discussion.	Please revise impact analysis where appropriate per the guidance in the comment column.
166.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-29	Regarding the analysis and mitigation for **Impact 4.4-1**, as noted in the SCE accompanying cover letter, Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 is no longer applicable to the project; therefore, please delete Mitigation Measure 4.4-1 and all references to this route from this impact analysis. Because Subtransmission Line Segment 1 will potentially impact the San Jacinto Valley crownscale, language should be included to reflect the fact that if impacts cannot be avoided SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP to mitigate for any impacts to this species along Subtransmission Line Segment 1.	Please remove Mitigation Measure 4.4-1. Please revise as follows: "SCE would avoid known special-status plant populations through general plant protection measures (APM-BIO-6), and avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations (APM-BIO-7); however, if avoidance of these species is not possible, as explained in the applicable APMs, SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP, therefore, impacts to critical habitat ~~to~~ are less than significant."

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167.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-29	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS (including List 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 plant species of the CNPS Inventory),** additional analysis presented based on removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and addition of fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "Habitat for the federal and/or state-listed wildlife species identified in Table 4.4-3 does not occur in the study area. Numerous non-listed special-status wildlife species may be encountered in portions of the Project area due to the presence of suitable habitat and known or potential species presence. These species include: orangethroat whiptail, coastal whiptail, red-diamond rattlesnake, San Bernardino ringneck snake, coast horned lizard, western spadefoot, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, southern grasshopper mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, American badger, and special-status bats. SCE would conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and raptors, and implement avoidance requirements for active nests to reduce the potential for impacts to loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and other birds (APM-BIO-01). Project impacts on habitats with sparse vegetation and primarily sandy soils, as found along the Riverside County Flood Control District (RCFCD) channel and within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable through the implementation of APM-BIO-02, which would reduce potential impacts to orangethroat whiptail, coastal whiptail, coast horned lizard, and western spadefoot. Project activities in cultivated residential habitats with sandy to loamy soils, north of JFK Drive and west of Kitching Street, would impact potential habitat for the red-diamond rattlesnake, San Bernardino ringneck snake, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, southern grasshopper mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, and American badger. The implementation of APM-BIO-02 would reduce potential impacts to these special-status wildlife species; therefore, this impact would be less than significant."
168.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-30	Under the heading **Impact 4.4.-1 (construction)**, the discussion states the thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on both Subtransmission Source Segments 1 and 2. However, Table 4.4-2 states it is absent and there is no suitable habitat on Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2.	Please revise as follows: "Designated critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea could occur~~s~~ on the Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 ~~and 2~~."

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169.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-30	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-2**, it is explained that SKR was found on Fiber-Optic Cable Route 2 and 3 but Table 4.4.2 states SKR is absent on Route 2 but is present on Fiber Optic Routes 1 and 3. Additionally, please remove references to Fiber Optic Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying letter.	Please revise as follows: "…Fiber Optic Route ~~2~~ 1 ~~and 3~~."
170.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-30	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-2,** the text references the fact that there is potential habitat along Subtransmission Line Segments 1 and 2 but does not reference the protocol level surveys that identified the presence of this species along Subtransmission Line Segment 1.	Please revise as follows: "~~If potential habitat for the Stephen's kangaroo rat were to be identified, SCE would perform protocol-level trapping surveys.~~ SCE performed protocol-level trapping surveys for the Stephen's kangaroo rat and it was determined that there is presence of the species along Subtransmission Line Segment 1 and Fiber Optic Cable Route 1."
171.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-30	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-2,** the following sentence should be clarified. "All the fiber-optic cable routes are within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species were found, a fee would be paid to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys."	Please revise as follows: "~~All the fiber-optic cable routes~~ The Project is ~~are~~ within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if the species is detected, ~~suitable habitat for this species were found,~~ a fee would be paid to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys."
172.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-32	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-4**, regarding Mitigation Measure 4.4-4 the following bullet point is not accurate and should be removed: "Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions" A "shield wire" or "static wire" is a wire found on subtransmission and transmission lines. The primary function is for lightning protection. The intent of the MM is likely in regards to hanging flight diverters on the subtransmission line to avoid avian collisions. If this is the case, the proposed project site has a low likelihood of avian collision. Flight diverters are typically hung in areas such as riparian zones and migratory fly-ways where collision risk has a higher potential. It is not within SCE's design standards to hang flight diverters on every new subtransmission line.	Please remove the fourth bullet point from Mitigation Measure 4.4-4.

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173.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-33	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS** additional analysis presented based on removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and addition of fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "Project construction activities, such as excavation, preparation of temporary work areas, pull and tension sites, and boring activities; operation of heavy equipment; and installation of vaults, could disturb nesting birds and cause nest site abandonment and/or reproductive failure through an increase in noise, human presence, and/or removal of habitat. Special-status birds that may nest in the Project area include burrowing owl and loggerhead shrike among other bird species, though the protective provisions of the MBTA also apply to many common bird species. Indirect impacts from human disturbances and construction noise could cause nest abandonment, death of young, or loss of reproductive potential at active nests located near Project sites. SCE would conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and raptors, and implement avoidance requirements for active nests to reduce the potential for impacts to nesting birds (APM-BIO-01); therefore, this impact would be less than significant."
174.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-33	Under the heading **c) Effect on federally protected wetlands…**, it is explained that Fiber Optic Cable Route 2 crosses the San Jacinto River. However, Route 1 crosses the San Jacinto River as shown in DEIR Figures 2-1, 2-2, and 3-1.	Please revise as follows: "Portions of the San Jacinto River would be spanned by Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber Optic Cable Route ~~2~~ 1."

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175.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-33	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites** additional analysis presented based on removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and addition of fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation	Please revise as follows: "If adequate avoidance cannot be established, SCE would consider enrollment in the MSHCP as a Participating Special Entity for this Project or would coordinate with the USFWS and the CDFG for further guidance as appropriate. The underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation proposed within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is located within an urbanized area with no large areas of open space adjacent to the study area. A possible wildlife movement corridor in this area is the RCFCD channel. Most wildlife movement would occur at night and would not be affected by short-term construction or long-term operation. Additionally, wildlife in the area is likely acclimated to noise and human activity due to the extensive urbanization and constrained nature of this flood control channel. Proposed activities at and around the Alessandro Substation would not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors. There are no native wildlife nursery sites within the Alessandro Substation work area. Therefore, any construction-related impacts would be short term, and less than significant."
176.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-33	Regarding the analysis for **Impact 4.4-5**, please delete this entire discussion as it pertains to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 which is no longer applicable for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
177.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-33	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-6**, as previously explained, Fiber Optic Cable Route 1 crosses the San Jacinto River.	Please revise to: "As identified in the PEA (SCE, 2010, pg. 4.4-68), the alignments for Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2~~ traverse the San Jacinto River."

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178.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-34	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance** additional analysis presented based on removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and addition of fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation	Please revise as follows: Project construction, operation and maintenance would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Furthermore, the proposed Lakeview Substation site and work area within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation do~~es~~ not contain any native trees; therefore, construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed Lakeview Substation and underground work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would result in no impact under this criterion. There are no applicable tree preservation policies or other ordinances protecting biological resources for the Proposed Subtransmission Source Line Routes or Proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Routes (No Impact).
179.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-34	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural** **Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan,** there is no Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan that would be applicable to this Project (No Impact, Class IV).	
180.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-35	Under the heading **Impact 4.4-**7, the text explains that SCE has not determined whether it would participate in the MSHCP. Based on 2011 survey results, SCE has determined that impacts to Los Angeles pocket mouse, Coulter's goldfields, and San Jacinto Valley crownscale are likely unavoidable and would mitigate by participating in the MSHCP.	

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181.	Chapter 4.4	4.4-36	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text references the relocated substation site would be .5 miles from the project site but the distance between Reservoir and 10th Street to A Avenue and 10th Street is only 0.25 mile and the substation will be located within half that distance.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 2 would change the location of the substation to approximately ~~0.5~~ 0.125 mile northwest of the Project's proposed substation location."
182.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-2	Under the heading **Cultural Resources**, the text explains the setting related to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, for reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter the section should be revised.	Please revise as follows: "The Project area is located within a wide northeast-southwest trending branch of Perris valley, within an alluvial plain formed by the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River has been realigned and channelized in modern times. ~~The proposed fiber optic cable line runs along the base of the Bernasconi Hills and Mount Russell, ending in Moreno Valley.~~ Elevation ranges from 1,410 to 1,630 feet above mean sea level. Soil in the area consists of decomposed granitic silt, corals sand, and gravel. ~~Hill slopes in the Bernasconi Hills are characterized by granitic bedrock outcrops.~~ Originally, vegetation within the Project area would have consisted of grasslands and coastal sage scrub; however, this has been replaced by non-native grass, weeds, and agricultural fields (Cotterman and Mason, 2010)."
183.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-4	Under the heading **Ethnographic Setting**, the Project area is stated to be located near the boundary between the territories of the Luiseño and the Cahuilla. The PEA indicates the Project area is in the territory occupied by the Serrano (PEA p. 4.5-3). DEIR text should be revised to include mention of the Serrano.	Please revise "At the time of the Spanish contact, the Project area was located near the boundary between the territories of the Luiseño, ~~and the~~ Cahuilla, and the Serrano." Please revise **Ethnographic Setting** section to include background text for the Serrano from the PEA pp. 4.5-3–4.5-4

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184.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-7	Under the heading **Archival Research**, provide footnote after discussion of records review to clarify that the evaluation did not cover Alessandro Substation construction work area. Alessandro Substation work is proposed to occur within the existing substation footprint and approximately 1,000 feet within an existing trench and roadway; based on level of previous disturbance, a records review is not warranted to evaluate cultural resources within and around work area within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "A records search was completed at the Eastern Information Center for the Project and alternatives and a 0.5-mile radius[1]." [1] Underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is proposed to occur within previously disturbed areas of developed land and roadways which have been subjected to extensive grading. Based on previous disturbance and the proposed trench depth, identification of a resource retaining sufficient integrity to qualify for the National, California, or local Register of Historic Places is unlikely. Therefore, a records review is not warranted to evaluate cultural resources within and around work area within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.

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185.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-7 to 4.5-8	Under the heading **Cultural Resources**, please remove all references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~For convenience purposes,~~ the records search consisted of ~~was divided into two areas: 1)~~ the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2; ~~and 2) Fiber Optic Cable Route 3~~." "~~Twenty-eight cultural resources investigations have been conducted within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, of which eight covered portions of the Project area.~~" ~~"An additional 67 cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, including 57 prehistoric archaeological sites, 2 prehistoric isolated artifacts, 2 historic-era archaeological sites, 1 historic-era irrigation ditch, 1 historic-era cistern, 1 historic-era building, 1 historic-era human burial, and 2 multi-component archaeological sites. Fifty-one of the prehistoric sites and the prehistoric components of both of the multi-component sites consist of or include bedrock milling features."~~ ~~"Four of the previously recorded resources, although not located within the Project area, were recorded within 100 feet of the Fiber Optic Cable Route 3. These resources, P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, and P-33-02951, are all prehistoric archaeological sites consisting of bedrock milling features."~~
186.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-8	Under the heading **Native American Contact**, states that "No responses were received from any of the Native American contacts recommended by the NAHC as of the filing of SCE's application for a PTC." PEA states one response was received from the Cahuilla Band of Indians (PEA p. 4.5-7). Mention of response should be included in the DEIR.	Please revise as follows: "One response from the Cahuilla Band of Indians was received via email on April 6, 2010. The Cahuilla Band of Indians expressed interest in the project area due to the project location as being within the traditional use of the tribe. However, no traditional cultural properties or scared lands were identified by the Cahuilla Band of Indians. No other responses were received by the remaining tribes consulted for the project."

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187.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-8	Under the heading **Archaeological Survey**, please delete this discussion as it pertains to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 which is no longer applicable for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6), four previously recorded and three newly recorded, are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources~~."

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188.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-10	Under the heading **Cultural Resources Located Adjacent to the project area**, the following resources are located along Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, the text should be deleted	Please revise as follow: "~~The following seven archaeological resources and t~~Three built historic resources are located outside of, but within 100 feet of, the Project area. They have not been evaluated for significance under the National Register or California Register of Historical Resources. ~~**P-33-00525:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet west of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of three bedrock milling slicks and one bedrock mortar. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~ ~~**P-33-00526:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet northwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~ ~~**P-33-02951:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 16 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1983 and was relocated in 2010.~~ ~~**P-33-00608:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 100 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of two bedrock milling slicks on separate granitic bedrock outcroppings. The site was originally recorded in 1973 and was relocated in 2010.~~ ~~**CWA63-4:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a partially collapsed structure with a concrete foundation and lumber walls covered in corrugated galvanized steel. The structure may have been a well house. The resource is located about 25 feet southeast of the fiber optic cable route.~~ ~~**CWA63-5:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a 6-foot-high, 60-foot diameter dirt mound surrounding the base of a cylindrical water reservoir. The reservoir is composed of granite boulders and cobbles bound by mortar and lined with cement plaster. Several historic-era artifacts were recorded in the reservoir, including a cylindrical "Prince Albert" tobacco can, a rectangular can, an aluminum-top beverage can with a pull-tab opening, and several lumber fragments. The resource is located about 65 feet east of the fiber optic cable route.~~ ~~**CWA63-6:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of the remains of an irrigation pumping feature and a capped well. The pumping feature consists of a concrete slab with protruding steel pipes, but no pumping equipment, and is flanked by two concrete standpipes. The capped well is a steel pipe set in concrete and projecting to a height of 42 inches above the ground surface. The top of the pipe is capped with a flat steel plate. The resource is located about 30 feet west of the fiber optic cable route."~~

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189.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-19	Under the heading **Impact 4.5-1**, the following resources are located along Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, the text should be deleted.	Please revise as follows: "~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6) are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources.~~"
190.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-19	Under the heading **Impact 4.5-1**, please clarify the existing poles for Fiber Optic Route 2 would be distribution, and not transmission.	Please revise as follows: "These houses would not be directly impacted by the Project. Fiber optic cable would be strung along existing ~~transmission line~~ distribution poles and once installed, would have no additional visual impact; therefore, the setting of the houses would not be changed by the Project and no indirect impacts would occur."
191.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-19	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.) A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that is either listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or a local register of historic resources**, the new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is located within previously disturbed areas of developed land and roadways which have been subjected to extensive grading. Based on previous disturbance and the proposed trench depth, identification of a resource retaining sufficient integrity to qualify for the National, California, or local Register of Historic Places is unlikely. Therefore, underground installation of fiber-optic cable and conduit within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not impact culturally significant historic resources.	

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192.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-20	Under the heading Impact **4.5-1**, the following resources are located along Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, the text should be deleted.	Please revise as follows: "~~The seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6) that are located adjacent to the Project area were not evaluated for significance. The sites are located adjacent to the proposed fiber optic cable route and are located between 5 and 100 feet from the Project area. Installation of fiber optic cable above-ground on the existing subtransmission line would be restricted to existing SCE access roads and thus would not impact these sites. However, the set-up and use of pull and tension sites, which generally measure approximately 50 by 100 feet, could impact these sites. No pull and tension sites are currently proposed near these resources. However, final pulling sites would be determined during final engineering. The final location of pull and tension sites should avoid all impacts to these resources. To avoid significant impacts to resources P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6, Mitigation Measures 4.5-1 through 4.5-3 should be implemented. Mitigation Measure 4.5-1 would require the retention of a qualified archaeologist. Mitigation Measure 4.5-2 would require that the resources listed above be avoided during Project related construction. Mitigation Measure 4.5-3 would require full-time archaeological monitoring of Project construction activity within 50 feet of the sites. With these mitigation measures, impacts to historical resources would be less than significant.~~"
193.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-20 through 4.5-21	Under the heading **Impact 4.5-1**, please note that the five resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3) have been found ineligible for the CRHP and NRHP and therefore the proposed project would not result in impacts to significant resources. Since there are no impacts, Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a and 4.5-1b are not needed.	Please remove Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a and 4.5-1b.

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194.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-21	Regarding the analysis for **Impact 4.5-2**, the analysis presented in this section is related to the scope of work associated with Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter this section should be removed and therefore the mitigation measures would not be warranted.	Please remove the discussion related to Impact 4.5-2 and Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a and Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b.
195.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-21	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b.) A substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource**, the new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in a substantial adverse change to a unique archaeological resource, as the ground disturbance will be limited to previously disturbed areas in which archaeological resources are not likely to be identified.	
196.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-22	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the CEQA criteria **c.) Disturbance or destruction of a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature**, the new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in an effect to a unique paleontological or geological resource, as the ground disturbance will be limited to previously disturbed areas in which these resources are not likely to be identified.	

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197.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-24	Regarding **Mitigation Measure 4.5-3**, the information provided in bullet point, would require the construction foreperson and field supervisor be trained to recognize fossil materials, however a paleontologist is truly the only personnel who should be tasked with such a responsibility. Identification of fossils should not be the responsibility of construction crews and would require training above and beyond what is necessary to mitigate the potential impact as general WEAP training in conjunction with bullet point 4 would sufficiently address the potential impact.	Please revise as follows: **Mitigation Measure 4.5-3:** Prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall contract with a qualified professional paleontologist or a California Registered Professional Geologist (California RPG) with appropriate paleontological expertise, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (SVP 1995 Guidelines) to develop ~~carry out a paleontological resources training program~~ WEAP training for construction workers and implement a paleontological monitoring program. The qualified paleontologist shall be available "on-call" to SCE and/or its contractors throughout the duration of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the scope of services shall include: … ☐*Paleontological resources training.* All construction forepersons and field supervisors shall be trained ~~in the recognition of~~ regarding the potential to encounter fossil materials prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction. Training on paleontological resources shall also be provided to all other construction workers, but may include videotape of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by the qualified paleontologist. ~~In addition to fossil recognition,~~ the training shall convey procedures to follow if potential fossil materials are encountered by construction crews in the course of earthwork, excavation, or grading, as described below."

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198.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-25	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the CEQA criteria **d.) Disturbance of any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries,** the new telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not likely result in the disturbance of human remains, as the ground disturbance will be limited to previously disturbed areas.	
199.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-26	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, the construction period would be extended by 12 months not 10 months. Please revise to reflect the accurate construction duration.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would extend the period of construction by ~~10~~ 12 months, but would not change the location and type of facilities to be constructed.'
200.	Chapter 4.5	4.5-26	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text explains that the Proposed Lakeview Substation would be 0.25 mile to the northwest, however the distance should be changed to .125 mile.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Station site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line compared to the Project."
201.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-1	Under the heading **Electricity,** for clarification, please make the revisions as noted to make this section consistent with earlier section of the document.	Please revise as follows: "~~There are currently 1,800 metered customers in the portion of unincorporated western Riverside County that would be served by the Project. These customers compose the Electrical Needs Area.~~ The Electrical Needs Area consists of that part of unincorporated western Riverside County (including the developing areas of Nuevo and Lakeview) now served by SCE's 33/12 kV Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top, which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers"
202.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-2	Under the heading **Electricity,** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "Currently, SCE serves the Electrical Needs Area through two 33/12kv Substations- the Nuevo Substation and the temporary Model Pole Top ~~transformer~~ Substation. In 2007, SCE projected that the capacity at Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2009, and the temporary Model Pole Top ~~transformer~~ Substation was constructed to provide an interim means to serve the electrical demand in the area until a new substation could be constructed…"

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203.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-3	Under the heading **Electricity**, the paragraph states "SCE currently provides electricity to the Project area via overhead and underground transmission and distribution lines." Please revise to clarify that no transmission facilities currently provide electricity to the Project area.	Please revise as follows: "SCE currently provides electricity to the Project area via overhead and underground ~~transmission and~~ distribution lines."
204.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Evaluate the Project's energy requirements by amount and fuel type for each stage of the Project including construction, operation and maintenance,** because construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not interrupt existing local SCE service and because construction-related energy demands are not expected to have a significant adverse effect on energy resources, energy consumption by construction activities would be less than significant. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b, which is described and analyzed in Section 4.3, *Air Quality*, would further ensure that fuel energy consumed in the construction phase would not be wasted through unnecessary idling or through the operation of poorly maintained equipment.	
205.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-7	Under the heading **Impact 4.6-1** and subsequent sections, as previously mentioned, for consistency purposes please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "Energy consumption required for operation and maintenance of the Project would be minimal and slightly less than the energy consumption required for the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top substations."

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206.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-7, 4.6-9	Under the heading **b) Evaluate the effects of the Project on local and regional energy supplies and on requirements for additional capacity.**, it is state that "…the Project would contribute approximately 74 percent more power to the grid than the existing Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top, meeting both existing and projected local energy needs…" The reference to 74 percent more power to the grid is inaccurate and should be revised to approximately 4 times the capacity to the area as needed from the grid.	Page 4.6-7 Please revise as follows: "The Project would be located within SCE's service territory and would have energy delivered from ~~transmit energy to~~ the regional power grid. By replacing an older, less efficient substation that has reached its capacity limit with no further ability for capacity expansion with a new, more efficient one that would have the capability for accommodating the current electrical needs of the area as well the electrical needs of the foreseeable future, the Project would ~~contribute~~ increase the ability to deliver approximately 4 times the capacity to the area as needed ~~74 percent more power to~~ from the grid than the existing Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top, meeting both existing and projected local energy needs. Consequently, the Project would have a beneficial impact on local and regional energy supplies because it would ensure that current energy needs are met and that there is capacity to meet projected future energy needs in the Electrical Needs Area. No adverse impact on local or regional energy supplies or capacity would result (No Impact)." Page 4.6-9 Please revise as follows: "As discussed above, the Project would increase the capacity ~~efficiency~~ of the existing site's ~~existing~~ contribution of energy delivered from ~~to~~ the grid by approximately 4 times the capacity of that of ~~74 percent above~~ the existing Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top while also increasing the efficiency of the energy delivered. Consequently, the Project would not result in adverse impacts on energy resources (No Impact)."

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207.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Evaluate the effects of the Project on local and regional energy supplies and on requirements for additional capacity** because construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation are not expected to have a significant adverse effect on energy resources, energy consumption by construction activities would be less than significant.	
208.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-8	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Evaluate the effects of the Project on peak and base period demands for electricity and other forms of energy** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation are not expected to have a significant adverse effect on energy resources, energy consumption by construction activities would be less than significant.	

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209.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-8	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Evaluate the degree to which the Project complies with existing energy standards** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be short-term and would not result in the permanent, increased use of non-renewable energy resources.	
210.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-8	Under the heading **c) Evaluate the effects of the Project on peak and base period demands for electricity and other forms of energy,** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "The Lakeview Substation would be unattended and fewer trips anticipated during than are currently occurring for the Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."
211.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-9	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Evaluate the effects of the Project on energy resources** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be short-term and would not result in the permanent, increased use of energy resources. No additional impacts would result from operation and maintenance.	

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212.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-9	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **f) Evaluate the Project's projected transportation energy use requirements and its overall use of efficient transportation alternatives** the short-term duration of construction activities, and limited operational and maintenance activites, associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation and small construction workforce (6 workers) would result in less than significant impacts related to transportation energy use.	
213.	Chapter 4.6	4.6-9	Under the heading **e) Evaluate the effects of the Project on energy resources,** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "As discussed above, the Project would increase the efficiency of the site's existing contribution of energy to the grid by approximately 74 percent above the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."

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214.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-1	Under the heading **4.7.1 Setting**, please make the suggested revision to clarify the setting of the project area.	Please revise as follows: "The Project area is located in the north-central portion ~~of the greater~~ Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province is characterized by ~~a series of~~ northwest trending mountain ranges separated by northwest trending valleys and faults. The valleys are alluvium-filled basins ~~of Cenozoic sedimentary~~ and the mountains ranges are composed of Mesozoic granitic rocks (SCE, 2010). ~~The structural geology of the area is dominated by faults.~~ Major active faults in the province are the San Jacinto and the Elsinore faults. The study area relevant to geology and soils includes the proposed Lakeview Substation site, the subtransmission source line route, and the telecommunications system where new facilities are proposed. The Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top would be removed as part of the Project and would no longer be subject to geologic or seismic hazards. For this reason, these components are not included as part of the geology/soils study area."

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215.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-1	Under the heading **4.7.1 Setting** Local Geology, please make the suggested revision to clarify the setting of the project area.	Please revise as follows: "The Project is located on the Perris Block between the San Jacinto and Elsinore Faults, ~~Valley and the Perris Valley,~~ and is bounded by the Bernasconi Hills to the northwest and the Lakeview Mountains to the southeast. The Perris ~~Plain~~ Block consists of active valley deposits (late Holocene2) along the San Jacinto River, young alluvial-fan deposits (Holocene and late Pleistocene3) north of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, in Lakeview and along ~~much of~~ eastern portion of the fiber-optic route, old alluvial-fan deposits (late to middle Pleistocene) underlying the proposed Lakeview Substation site~~,~~ the City of Nuevo, and ~~much~~ the western portion ~~o~~of the ~~f~~Fiber-~~o~~Optic ~~r~~Route 1 and the southern portion of Fiber-Optic Route 2, and granitic outcrops (Cretaceous4) that form the surrounding mountain ranges (Morton and Miller, 2006). Figure 4.7-1 shows the distribution of geologic units in the Project area. Regionally, the ground surface slopes gently downward in a southwest direction. Topography at the Project site is relatively flat and slopes gently to the northwest toward the San Jacinto River, located approximately 0.6 mile northwest of the 1 The ~~Cenozoic and~~ Mesozoic ~~are~~ is a geological era~~s~~ that spans the period of 65~~date from the present~~ to 248 million years ago. 2 The Holocene refers to a geological epoch dating from the present to about 10,000 years ago. 3 The Pleistocene refers to a geological epoch dating from about 10,000 years ago to about 1.8 million years ago. 4 The Cretaceous refers to a geological period dating from about 65 to 144 million years ago."
216.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-2	Regarding **Figure 4.7-1**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the figure for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and expand the view to include the location of Alessandro Substation.	Please revise Figure 4.7-1
217.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-2	Regarding **Figure 4.7-2**, please remove Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from figure and legend for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and expand the view to include the location of Alessandro Substation.	Please revise Figure 4.7-2 Geologic Map

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218.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-3	Under the heading **Soils**, the names of the soils beneath the Project site are not included in the text and should be for consistency with the detail provided in other sections.	Please revise as follows: "The s~~S~~oils at the proposed Lakeview Substation site consist mostly of the Hanford coarse sandy loam unit with minor components of the Pachappa fine sandy loam and the Exeter sandy loam. These units range from coarse to fine sandy loam[5], ~~which is~~ are well-drained soils, and ~~has~~ have low liquid limits[6]."
219.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-3	Under the heading **Soils**, regarding the following sentence: "While Figure 4.7-2 does not show the fiber-optic line route, the soils underlying the length of the route are the same or similar as the Hanford coarse sandy loam (NRCS, 2008)." Portions of the fiber optic cable routes are seen on Figure 4.7-2.	Please revise as follows: ~~"While Figure 4.7-2 does not show the fiber-optic line route, t~~The soils underlying the length of the fiber-optic cable routes ~~route~~ consist of sandy loams with soil properties, ~~are~~ the same or similar ~~as~~ to the Hanford coarse sandy loam (NRCS, 2008)."
220.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-3	Under the heading **Accelerated Erosion,** the following sentence should be clarified: "Areas along the subtransmission source line underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay may have a higher potential for soil loss from erosion relative to other soils in the Project area due to their high erosion factor and/or runoff potential." The document states that the Domino silt loam may have a higher potential for soils loss from erosion. The Domino silt loam is classified in hydrologic group C in Table 4.7-1, but there is no discussion on the erosion potential for this hydrologic group like there is for group D.	Please revise as follows: "Areas along the subtransmission source line and the fiber-optic cable Route 1are underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay may have a higher potential for soil loss from erosion relative to other soils in the Project area due to their high erosion factor and/or runoff potential."
221.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-3	Under the heading **Soils,** please clarify both subtransmission line segments are within the silty loam to course sandy loam areas.	Please revise as follows: "Soil types along the subtransmission line routes range from silty loam to course sandy loam. In the areas where the subtransmission source line routes cross~~es~~ the San Jacinto River, soils range from silty clay to Riverwash."
222.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-3	Under the heading **Accelerated Erosion,** please clarify both subtransmission line segments are underlain by the Domino silt loam.	Please revise as follows: "Areas along the subtransmission source line routes underlain by the Domino silt loam….."

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223.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-4	Regarding **Figure 4.7-2**, remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the figure for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
224.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-5, Table 4.7-1	Regarding **Table 4.7-1,** please clarify there are multiple Subtransmission Source Line Routes.	Please revise as follows: "Subtransmission Source Line Routes"
225.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-5	Regarding **Table 4.7-1 Soil Types Underlying the Project Area**, the table lists the soil types at the proposed Lakeview Substation Site and along the Subtransimssion Source Line Route. Based on the PEA and Figure 4.7-2 of the DEIR, a small portion of soil unit "Exeter sandy loam" is present in the northern west corner of the Site.	Please revise as follows: In Table 4.7-1, include physical properties for the Exeter sandy loam under the "Proposed Lakeview Substation Site" heading. Text describing the soil should be revised as noted in the comment above (Section 4.7.1, Page 4.7-3).
226.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-6	Under the heading **Expansive Soils**, the following sentence should be revised: "While no soils were identified as having the highest shrink/swell category ("very high"), the Willows silty clay, which underlies portions of the subtransmission source line route, is estimated to have a high shrink/swell potential (see Figure 4.7-2)." There are additional project features located within the soil units with high potential for shrinking and swelling.	Please revise as follows: "While no soils were identified as having the highest shrink/swell category ("very high"), the Willows silty clay, which underlies portions of the subtransmission source line route and the fiber-optic cable Route 1, is estimated to have a high shrink/swell potential (see Figure 4.7-2)."
227.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-7	Under the heading **Ground Subsidence and Fissure,** please clarify Perris Plain should be Perris Block.	Please revise as follows: "Ground subsidence and associated fissures have been documented in basin fill sediments of the San Jacinto Valley and the Perris ~~Plain~~ Block."

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228.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-8	Under the heading **Faults and Seismicity,** please clarify reference to section should be segment.	Please revise as follows: "No active fault zones are present within 1 mile of the substation site. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment of the San Jacinto fault zone, located approximately 4 miles to the northeast of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, has the greatest ground acceleration potential (0.401 g) in the vicinity of the Project. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment includes the Casa Loma, Claremont, Hot Springs, and Park Hill faults. In addition, the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a 31 percent probability of experiencing an earthquake greater than a 6.7 in magnitude over the next 30 years (USGS, 2008). Studies suggest that the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a slip rate of greater than 5 millimeters per year, with a recurrence interval for large earthquakes of 65 to 98 years (USGS, 2010). The maximum historical earthquake magnitude on the Claremont segment was a 6.9 magnitude in 1918 (USGS, 2010)."
229.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-10	Under the heading **Landslides**, revisions to the following sentence are necessary for reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter, "Since the telecommunications line route would be attached above the ground surface to the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line and the existing line is also in a topographically flat area with no mapped landsides…"	Please revise as follows: "Based on this information, the proposed Lakeview Substation site, ~~and~~ the subtransmission source line route, and the Alessandro Substation site are not located in an area susceptible to earthquake-induced landslides. These areas are flat and relatively distant from nearby slopes; ~~. Since the telecommunications line route would be attached above the ground surface to the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line and the existing line is also in a topographically flat area with no mapped landsides,~~ therefore, the potential for earthquake-induced landslides to affect these ~~telecommunication~~ facilities is considered low.
230.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-12	Under the heading **Riverside County Department of Building and Safety Requirements,** a footnote should be added to the following sentence to clarify that per GO 131-D only ministerial permits are secured from local jurisdictions, as applicable: "The Riverside County Grading Code requires a grading permit for earth-moving activities exceeding 50 cubic yards of material."	Please insert the following footnote related to this sentence: "Local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. As such, a grading permit would only be obtained if it was ministerial."

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231.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-14	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not present a hazard to life or off-site property; therefore, the proposed telecommunication work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would have a less-than-significant impact with respect to strong seismic ground shaking and earthquake-induced ground failure.	
232.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-15	Under the heading **Impact 4.7-1**, for clarification, geotechnical investigation would not be required for all wood poles and TSPs.	Please revise as follows: "A geotechnical investigation of Alternative 2 ~~would~~ may be required prior to final design and construction, and would involve site soil characterization and testing, determination of seismic design coefficients, and recommendations for installation wood poles and TSPs, consistent with the CBC and CPUC General Order 95."
233.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-16	Under the heading **Impact 4.7-2**, the following sentence should be revised: "As discussed in the setting (see Table 4.7-1), these include portions of the subtransmission source line route underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay." Additional project features are located within the soil units with a high potential for shrinking and swelling.	Please revise as follows: "As discussed in the setting (see Table 4.7-1), these include portions of the subtransmission source line route and the fiber-optic cable Route 1are underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay."

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234.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-16	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is not expected to created or worsen issues related to soil erosion. The impact would be less than significant.	
235.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-17	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Be located on geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse,** the potential risk from on- or off-site landslides at the work areas within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is negligible because the topography of is relatively flat. The impact would be less than significant.	
236.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-18	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Be located on expansive soil, creating substantial risks to life or property expansive soils are not anticipated to be encountered during** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation. The impact would be less than significant.	

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237.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-18	Under the heading **Impact 4.7-3, d**, "As discussed in the setting, expansive soils were not encountered during the initial geotechnical investigation conducted for the proposed Lakeview Substation site; however, based on the regional soil survey, there are soils along the subtransmission source line route that could be subject to shrink/swell behavior (TDBU, 2009). Expansive soils along the source line route are unlikely to pose a geotechnical problem because subtransmission source line poles would be direct buried to depths of 9 to 40 feet (depending on pole type and location) using augured holes." Additional project features are located within the soil units with a high potential for shrinking and swelling.	Please revise as follows: "As discussed in the setting, expansive soils were not encountered during the initial geotechnical investigation conducted for the proposed Lakeview Substation site; however, based on the regional soil survey, there are soils along the subtransmission source line route and the fiber-optic cable Route 1 that could be subject to shrink/swell behavior (TDBU, 2009). Expansive soils along the source line route and the fiber-optic cable Route 1 are unlikely to pose a geotechnical problem because subtransmission source line/fiber-optic cable poles would be direct buried to depths of 9 to 40 feet (depending on pole type and location) using augured holes."
238.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-18	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, the construction period would be extended by 12 months not 10 months. Please revise to reflect the accurate construction duration.	Please revise to: "While Alternative 1 would extend the period of construction by ~~10~~ 12 months, it would not change the location and type of facilities to be constructed."
239.	Chapter 4.7	4.7.18	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text explains that the Proposed Lakeview Substation would be 0.25 mile to the northwest, however the distance should be changed to .125 mile.	Please revise to: "Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Station site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line compared to the Project."
240.	Chapter 4.7	4.7-19	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, for clarification, geotechnical investigation would not be required for all wood poles and TSPs.	Please revise as follows: "A geotechnical investigation of Alternative 2 ~~would~~ may be required prior to final design and construction, and would involve site soil characterization and testing, determination of seismic design coefficients, and recommendations for installation wood poles and TSPs, consistent with the CBC and CPUC General Order 95."

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241.	Chapter 4.8	4.8-6	Under the heading **Approach to Analysis**, the text states that "the SCAQMD has adopted an operational significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO2e per year for stationary/industrial sources." This threshold is considered Draft and Interim Guidance and it is recommended that this is clarified in the text.	This analysis uses an approach for the determination of significance of GHG emissions based on the tiered decision tree approach recommended in the *South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Interim CEQA GHG Significance Threshold Draft Guidance Document*, which was adopted on December 5, 2008 ~~GHG significance thresholds adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)~~. The SCAQMD has proposed ~~adopted~~ an operational screening significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO2e per year for stationary/industrial sources (SCAQMD 2008). The SCAQMD's ~~adopted~~ GHG significance threshold is intended for long-term operational GHG emissions. However, the SCAQMD has developed guidance for the determination of significance of GHG construction emissions that recommends that total emissions from construction be amortized over 30 years and added to operational emissions and then compared to the applicable significance threshold (SCAQMD 2008). This analysis of the Project applies SCAQMD's guidance with regard to assessment of construction and operation-related GHG emissions.

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242.	Chapter 4.8	4.8.7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would reduce annual GHG emissions due to reduced truck trip distance previously associated with Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. The impact is less than significant. Under the heading **Impact 4.8-1,** update annual GHG emissions to account for reduced duration of the underground and aboveground fiber-optic cable installation associated with Alessandro Substation, and revised activity duration related to subtransmission construction, as presented in Table presented in Table 2-9. In addition, please correct the number of proposed new circuit breakers and total capacity of SF6.	Please revise as follows: "however, indirect emissions related to energy consumption associated with the daily use of approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water would also be generated during construction of the Project. The estimated total emission of GHGs that would be generated by Project construction activities is ~~1,713~~ 1,733metric tons CO_2e. Regarding SF_6 circuit breaker leakage that would occur at the proposed Lakeview Substation, SCE estimates that the proposed ~~two~~ six new circuit breakers would have a total capacity of approximately ~~378~~ 384 pounds of SF_6. As indicated above, total GHG construction emissions in the form of CO_2e would be approximately ~~1,713~~ 1,733 metric tons. These emissions amortized over a 30-year project lifetime equal approximately ~~57~~ 58 metric tons per year. Adding ~~57~~ 58 metric tons CO_2e to the operational emissions of 42 metric tons CO_2e per year gives the total Project annual GHG emissions amount of approximately ~~99~~ 100 metric tons CO_2e per year, which would be substantially less than the SCAQMD's significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO_2e per year for industrial sources."
243.	Chapter 4.8	4.8-8	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases,** the potential for GHG emissions generated during construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation to conflict with compliance of AB32 goals would be negligible and associated impacts would be less than significant.	

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244.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-2	Regarding the discussion related to **Potential Presence of Hazardous Materials in Soil and Groundwater, the following statement is made**, a review of regulatory agency database search report prepared by EDR (2012) to identify potential hazardous materials sites located within the vicinity of Alessandro Substation concluded that there was no evidence of such potential.	Please revise as follows: " As part of the Phase I investigation, Rubicon reviewed information regarding site history, performed a site reconnaissance to observe existing site conditions, and reviewed a regulatory agency database search report prepared by Environmental Data Resources (EDR) to identify hazardous materials sites located within the vicinity of the proposed Lakeview Substation site. Historical research indicated that the proposed Lakeview Substation site has been used for farming since at least 1938 and was currently used for growing potatoes. According to the property owner, use of an existing water well had been discontinued due to high selenium concentrations in groundwater throughout the valley that were not acceptable for agricultural purposes. This assessment revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions2 at the proposed Lakeview Substation site (Rubicon, 2009) or at the Alessandro Substation site (AECOM, 2012)." "The database search of hazardous materials sites was updated and supplemented for this EIR to include a review of areas within 0.25 mile of all Project facilities using the online SWRCB GeoTracker (SWRCB, 2011 and 2012) and DTSC EnviroStor (DTSC, 2011 and 2012) databases."
245.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-3	Under the heading **Potential Presence of Hazardous Building Materials**, please remove reference to lead as it is not typically contained in transformer oil.	Please revise as follows: "Although substation transformers now almost exclusively use mineral oil as an insulating agent, transformer oil historically used at substations contained ~~several constituents of concern, including lead,~~ petroleum hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)."
246.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-3	Under the heading **Potential Presence of Hazardous Building Materials**, for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise to: "The Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations include transformers, circuit breakers, wood poles, and associated equipment…."
247.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-4	Under the heading **Wood Treatment Products,** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise to: "The Project would remove 18 existing wood poles from the Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."

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248.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-4	Under the heading **Airports,** please correct the reference distance and direction from the project to Hemet-Ryan Airport as well as the direction and name of the nearest Medical Center.	Please revise as follows: "The closest public airports to the Project are the Hemet-Ryan Airport, located ~~6.5~~ 8.4 miles south~~west~~east, and the Ontario International airport….", "There is also a helipad located 1.2 miles ~~east~~ west at the Riverside County ~~Hospital~~ Regional Medical Center (SCE,2010)."
249.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-4	Under the heading **Schools,** Armada Elementary School located to the west of Alessandro Substation should be presented in the bulleted list, and based on proximity the first sentence should be revised to state "there are schools within the Project area…".	Please revise as follows: "There ~~are no~~ is one school~~s~~ located within the Project area. Four existing schools and one proposed school are located within 0.25 mile of the Project: • Armada Elementary School, located at 25201 John F Kennedy Drive, Moreno Valley, approximately 0.15 miles west of the Project"
250.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-5	Under the heading **Schools**, please remove the fifth bullet point related to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~The proposed Wilmot Elementary School, located at Wilmot Avenue and Cactus Avenue, Moreno, approximately 0.3 mile south of the northern portion of the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.~~"
251.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-11	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials,** any hazardous materials needed for construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be stored and used in accordance with the product specifications and applicable regulations. Impacts would be less than significant.	
252.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-12	Under the heading **Impact 4.9-11 (Construction),** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "Decommissioning of Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations would require the removal of transformers and equipment containing mineral oil."

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253.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-13	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment,** any potential spills or leaks resulting from use of hazardous materials (fuels, lubricants, solvents) during construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be reduced and controlled through implementation of BMPs established in the site specific SWPPP. Impacts would be less than significant.	
254.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-15	Under the heading **Impact 4.9-3 (Construction)**, please clarify the SWPPP is not required for approval by the RWQCB.	Please revise as follows: "Standard construction water quality BMPs required by the RWQCB through its review ~~and approval~~ of the SWPPP include measures for the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials used during construction to prevent a release and methods to contain any such release if it should occur."

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255.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-15	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Produce hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school,** based on the proximity of Alessandro Substation to Armada Elementary School (<0.15 miles), the discussion should be revised accordingly. Although construction, operation, and maintenance activities within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation could result in the inadvertent release of small quantities of hazardous materials, a spill or release at a construction site would not result in an emission with the potential to result in exposures to individuals at nearby schools. Impacts would be less than significant.	Please revise as follows: "There are five existing ~~or proposed~~ schools located within 0.25 mile of the Project: one school within 0.15 mile of the fiber-optic cable installation work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation; two schools within 0.25 mile of the Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2; two schools within 0.25 mile of the proposed Lakeview Substation site~~; and one proposed school located 0.3 mile from the construction, operation, and maintenance of northern portion of the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3~~."
256.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-15	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment,** the work area within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation is not included on any lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and therefore, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.	

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257.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-16	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area,** impact evaluation is deferred to criteria f. Impacts would be less than significant.	

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258.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-16	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area**, the impact evaluation has been revised to reflect additional underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, and removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. Impacts would be less than significant.	Please revise as follows: "There are no public airports, public use airports, or private airstrips within 2 miles of the Project area<u>s with aboveground construction. The March Air Base is located within 2 miles of the underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, which would not result in a new safety hazards related to aviation due to nature of activity</u>. Therefore, there would be no safety hazards for substation personnel during construction, operation or maintenance of the Project, and no impact to people residing or working in the Project area from airports or airstrips. Riverside County Regional Medical Center operates a helipad approximately ~~1.2 miles west of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 along the northern portion of the Valley-Moval 115 kV Subtransmission Line and~~ 1.4 miles southwest of the existing Moval Substation. Similar to the existing transmission line, the proposed fiber-optic cable would ~~be underground along Moreno Beach Drive, and~~ above ground to the east along Broadiaea Avenue. Thus, the addition of the fiber-optic cable to the transmission line poles would not result in a new safety hazard. Personnel would only be present intermittently along the route during construction and operation for installation and routine maintenance and emergency repair, respectively. Therefore, safety hazards resulting from the construction, operation, and maintenance of proximity of this helipad to personnel associated with <u>underground fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation</u> ~~Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3~~ during construction, operation, and maintenance would be less than significant.

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259.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-17	Under the heading **Impact 4.9-5**, to be consistent with Measure 4.17-4, please clarify any coordination with emergency service providers applies to the Project, and not only the subtransmission source line route.	Please revise as follows: "Measure 4.17-4 requires SCE and/or its contractors to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers <u>for the Project</u> ~~in and along the subtransmission source line route~~ to minimize disruption to emergency vehicle access (see Section 4.17, Transportation and Traffic)."
260.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-16	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?,** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would have temporary effects on traffic flow, and in places where trench work spans a road or requires a lane closure, construction activities would need to be coordinated with the local jurisdiction to avoid the closure of any emergency access route. Impacts would be less than significant. No additional impacts would result due to operation and maintenance.	
261.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-17	Regarding **Impact 4.9-6**, please remove the impact analysis discussions associated with this section as it relates solely to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3. The removal of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 would eliminate the potentially significant impact as discussed; therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.9-6 would not be warranted.	Please remove the impact analysis for Impact 4.9-6 and Mitigation Measure 4.9-6.

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262.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-16	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?**, this impact no longer applies to the project with the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. No impacts would result.	
263.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-18	Additionally, regarding **Mitigation Measure 4.9-6**, the language included in the measure would be problematic as the bullet points provide such specificity regarding fire prevention measures, such that construction workers shall receive training on the proper use of fire-fighting equipment and procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, which does not seem as the most beneficial way to mitigate. Coordination with Cal Fire and the local fire departments would be better suited as a means to mitigate, as such discussions would provide SCE with specific requirements such as water amounts, proper equipment to be located on site (e.g. shovel, fire extinguisher, etc).	
264.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-18	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Activities**, as previously explained the construction duration would be extended by 12 months not 10 months.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would extend the period of construction by ~~10~~ 12 months, but would not change the location…"
265.	Chapter 4.9	4.9-18	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text explains that the Proposed Lakeview Substation would be 0.25 mile to the northwest, however the distance should be changed to .125 mile.	Please revise to: "Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Station site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line compared to the Project."
266.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-2	Regarding **Figure 4.10-1**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	

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267.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-4	Regarding **Table 4.10-1**, please correct the typo with the spelling of Lake Elsinore.	Please revise as follows: "Lake Elsinore"
268.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-8	Under the heading: **Regulatory Framework, Federal and State Water Quality Policies, Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit**, in the second paragraph, last sentence, the Construction General Permit has been amended and the text should be updated to reflect the amendment.	Please revise as follows: "2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ"
269.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-8	Under the heading **Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit**, please revise the text to reflect the fact that 2010-0014-DWQ prohibits contractors from filing the permit registration documents.	Please revise as follows: "The Construction General Permit requires the landowner and/or ~~contractor~~ project owner file …"
270.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-8 through remaining section	Under the heading **Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit**, Order 2009-0009 is commonly known as Construction General Permit, not General Construction Permit.	Please search and replace "General Construction Permit" with "Construction General Permit"
271.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-8	Under the heading **Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit**, in the third paragraph, second sentence, the Construction General Permit requires that the online application package, called "Permit Registration Documents" (PRDs) be submitted via the SWRCB database, known as "Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System" (SMARTS). Please update subsequent references to NOI to PRDs throughout the section.	Please revise as follows: "~~These documents~~ The Permit Registration Documents (PRDs) include a ~~n~~Notice of ~~i~~Intent (NOI), risk assessment, site map, and SWPPP~~, and signed certification statement~~ and are submitted via the SWRCB's database, known as "Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System" (SMARTS) in order to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit."
272.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-8	Under the heading **Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act,** it should be clarified that only part of Riverside County is in the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdiction – much of the County is within the Colorado River Basin RWQCB jurisdiction.	Please revise as follows: "The western-most area Riverside County, where the Project is planned, is under the jurisdiction of the SARWQCB."

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273.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-9	Under the heading **Waste Discharge Requirements**, in the first paragraph, fourth sentence, the DEIR description of this regulation does not take into consideration the definition of a waste to qualify the conditions under which soils excavated at the site would require a WDR. Soils could be considered a waste if they were impacted by hazardous materials. The text should be updated to clarify the condition under which excavated soils would require issuance or waiver of a WDR.	Please revise as follows: "For discharges directly to surface water (waters of the United States) an NPDES permit is required, which is issued under both state and federal law; for other types of discharges, such as waste discharges to land (e.g., ~~spoils disposal and storage~~ soils found to be impacted with hazardous materials or meeting the definition of a waste), erosion from soil disturbance, or discharges to waters of the state (such as isolated wetlands), Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are required and are issued exclusively under state law. If needed, SCE would contact the SARWQCB and file a Report of Waste Discharge; the SARWQCB then would determine whether an issuance or a waiver of WDRs is required."
274.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-12	Under the heading **Riverside County Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP)/ Santa Ana Watershed Protection Program (SAWPP)**, please correct the typo that references the order associated with the new NPDES permit.	Please revise as follows: "The new NPDES Permit (Order ~~R2~~ RB8-2010-0033 …)."
275.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-12	Under the heading **Riverside County Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP)/ Santa Ana Watershed Protection Program (SAWPP)**, the 1st paragraph on this page should introduce the idea that parts of the project may be considered as an LUP – but that doesn't mean that the whole project is an LUP (at the time the Risk Analysis is completed, the Qualified SWPPP Developer may decide the best way to obtain permit coverage is for part of the site to be consider LUP and another part of the site as traditional).	Please revise as follows: "The Project has linear components and, therefore ~~the LUP provisions would apply~~, the Qualified SWPPP Developer may decide, at the time that permit coverage is obtained, that portions of the Project should be covered under Attachment A of the Construction General Permit. Attachment A specifically applies to linear underground/overhead projects (LUPs)."

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276.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-15	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the heading Impact Analysis and question **a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation results in less land disturbance compared to previously described Fiber-Optic Cable 3; impacts would be less than significant.	
277.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-15	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-1 (Construction)**, the total number of acres disturbed, as seen in the following sentence should be updated based on the revisions provided by SCE in the project description. "The total disturbance area associated with Project implementation would be approximately 80 acres."	
278.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-17	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-1 (Construction),** the RWQCBs do not make determination that a project is a particular risk type. Such a determination is done by the Qualified SWPPP Developer. However, the RWQCB may reject a QSD's determination. The final determination cannot be made until permit coverage is obtained, because factors in the Risk Assessment can change over time (for example, the 303(d) list may be updated before permit coverage is obtained for the Project), therefore the text should be revised.	Please revise as follows: "Portions of ~~The~~ the Project ~~is~~ may be considered a LUP ~~by the SARWCB~~ and has been evaluated as …"

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279.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-17	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-1 (Construction)**, in the fifth paragraph, the DEIR description of the WDR regulation does not take into consideration the definition of a waste to qualify the conditions under which excavated soils or imported fill would require a WDR. Soils or imported soil could be considered a waste if they were impacted by hazardous materials. The text should be updated to clarify the condition under which excavated soils would require issuance or waiver of a WDR.	Please revise as follows: "~~The temporary storage~~ Discharge to land of excavation material and imported fill that are found to meet the State of California's definition of a waste would likely require issuance of WDRs or a wavier thereof issued by the SARWQCB. SCE and/or its contractors would be required to comply with the WDRs should they apply to the Project, and any storage or excavation materials and fill that are found to be impacted with hazardous materials or meet the definition of a waste would be required to be consistent with the water quality objectives defined in the Basin Plan (SARWQCB, 2010). Prior to discharges of waste to the land surface, the Applicant would contact the SARWQCB and file a ROWD; the SARWQCB would then determine whether an issuance or a waiver of WDRs would be required. SCE and/or its contractors would be required to comply with all provisions of the WDRs."
280.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-18	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-1 (Construction)**, in the last paragraph, the DEIR analysis of this impact states that the implementation of the WDR as an existing measure, that is required of the Applicant that will make the impact less than significant. The WDR permit would be required if the excavated soils or imported fill meet the definition of wastes Based on the Phase 1 and other preliminary environmental studies conducted the excavated soils are not expected to be wastes, and therefore this permit should not be required for the project. In addition imported fill would similarly be reviewed before shipment to the site and would not be considered a waste. Further if SCE was to encounter soil that was impacted with hazardous materials or suspected of being impacted with a hazardous material, SCE would analyze and dispose of it accordingly (as discussed per Section 4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials)	Please revise as follows: "The existing measures required of the Applicant (e.g., the General Construction Permit/SWPPP implementation, WDRs (if required), and LUP standards) are sufficient to reduce construction-related water quality impacts to a less-than-significant level."

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281.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-19	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?,** groundwater is not likely to be encountered during construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, and dewatering would not be required. Therefore, construction and operational impacts to groundwater supplies would be less than significant.	
282.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-20	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or sedimentation on- or off-site;** impact evaluation is deferred to criteria e.	

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283.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-20	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?,** impact evaluation is deferred to criteria e.	
284.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-20	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**, the telecommunication system within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not add any new aboveground structures. Therefore, there would not be any significant changes to the existing drainage patterns of the area or to any stream or watercourse due to the telecommunication system. Impact would be less than significant.	
285.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-21	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-3,** sub-bullet Subtransmission Lines, Wood Poles, and TSPs, please revise TSP footing diameter to be consistent with Table 2-1, page 2-13. Also, TSP spacing will be based on final engineering.	Please revise as follows: "Each TSP would have a ~~footprint~~ concrete foundation ~~of up to 4ft in~~ between 5 to 8 feet in diameter ~~and would be spaced approximately every 200 feet."~~

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286.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-22	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows,** the telecommunication system within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not be placed within a 100-year flood hazard area. Impacts would be less than significant.	
287.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-22	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam,** because dam failure is unlikely, and because the effects to the telecommunication system installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation under a worstcase scenario would be minor, the impact would be less than significant impact with respect to flooding from failure of a dam.	

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288.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-22	Under the heading **Impact 4.10-5**, in the summary sentence for the impact, the DEIR has incorrectly rated the impact as *Less than Significant with Mitigation (Class II)*". The Executive Summary in the DEIR (Table ES-1, page ES-18) states that all Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts were determined to be *Less than Significant (Class III).* The DEIR analysis presented as backup for Impact 4.10-5 concludes that impacts from the Project would be Less than Significant. This detailed analysis does not discuss any mitigation measures. At the end of this section, the analysis states that there are no mitigation measures required.	Please revise Impact 4.10-5 as follows: "Project operation could expose people or structures to impacts resulting from flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam. *Less than Significant ~~with Mitigation~~ (Class ~~II~~ III).*"
289.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-23	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.** the telecommunication system within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not be subject to any risks different than that already discussed in the analysis within the DEIR for the Project.	
290.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-23	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** the construction duration would be extended by 12 months, not 10 months.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would extend the period of construction by ~~10~~ 12 months, but would not change the location and type of facilities to be constructed.'
291.	Chapter 4.10	4-10-24	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text explains that the Proposed Lakeview Substation would be 0.25 mile to the northwest, however the distance should be changed to .125 mile.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Station site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line compared to the Project."

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292.	Chapter 4.10	4.10-24	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative,** The DEIR determined that there was Less than Significant Impact for all CEQA criterion regarding hydrology and water quality for the Relocated Substation Alternative except for criteria h) and j). For these criteria the DEIR determined that the impact from the Relocated Alternative Substation construction would be Less than Significant with implementation of a mitigation measure. The DEIR added Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-HYD-1 requiring design to conform to County and FEMA requirements. The location of the Relocated Alternative Substation is not shown on Figure 4-10.1 nor Figure 2-1 in the DEIR, so it is not possible to adequately review the impact analysis. The DEIR only verbally describes a general location for the Relocated Alternative Substation.	Please revise Figure 4-10.1 and Figure 2-1 to show the location of the Relocated Alternative Substation relative to the 100-year flood plain.
293.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-1	Under the heading **Environmental Setting**, Model Pole Top should be referenced as a "temporary Model Pole Top Substation."	Please revise as follows: "The Applicant's existing 33/12kv Nuevo ~~Substation,~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, and ancillary power poles,…"
294.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-2	Under the heading **Local** regarding the Riverside County General Plan, per SCE's accompanying letter, please revise the number of fiber-optic cable routes. In addition, for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "The Project's two ~~three~~ fiber-optic cable routes…" "The Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations ~~site is~~ are designated…"
295.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-3	Regarding **Figure 4.11-1**, please correct the color coding of the Fiber-Optic Routes to be consistent. Additionally, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise Fiber-Optic Route 1 to be orange and Fiber-Optic Route 2 to be brown.

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296.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-5	Under heading **Moreno Valley General Plan**, make appropriate updates to setting based on removal of Fiber Optic Line Route 3 from Project Description.	Please revise text as follows: "The proposed telecommunications route traverses north into the City of Moreno Valley. Therefore, the Moreno Valley General Plan was reviewed for applicable land use goals and policies. As portrayed in Figure 4.11-2, City of Moreno Valley General Plan Land Use Designations, the Project would traverse parcels with designated land uses of ~~Rural Residential (RR~~), Open Space (OS), and Low Density Residential ~~Residential: Maximum 2 du/ac (R2), Residential: Maximum 3 du/ac (R3), Residential: Maximum 5 du/ac (R5), Residential: Maximum 10 du/ac (R10), and Commercial (C)~~ (City of Moreno Valley, 2006)."
297.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-7	Under the heading **a) Physical division of an established community**, per SCE's accompanying letter, please remove references to Fiber Optic Route 3.	Please revise to: "~~Although a portion of the Fiber Optic Route 3 would traverse a community, it would be an addition to existing infrastructure.~~"
298.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials,** any hazardous materials needed for construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be stored and used in accordance with the product specifications and applicable regulations. Impacts would be less than significant.	

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299.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment,** any potential spills or leaks resulting from use of hazardous materials (fuels, lubricants, solvents) during construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be reduced and controlled through implementation of BMPs established in the site specific SWPPP. Impacts would be less than significant.	
300.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-8	Under the heading **Moreno Valley General Plan**, please update text to reference the telecommunications work associated with Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows" "Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project would be mostly inconsistent with Policy 7.7.2, which requires new electrical and communication lines to be placed underground because all electrical and a majority of the telecommunication lines are proposed above ground. However, the fiber-optic cable installation at the Alessandro Substation would be placed underground."

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301.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-9	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the heading **c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in any new or additional impacts to habitat or natural communities. No impacts would result.	
302.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-9	Under the heading **Impact 4.11-1**, as explained in Resource Section 4.4 Biological Resources, SCE would participate in the MSHCP to mitigate any impacts to species covered under the plan. As such, there would be a less than significant impact with regard to CEQA Significance Criterion c). Additionally, Mitigation Measure 4.11-1 would not be warranted.	Please revise the Impact Analysis for this section and delete Mitigation Measure 4.11-1.
303.	Chapter 4.11	4.11-10	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative,** for the reasons previously described in Comment #302, please remove the reference to implementation of mitigation measure 4.11-1.	

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304.	Chapter 4.12	4.12-2	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the heading **b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in impacts to a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No impacts would result.	
305.	Chapter 4.12	4.12-3	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the heading **a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in impacts to the availability of known mineral resources. No impacts would result.	
306.	Chapter 4.12	4.12-3	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** the construction duration would be extended by 12 months, not 10 months. Please revise to reflect the accurate construction duration.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would extend the construction period by ~~10~~ 12 months; however the location and type of facilities proposed would remain the same.

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307.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-4	Under the heading **Existing Ambient Noise Environment,** please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "The main contributor to the existing noise environment in the study area is vehicle traffic on major roadways in the study area, including Lakeview Avenue, 10th Street, and Ramona Expressway~~, and Moreno Beach Drive~~. To a lesser extent, aircraft overflights also contribute to the ambient noise environment. ~~March Air Reserve Base is approximately 4 miles west-southwest of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, and~~ Perris Valley Airport is approximately 7 miles southwest of the proposed Lakeview Substation site."
308.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-5	Regarding **Figure 4.13-1** Ambient Noise Monitoring Location, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
309.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-6	Under the heading **Fiber-Optic Cable Routes**, please revise description of sensitive receptors to account for removal of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from Project Description and replacement with new telecommunications work at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: ~~The overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be within approximately 500 feet of at least one residence along Alessandro Boulevard, approximately 50 to 100 feet of 28 residences along Broadiaea Avenue, and approximately 150 feet and 200 feet from a residential trailer park and a horse ranch along Davis Road, respectively. In addition, the overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be constructed either on or immediately adjacent to Lake Perris State Recreation Area from the Moreno Valley City limit to the existing Bunker Nelson fiber-optic cable line.~~"The fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation would be within approximately 150 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Rencher Court, approximately 160 feet of the backyards of at least two residences along Josephine Court, within approximately 25 feet of four backyards residences along Kitching Street, and within approximately 840 feet of the Armada Elementary school to the west."

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310.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-6	Under the heading **Fiber Optic Cable Routes**, please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and please replace with the mention of the new telecommunications work at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: ~~"The underground portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be within approximately 50 feet of the backsides of at least three residences along Swaps Street and would be within approximately 200 feet of the Riverside County Fire Department Moreno Beach Fire Station that is located on Bay Avenue. The overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be within approximately 500 feet of at least one residence along Alessandro Boulevard, approximately 50 to 100 feet of 28 residences along Broadiaea Avenue, and approximately 150 feet and 200 feet from a residential trailer park and a horse ranch along Davis Road, respectively. In addition, the overhead portion of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would be constructed either on or immediately adjacent to Lake Perris State Recreation Area from the Moreno Valley City limit to the existing Bunker Nelson fiber-optic cable line.~~ The fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation would be within approximately 150 feet of the backyards of at least three residences along Rencher Court, approximately 160 feet of the backyards of at least two residences along Josephine Court, within approximately 25 feet of the backyards of at least four residences along Kitching Street, and within approximately 840 feet of Armada Elementary school to the west."
311.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-7	Under the heading **Relocated Substation Alternative**, the text explains "the relocated substation site and subtransmission source line segment 2 would be as close as approximately 0.5 mile northwest, and 0.4 mile west-northwest of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively." However, the distances from the alternative to the school is closer and should be revised.	Please revise as follows: "The relocated substation site and subtransmission source line segment 2 would be as close as approximately ~~0.5~~ 0.375 mile northwest, and ~~0.4~~ 0.314 mile west-northwest of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively."
312.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-7	Under the heading **Riverside County General Plan**, please clarify the policies identified in the General Plan Noise Element (Riverside County, 2008) are for informational purposes only.	Please revise as follows: "However, for informational purposes only, CPUC staff considered the following policies identified in the General Plan Noise Element (Riverside County, 2008) to inform the determination of significance thresholds for the study area:"

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313.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-8	Under the heading **Riverside County Code**, the text references the noise criteria from the county code being consistent with the standards presented in the General Plan. However, based on Table 4.13-2, these two criteria do not appear consistent.	Please revise as follows: "~~These criteria are consistent with the standards presented in the County's General Plan.~~"
314.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-9	Under the heading **City of Moreno Valley Municipal Code**, please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter. Please replace with the mention of the telecommunications work at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "…would be applicable to construction of the ~~underground, and a portion of the overhead, Fiber Optic Cable Route 3~~ would be applicable to construction of underground fiber optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation :"
315.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-11	Regarding the analysis for **Impact 4.13-1**, the text incorrectly references Section 2.7.2 Marshalling Yards it is actually Section 2.8.2. Additionally, as explained in SCE's PEA, construction is anticipated to comply with the applicable noise ordinances and if not possible, SCE would seek a variance from the applicable agency. Based on this information, SCE would not violate either municipality's applicable noise ordinance, as such no mitigation would be required.	Please revise as follows: "Chapter 2, *Project Description*, does not identify a daily construction schedule for the Project; however, Section ~~2.7.2~~ 2.8.2, *Marshalling Yards,…*" Please remove Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.

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316.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-11	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies,** please revise discussion of construction activities within City of Moreno Valley based on removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and replacement with fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation. Although work within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be conducted in close proximity to residences and a school, levels would not exceed the City of Moreno Valley's maximum continuous noise level limits.	Please revise as follows: ~~The majority of F~~fiber-~~O~~optic ~~C~~cable~~Route 3~~ installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation, ~~including the underground cable and most of the overhead cable,~~ would be constructed within the City of Moreno Valley. As stated in Table 4.13-3, the City of Moreno Valley has adopted municipal code maximum continuous sound level limits, including 90 dBA for sounds that occur continuously for 8 hours. Construction activities related to installation of the underground fiber-optic cable within ~~the east side of Moreno Beach Drive~~Kitching Street would be the closest activities to occur near existing sensitive receptors. Underground construction activities along ~~Moreno Beach Drive~~ Kitching Street would occur approximately ~~50~~ 25 feet from the construction, operation, and maintenance of rear yards of residences ~~along Swaps Street~~fronting San Lupe Avenue. Heavy construction equipment that would be required for underground fiber-optic cable installation would include one backhoe and one concrete mixer. In addition to this equipment, fiber –optic cable installation in Kitching Street would require removal of pavement, which would require the use of a mounted, or handheld, jackhammer. Backhoes and concrete mixers can be expected to generate maximum sound levels of approximately 80 dBA and 85 dBA, respectively (FTA, 2006). Pavement breaking can generate noise levels of up to 90 dBA. In the unlikely event that two pieces of equipment ~~a backhoe and concrete mixer~~ would operate at one location continuously for 8 hours, the maximum combined continuous sound level at ~~50~~ 25 feet would be approximately ~~86~~ 92 dBA, which would ~~not~~ exceed the City's maximum continuous sound level limits. However, construction activities such as trenching and paving are linear and allow for equipment movement within an 8-hr period. Therefore, it is unlikely that Project construction activities would result in noise levels that would exceed City of Moreno Valley maximum continuous sound level limits; therefore, no impact related to a violation of the City of Moreno Valley's maximum noise level limits would occur (No Impact).

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317.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-12	Under the heading **Construction**, please revise the text to include the new telecommunications scope at Alessandro Substation and remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3.	Please revise as follows: "The~~ majority of~~ ~~F~~fiber-~~O~~optic ~~C~~cable ~~Route 3~~, installation at Alessandro Substation ~~including the underground cable and most of the overhead cable,~~ would be constructed within the City of Moreno Valley. As stated in Table 4.13-3, the City of Moreno Valley has adopted municipal code maximum continuous sound level limits, including 90 dBA for sounds that occur continuously for 8 hours. Construction activities related to installation of the underground fiber-optic cable within ~~the east side of Moreno Beach Drive~~ Kitching Street would be the closest activities to occur near existing sensitive receptors. Underground construction activities along ~~Moreno Beach Drive~~ Kitching Street would occur approximately ~~50~~ 25feet from the rear yards of residences ~~along Swaps Street~~ fronting San Lupe Avenue. Heavy construction equipment that would be required for underground fiber-optic cable installation would include one backhoe and one concrete mixer. In addition to this equipment, fiber optic cable installation in Kitching Street would require removal of pavement, requiring the use of a mounted or handheld jackhammer Backhoes and concrete mixers can be expected to generate maximum sound levels of approximately 80 dBA and 85 dBA, respectively (FTA, 2006). Pavement breaking can generate noise levels up to 90 dBA. In the unlikely event that two pieces of equipment ~~a backhoe and concrete mixer~~ would operate at one location continuously for 8 hours, the maximum combined continuous sound level at ~~50~~ 25feet would be approximately ~~86~~ 92 dBA, which would ~~not~~ exceed the City's maximum continuous sound level limits, however, linear projects such as trenching and paving do not include equipment operation in the same location for 8 hours. Therefore, ~~I~~it is unlikely that Project construction activities would result in noise levels that would exceed City of Moreno Valley maximum continuous sound level limits; therefore, no impact related to a violation of the City of Moreno Valley's maximum noise level limits would occur (No Impact)."

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318.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-12	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not exceed noise levels; revised discussion presented to account for noise and vibration within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation. Under the heading **Impact 4.13-2 (Construction)**, please revise the text to reflect the new telecommunication scope at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "These pieces of equipment can generate vibration levels of up to 0.09 PPV in/sec at a distance of 25 feet. However, vibration levels attenuate rapidly from the source. At a distance of 50 feet, which is the approximate distance that the closest residences to the Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2, Fiber-Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2, and the Alessandro Substation would be to active heavy construction equipment, vibration would be up to 0.07 PPV in./sec. The PPV threshold of 0.20 in/sec identified by Caltrans (2004) is used in this analysis to determine the significance of vibration impacts related to adverse human reaction, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) PPV threshold of 0.12 PPV in/sec for buildings extremely susceptible to vibration damage is used to determine the significance of vibration impacts related to risk of architectural damage to buildings (FTA, 2006). With the exception of boring under the storm drain adjacent to Kitching Street, typical construction activities associated with the subtransmission source line and fiber-optic cable installation would not be concentrated at the same location for an extended period; rather, they would progress in a linear fashion along the proposed corridors. The boring under the storm drain would be stationary, the duration of the actual boring activity would be less than a full day and, as indicated would not exceed 0.7 PPV in./sec."

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319.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-14	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project,** operation and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would result in negligible amounts of noise and would not be expected to conflict with applicable noise ordinances and plans. Impacts would be less than significant.	
320.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-15	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project,** Existing residents near construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation elements would experience a temporary increase in noise levels above those existing without the activity. Therefore, construction-related noise levels may be considered to be a nuisance to the closest sensitive receptors. Although the loudest noise levels at the nearest residences would be greater than 90 dBA, the level established by the FAA where adverse community reaction occurs, the short-term, linear nature of the trench work would not be expected to cause a substantial nuisance to nearby residences. Impacts would be less than significant.	
321.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-16	Under the heading **Impact 4.13-4,** for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise as follows: "…….and existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."

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322.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-16	Under the heading **Impact 4.13-4,** as previously explained, construction is anticipated to comply with the applicable noise ordinances and if not possible, SCE would seek a variance from the applicable agency. Based on this information, SCE would not violate either municipality's noise ordinance, as such no mitigation would be required. In addition, the standard used in this impact discussion is whether a substantial temporary or periodic increase in noise levels would occur. It is not whether a nuisance would be created.	Please revise as follows: "~~In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1 would ensure that construction activities would be limited to daytime hours pursuant to Riverside County Code and City of Moreno Valley municipal code restrictions (see Impact 4.13-1), when the construction-related increase in noise levels would be less of a nuisance to nearby sensitive receptors. Therefore, impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.~~" Remove Mitigation Measure 4.13-4.
323.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-17	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, in an area within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels,** the underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not be located within an airport land use plan area nor would it be located within 2 miles of any public airport. The March Air Force Base is within 2 miles of Alessandro Substation; however it is an airstrip and is not open to public use. Therefore, no impact would occur (No Impact).	

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324.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-17	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the CEQA criteria **f) For a project located in the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels,** the underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be located within 2 miles of the March Ari Force Base; temporary noise impacts during construction would not contribute significantly to the existing noise generated from planes utilizing the Base. Based on the proximity of Alessandro Substation to the March Air Force Base, the impact conclusion has been revised from no impact to less than significant.	Please revise as follows: "Underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would be located within 2 miles of the March Air Force Base, which is a private airstrip. Although noise impacts during construction would contribute to existing noise levels, the short-term, temporary duration and linear nature of activities would not result in significant noise impacts. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant. (Less than significant). ~~The Project would not be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, no impact would occur (No Impact).~~
325.	Chapter 4.13	4.13-17	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** the text should be clarified that noise impacts are assessed based on the distance of a project-related noise source (construction and operation) to nearby receptors. The use of the phrase "at the local level" does not aid the reader in determining how impacts would be the same.	Please revise as follows: "From a noise impact perspective, which is assessed ~~at the local level for each component of the Project~~ based on the distance from Project-related activities and facilities to nearby receptors, Alternative 1 would involve construction and operation in the same locations as that of the Project, and therefore, impacts under this alternative would be the same as the Project."
326.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-1	Under the heading **4.14 Population and Housing**, please revise the description related to the proposed telecommunications route for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~A portion of the proposed telecommunication route would traverse north~~ The fiber optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation would occur ~~into the~~ within the City of Moreno Valley."

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327.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-5	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in indirect or direct population growth. Therefore, no impact would occur.	
328.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-5	Under the heading **Impact 4.14-1**, please clarify the following sentence: "The proposed subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication routes would include installation of subtransmission poles, subtransmission conductor cables, and fiber optic telecommunication cables in new and existing utility ROW's……"	Please revise as follows: "The proposed subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication routes would include installation of subtransmission poles, subtransmission conductors ~~cables~~, and fiber optic telecommunication cables in new and existing utility ROW's……"
329.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Displacement of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in displacement of existing housing units. Therefore, no impact would occur.	
330.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-6	Under the heading **b) Displacement of existing housing units, necessitation the construction of replacement housing elsewhere**, please revise the description related to the proposed telecommunications route for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "The telecommunication system would traverse ~~open space, wilderness areas,~~ commercial areas in the City of Moreno Valley, and residential areas in the community of Lakeview, but would not displace existing housing units."

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331.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Displacement of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere,** the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not eliminate housing or any other structures that are currently used by people. Therefore, it would have no impact with regard to the displacement of people, and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (No Impact).	
332.	Chapter 4.14	4.14-6	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, the text indicates that construction would be extended by 10 months, however it would actually be extended by 12 months, as previously communicated to the CPUC.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1would extend the construction period by ~~10~~ 12 months."
333.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-2	Under the heading **Moreno Valley Fire Department**, please update the description of the fire station located closest to the telecommunication line route to reflect change in project description due to underground fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: The fire station closest to ~~the~~ telecommunication ~~line route~~ installation would be Station 91 College Park, located at 16110 Lasselle Street approximately 1 mile southeast of Alessandro Substation, ~~8 Moreno Beach~~, ~~28040 Eucalyptus Avenue and~~ which serves the ~~eastern~~ southern end of the city (MVFD, 2011).
334.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-3	Under the heading **Schools**, please include Armada Elementary School based on the new telecommunications work associated with Alessandro Substation.	Please add the following under the last bullet for schools located near the project site. • Armada Elementary School, 25201 John F Kennedy Drive, Moreno Valley (MVUSD)

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335.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-4	Under the heading **Other Public Facilities**, please remove the description related to the telecommunications route (Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "The closest hospital facility to the Project is Kaiser Moreno Valley Community Hospital, at 27300 Iris Avenue, Moreno Valley, located southwest of the existing Alessandro Substation ~~and west of the proposed telecommunications route~~ (Kaiser Permanente, 2011)."
336.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-4	Under the heading **Moreno Valley General Plan**, a general description of policies that may be relevant to the project are provided. Similar to the information provided in the preceding section, it should be noted that this information is provided for informational purposes only and that the local land use regulations do not apply to the Project, per CPUC General Order 131-D.	Please revise the paragraph under the heading **Moreno Valley General Plan** to read as follows: CPUC General Order No. 131-D explains that local land use regulations would not apply to the Project. For information purposes, the following policies identified in the Moreno Valley General Plan would otherwise be relevant to the Project ~~The Moreno Valley General Plan includes the following policies that may be relevant to the Project~~:
337.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-5	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.i) Fire Protection** the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in substantial population increases typically associated with long-term demand for fire protection services. No impacts would occur.	

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338.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.ii) Police Protection**, the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in substantial population increases typically associated with long-term demand for police protection services. No impacts would occur.	
339.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.iii) Schools** the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in substantial population increases typically associated with demand for public school services. No impacts would occur.	

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340.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-7	Under the section **a.iii) Schools**, estimates are provided that describe the temporary increase in the number of students that could, under a conservative approach, be enrolled in the local school systems during the duration of the project. These estimates seem to greatly over-estimate the realistic number of children that could be temporarily be enrolled in local schools by assuming that every crewmember would be representative of the average household with children in Riverside County. In addition, the approach assumes that all children would be enrolled in either the NUSD or the MVUSD, when under more realistic circumstances, the enrollment would be distributed between the two school districts.	Please revise the approach to estimating the number of children that could temporarily enter the local school system by estimating the most-likely scenario. Specifically, SCE would like to suggest that each crewmember be considered representative of the average household in Riverside County and not the average household with children. Based on this approach, footnote "2" would be rewritten to read as follows: In Riverside County in 2010, there were 800,707 individual ~~257,077~~ households ~~had children under the age of 18~~, and the total county population of children under the age of 18 was 620,108 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). This gives a rough average of 0.8 ~~2.4~~ children per household ~~with children present~~. Assuming each of the 40 temporary construction workers represented one average household in Riverside County ~~with children~~, this could result in an increase of 31 ~~96~~ children in the service areas of ~~either~~ both the NUSD or MVUSD combined. For basis of the CEQA analysis, this approach would provide the public with a more realistic potential impact to the local school system, rather than an outcome with a very low potential of representing the true project impact. SCE would also request that the information presenting in the revised footnote "2" be incorporated into the supporting text described under section **a.iii) Schools**.

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341.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.iv) Parks,** the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in substantial population increases and would not result in increased usage impacts on recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.	
342.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a.v) Other Public Facilities,** the construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in substantial population increases and would not result in increased public facility usage. No impacts would occur.	
343.	Chapter 4.15	4.15-8	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, as previously explained by SCE, the phased construction alternative would extend the construction period by 12 months.	Please revise as follows: "The effects of Alternative 1 on utilities and service systems would be the same as for the Project because although it would increase the construction period by ~~10~~ 12 months, …"

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344.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-1	Under the heading **4.16.1 Environmental Setting**, the following sentence does not accurately reflect the scope of the project that would be constructed within the City of Moreno Valley: "The portion of the Project that would be located in the City of Moreno Valley would be constructed inside the existing substation fenceline on land currently used by SCE for industrial purposes."	Please revise as follows: "The portion of the Project that would be located in the City of Moreno Valley would be constructed inside the existing substation fenceline and on roadways ~~on land~~ currently used by SCE for industrial purposes."
345.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-2	Regarding **Figure 4.16-1 Parks and Recreation Areas in the Project Vicinity**, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the figure for the reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	
346.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-3	Under the heading **Trails**, please remove the reference to Fiber Optic Route 3 for the reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: "~~The proposed Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 would cross the historic corridor of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail; however, the portion of this trail that is within the Project vicinity is not currently maintained as a formal recreational trail.~~"
347.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-4	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result increased in demand for recreational facilities, typically associated with population increases. No impacts would occur.	

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348.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-5	Under the heading **Impact 4.16-1**, please remove references to the work associated with Fiber Optic Cable 3 for the reasons explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter.	Please revise as follows: ~~"The Project could contribute to or accelerate the substantial physical deterioration of existing facilities by constructing within and adjacent to these facilities. The proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 would traverse SJWA and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail. The fiber-optic cable would be strung along existing poles, and access roads at the base of the poles may need rehabilitation. Because these access roads are already present, and construction would be temporary, Project construction would not cause substantial deterioration of this facility and this impact would be less than significant."~~
349.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-5	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation does not include plans for additional recreational facilities and therefore would not result in adverse physical effects on the environment due to such development. No impacts would occur.	
350.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-5	Under the heading **Impact 4.16-1,** please clarify the trail would only be closed intermittently and not during the entire duration of construction.	Please revise as follows: "At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which would require the trail to be closed intermittently during the construction activities ~~(up to 12 months)~~.
351.	Chapter 4.16	4.16-6	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative,** please clarify the trail would only be closed intermittently and not during the entire duration of construction.	Please revise to: Alternative 1 could result in a longer-term (i.e., an additional ~~10~~ 12 months) intermittent closure of the informal trail along the San Jacinto River than the Project.

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352.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-2	Under the heading **Reservoir Avenue, 10th Street, and 11th Street**, it should be noted that portions of each of the abovementioned roadways are undeveloped; as currently drafted the section gives the impressions that these are existing roadways.	Please revise as follows: "Reservoir Avenue, 10th Street and 11th Street are two-lane Riverside County roads in the community of Lakeview. Portions of these roadways are currently undeveloped, however their future ultimate widths and expansions can be seen in the Riverside County General Plan.
353.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-2	Under the heading **Reservoir Avenue, 10th Street, and 11th Street**, please clarify this access point will also be used to access the Subtransmission Source Line Segment One.	Please revise as follows: "The intersection of Lakeview Avenue and 10th Street would be the primary access point for construction traffic that would access the proposed Lakeview Substation site and the Subtransmission Source Line Segment One. At that intersection, both streets are two-lane, undivided paved roads. Access to Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two and corresponding access roads would be achieved via 11th Street ~~or~~ and Lakeview Avenue or Reservoir and 10th Street."

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354.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-2	Under the heading **Moreno Beach Drive**, please remove the references related to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, and replace with description of John F Kennedy Drive, the roadway adjacent to the underground fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows***: "~~Moreno Beach Drive~~*** ~~Moreno Beach Drive is a north-south road that extends from Locust Avenue to Via Del Lago in the City of Moreno Valley. It would be used to access the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. Between Via Del Lago and Brodiaea Avenue, Moreno Beach Drive is a six-lane divided road with bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road. Between Brodiaea Avenue and Alessandro Boulevard, the road narrows to two lanes with no sidewalks. The east side of this portion of the road has a narrow shoulder and in some places a soft shoulder only. Fiber-Optic Cable Route Three would be installed within the east side of Moreno Beach Drive from a location near the existing Moval Substation to a location approximately 200 feet south of Alessandro Boulevard. In 2006, Moreno Beach Drive south of Alessandro Boulevard had an ADT level of 14,000 vehicles (City of Moreno Valley, 2006b).~~ **John F. Kennedy Drive** John F. Kennedy Drive is a north-south road that extends from Heacock Street to Lasselle Street in the City of Moreno Valley. It would be used to access the underground fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation. The proposed work at Alessandro Substation is adjacent to the intersection of John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street. The primary access point for construction traffic would be John F. Kennedy Drive. Traffic counts for the section of John F. Kenndy Drive are not available (City of Moreno Valley, 2006b).
355.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-3	Regarding the discussion of **Davis Road and Brodiaea Avenue**, please remove the section as it is related to Davis Road and Brodiaea Avenue as they are no longer roadways within the Project Study Area due to the removal of Fiber-Optic Route 3.	Please revise as follows: "***~~Davis Road and Brodiaea Avenue~~*** ~~Davis Road and Brodiaea Avenue would also be used to access the Fiber-Optic Cable Route Three construction sites within Moreno Valley. In 2006, Davis Road had an ADT level of 200 vehicles south of Alessandro Boulevard. Traffic counts for the section of Brodiaea Avenue in the vicinity of Moreno Beach Drive are not available (City of Moreno Valley, 2006b).~~"

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356.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-3	Under the heading **Airports**, the discussion should be revised to reflect the proximity of March AFB related to fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "No airports are in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. Perris Valley Airport, a commercial airstrip, is located approximately 6 miles southwest of the proposed Lakeview Substation site and March AFB is approximately ~~7~~1.5 miles southwest of the underground fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation ~~Fiber-Optic Cable Route Three~~ in Moreno Valley."
357.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-3	Regarding **Figure 4.16-1**, please inidicate the correct designation of the trail along the San Jacinto River.	Revise to: "….however, there is a~~n~~ Class 1 Bike Path and informal trail along the San Jacinto River….."
358.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-4	Under the heading **River County Ordinance No. 499**, please clarify that SCE is only required to obtain ministerial permits from local agencies.	Please revise as follows: "Ordinance No. 499 gives the County of Riverside Transportation Department the authority to require ministerial permits to be obtained for any type of work conducted within a County road ROW…"
359.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-6	Under the heading **Construction Easement Requirements**, please clarify easement rights would also be required from private property owners. Additionally, please remove the references related to work associated with Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, and replace with a description of roadways in proximity to fiber-optic cable installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "The portions of the proposed subtransmission source line segments along 10th and 11th streets would be constructed within planned or existing unpaved County road ROWs and would require easement rights from private property owners and encroachment permits from the county. Portions of the fiber-optic cable routes would be installed underground within 10th Street, Kitching Street, and John F. Kennedy Drive~~ and Moreno Beach Drive~~, which are county and City of Moreno Valley paved roadways respectively. The overhead portions of the fiber-optic cable routes would be strung on existing poles along Lakeview Avenue~~, Davis Road, Brodiaea Avenue, and Moreno Beach Drive~~."

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
360.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in significant increases in vehicle miles traveled. Impacts would be less than significant.	
361.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.17-1 (Construction)**, please note the portion of 11th Street west of Lakeview is not paved.	Please revise as follows: "Construction personnel could use additional local ~~paved~~ roads, such as 11th Street to access the Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two."
362.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.17-1 (Construction)**, please clarify the trail would only be closed intermittently.	Please revise as follows: "At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which could require the informal trail to be closed intermittently during construction activities. ~~resulting in a potential significant impact to trail users lasting approximately 1 week.~~"

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363.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.17-1 (Construction),** please remove the references related to work associated with Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, and replace with relevant roadways within proximity of the underground fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "During installation of the duct banks for the fiber-optic cable in 10th Street from the Lakeview Substation site to Lakeview Avenue, and in Kitching Street between Margaret Avenue and Delphenium Avenue ~~Sand in Moreno Beach Drive between Brodiaea Avenue and Moval Substation~~, travel corridors would be restricted…" "Additionally, during line stringing for aboveground portions of the fiber-optic routes, the Project may result in similar temporary traffic delays along ~~Brodiaea Avenue, Davis Road~~, Lakeview Avenue, 9th Street, and Reservoir Avenue."
364.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-9	Under the heading **Impact 4.17-2 (Operation)**, please clarify that either aerial or ground observation may be done on alternate years.	Please revise as follows: "SCE maintains an inspection frequency of its overhead energized subtransmission lines of a minimum of once per year via ground and/or aerial observation on alternate years."

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
365.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-9	Regarding **Mitigation Measure 4.17-1**, the fourth bullet point requires SCE to provide local residences with notification related to construction schedules, duration of activities with specifics related to street name, date of closure, etc. Such notification could be problematic as field conditions and contractor availability could require shifts in the construction schedule that would not be captured by the notifications sent to property owners. The requirement to notice in an effort to minimize potential temporary impacts related to construction are not warranted as the remaining bullet points would sufficiently mitigate the potential impacts. Additionally, SCE commonly provides courtesy notifications to local property owners in the vicinity of construction activities which do not include the specificity being required by bullet point number 4 but would alert residents of the activities and what to generally expect during SCE's construction efforts.	Please revise as follows: "**Mitigation Measure 4.17-1:** SCE shall prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan subject to approval of the appropriate state agency and/or local government(s). The approved Traffic Management Plan and documentation of agency approvals shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities. The plan shall: ☐ Include a discussion of work hours, haul routes, work area delineation, traffic control and flagging; ☐ Identify all access and parking restriction and signage requirements; ☐ Require workers to park personal vehicles at the approved staging area and take only necessary Project vehicles to the work sites; ☐~~Lay out plans for notifications and a process for communication with affected residents and landowners prior to the start of construction. Advance public notification shall include posting of notices and appropriate signage of construction activities. The written notification shall include the construction schedule, the exact location and duration of activities within each street (i.e., which road/lanes and access point/driveways would be blocked on which days and for how long), and a toll-free telephone number for receiving questions or complaints;~~ ☐ Include plans to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers in the area. Emergency service providers would be notified of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities. All roads would remain passable to emergency service vehicles at all times; and ☐ Identify all roadway locations where special construction techniques (e.g., night construction) would be used to minimize impacts to traffic flow."

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
366.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-10	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would temporarily increase traffic congestion by reducing the number of traffic lanes through construction sites, which would limit passage to controlled escort, or imposing detours around construction areas. It is estimated that short-term construction impacts would add 100 vehicle ADTs, which would not cause levels of service on local roadways to decline below acceptable thresholds. Therefore, impacts related to construction would be less than significant.	
367.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-10	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that would result in substantial safety risks,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not change air traffic patterns and would not require the use of helicopters or other aircraft. Air traffic patterns would not be impacted based on the underground nature of fiber-optic cable installation at Alessandro Substation. Therefore, no impacts would occur related to air traffic patterns (No Impact).	

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368.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-11	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment),** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation do not include design features that would increase hazards or create incompatible use with transportation and traffic. Therefore, no impacts would occur related to increased hazards (No Impact).	
369.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-11	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Result in inadequate emergency access,** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would have temporary impacts on traffic flow during roadway trench work. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-4 will ensure that impacts are reduced and avoided through consultation with local emergency service providers. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. No additional traffic flow impacts would result from limited VMT resulting from worker trips for operation and maintenance. No impact.	
370.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-11	Under the heading **Impact 4.17-4**, please remove the references related to work associated with Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter and update the text to reference the work associated with Alessandro Substation.	Please revise as follows: "In Moreno Valley, ~~Moreno Beach Drive and Brodiaea Avenue~~ John F. Kennedy Drive and Kitching Street serve as access routes to residences located along both roads."

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
371.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-11	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under the CEQA criteria, **f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities,** construction, operation, and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in a substantial increase in VMT; therefore, the proposed components would not conflict with policies, plans or programs. No impact would occur.	
372.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-12	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, as previously explained to the CPUC the construction duration for phased construction would actually be extended to 12 months not 10 months.	Please revise as follows: "Alternative 1 would extend the construction period by ~~10~~ 12 months."
373.	Chapter 4.17	4.17-12	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternatives**, please revise Avenue A to A Avenue.	Please revise as follows: "….would instead occur along A Avenue ~~A~~ …."
374.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-4	Under the heading **Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan**, there is a reference to Riverside County, 2008, which is missing from the reference section on page 4.18-10.	Please add the reference for Riverside County, 2008 under the heading **References – Utilities and Service Systems** (p.4.18-10).

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
375.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-5	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board,** construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would include use of a portable toilet, consistent with other construction activities. The use of portable toilets during construction would not result in wastewater discharge on-site, and their maintenance would not exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements of the SARWQCB. No impacts would result. No additional impacts would result during operation and maintenance.	

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376.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,** water use during construction associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not exceed the existing capacities of water treatment plants serving the Project area. In addition, construction, operation and maintenance would not discharge large volumes of wastewater that would exceed the existing capacities of wastewater treatment plants serving the Project area. Therefore, proposed construction, operation and maintenance of the installed telecommunication system within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not require the expansion or construction of water or wastewater treatment facilities. This impact would be less than significant.	
377.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-6	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities, or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,** construction, operation and maintenance associated with underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not introduce new impervious surfaces. No impacts would result.	

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378.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-6	Under the heading **Impact 4.18-1**, SCE has reviewed the context in which the CPUC has referenced the 32,000 gallons of water estimate and revised the number to be encompassing of all construction related components.	Please revise as follows: "During construction, dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing would require approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water per day."
379.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **d) Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements,** water use associated with construction, operation and maintenance underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in a need for new or expanded water entitlements or resources and would have a less than significant impact on the water supply in the area.	
380.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-7	Under the heading **Impact 4.18-2**, SCE has reviewed the context in which the CPUC has referenced the 32,000 gallons of water estimate and revised the number to be encompassing of all construction related components.	Please revise as follows: "Project construction would use approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water per day for dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing. This water would be delivered to the site by water trucks approximately ~~eight~~ 20 times per day (SCE, 2011a)."

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381.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-7	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments,** construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not result in discharges of wastewater to a wastewater treatment facility that would exceed its capacity. No impacts would result.	
382.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-8	Under the heading **Impact 4.18-3**, please clarify that collection and separation of waste may also be done at the proposed marshalling yards.	Please revise as follows: "Construction crews would collect and separate waste items and materials into roll-off boxes at the materials staging area and/or marshalling yards. Many of these materials could be recycled or salvaged for reuse."
383.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-8	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **f) Be served by a landfill without sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs,** construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not generate sufficient waste to exceed the permitted capacity of the landfills in the area. No impacts would result.	

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Comment	Section	Page	Comment	Suggested Revision
384.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-8	Analysis for Telecommunications work associated with the new scope of work at Alessandro Substation (in lieu of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3) is as follows: Under CEQA criteria **g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste,** construction, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber-optic cable and conduit installation within and adjacent to Alessandro Substation would not generate sufficient solid wastes subject to federal, state or local statues or regulations. No impacts would result.	
385.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-9	Under the heading **Alternative 1: Phased Construction Alternative**, as previously explained by SCE, the phased construction alternative would extend the construction period by 12 months.	Please revise as follows: "The effects of Alternative 1 on utilities and service systems would be the same as for the Project because although it would increase the construction period by ~~10~~ 12 months, …"
386.	Chapter 4.18	4.18-9	Under the heading **Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative**, please correct the length of the subtransmission source line.	Please revise as follows: "Because it would result in ~~several thousand fewer~~ 1,320 fewer feet of subtransmission source line construction and road work…"
387.	Chapter 5	5-4	Under the heading **5.3 Environmentally Superior Alternative,** as explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter, the 12 kV distribution line from Nuevo Substation to Bunker Substation is no longer needed. Additionally, as explained in SCE's accompanying cover letter, Alternative 1: Phased Construction, would pose practical and economic constraints that do not meet the CEQA guidelines feasibility criteria. Based on the information in SCE's accompanying cover letter it is suggested that the rationale for the Environmentally Superior Alternative be updated and conclude that SCE's proposed project is still preferred to Alternative 1.	

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388.	Chapter 5	5-7	Regarding **Table 5-2 Proposed Project vs. Alternatives**, the discussion for Alternative 1 as it relates to Geology, Soils, Seismicity and Mineral Resources, is inconsistent with the information provide in Chapter 4.7.	Please revise as follows: "The potential for construction related impacts from erosion and soil loss would be slightly ~~reduced~~ increased, but remain less than significant. All other impacts would be the same as the project" "~~Slightly Preferred~~ Less Preferable"
389.	Chapter 6	6-5	Regarding **Figure 6-1 Cumulative Projects**, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the figure.	
390.	Chapter 6	6-9	Under the heading **6.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources**, the text references the project would be converting approximately 9.9 acres of Farmland which is inconsistent with the conversion acreage represented in Chapter 4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources. As previously commented in the resource sections, please verify the conversion figures provided in the table and the text are accurate.	
391.	Chapter 6	6-10	Under the heading **6.2.4 Biological Resources**, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3.	Please revise as follows: "The Project has the potential to permanently impact special-status plants and animals through habitat loss or the direct loss of known populations/individuals along ~~Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 and the~~ Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1.
392.	Chapter 6	6-11	Under the heading **6.2.4 Biological Resources**, for consistency with the edits previously provided for APM Bio-6 please update the text to reference SCE would participate in the MSHCP.	Please revise as follows: "SCE would avoid or participate in the MSHCP ~~prepare a mitigation plan to be reviewed by appropriate agencies for native or special-status vegetation and special-status plant populations~~ (APM-BIO-6); avoidance would be likely"
393.	Chapter 6	6-15	Under the heading **6.2.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove references to Fiber Optic Cable Route 3.	Please revise as follows: "~~Mitigation measures would reduce impacts related to wildland fires in the high fire areas located along Fiber Optic Cable Route 3~~."

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394.	Chapter 6	6-19	Under the heading **6.2.17 Transportation and Traffic**, for the reasons described in SCE's accompanying cover letter, please remove references associated with Fiber Optic Cable Route 3.	Please revise as follows: "…increased congestion or lane closure (e.g. 10th street, 11th street, Lakeview Avenue, Reservoir Avenue, ~~Moreno Beach Drive~~)"
395.	Chapter 9	9-4	Under the heading **California Public Utilities Commission – MMRCP Authority**, the reference to the transmission line is should be corrected to subtransmission line.	Please revise as follows: "Though other state and local agencies would have permit and approval authority over construction of the subtransmission line, the CPUC would continue to act as the lead agency for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures required by the EIR."
396.	Chapter 9	9-4	Under the heading **California Public Utilities Commission – MMRCP Authority**, for consistency purposes, please clarify Model Pole Top is a temporary substation, as stated in SCE's PEA.	Please revise to: "The activities considered include the construction and operation of the new Lakeview Substation~~s~~, subtransmission source line segments, distribution getaways, telecommunications facilities, and the decommissioning of the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations."
397.	Chapter 9	9-9	Under the heading **Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance Program** regarding APM-Bio-3: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, please revise the APM to accurately reflect the habitat assessment work conducted for Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys for the Proposed Project.	Please revise as follows: "A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephen's kangaroo rat surveys along Segment 1, 2 and 3 and the Proposed Telecommunications Route.~~ for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The Proposed Project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside, 1996)."~~

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398.	Chapter 9	9-11	Regarding **Table 9-1**, all comments relating to impact conclusions as well as mitigation measures can be found in the applicable resource section. Additionally, any revisions made to mitigation measures associated with those comments should also be made in the MMRCP and anywhere else in the DEIR that the mitigation measures appear.	

2.6.1 Letter A – Responses to Comments from SCE

2.6.1.1 Letter A1a – Responses to Comments in SCE's Cover Letter

A1a-1 Comment noted. Specific text edits incorporating this change are shown below in Responses A1b-1 and A1b-6.

A1a-2 The Applicant states that the proposed temporary 12 kV distribution line that would need to be constructed between the Nuevo and Bunker Substations in order to implement Alternative 1 (Phased Construction) no longer would be required. Descriptions of this component have been removed. Specific text edits incorporating this change in Alternative 1 are shown below in Response A1b-15.

A1a-3 The Project design change to replace the initially proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 component of the Project with underground installation of telecommunications cable at and within the vicinity of the existing Alessandro Substation is discussed (and associated environmental effects are analyzed) in Section 2.5.

2.6.1.2 Letter A1b – Responses to Comments in SCE's Table

A1b-1 The first bullet on page ES-2, the first bullet on page 2-2, and the fourth bullet on page 3-3 of the Draft EIR are revised as follows:

> Serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014;

The first sentence under "Project Objectives" on page 3-8 is revised as follows:

> This alternative would meet the basic Project objectives, but could result in service to the Electrical Needs Area not beginning by ~~mid-2013~~ 2014.

The last sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.6-2 is revised as follows:

> The Project is designed to meet this projected need and has a planned operating date of ~~June 2013~~ 2014.

The second sentence of the last paragraph on page 6-13 is revised as follows:

> The objectives of the Project are to serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements and to improve the reliability and system operational flexibility within the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014.

A1b-2 In response to this comment, all references in the Draft EIR to the existing substations shall be understood to mean the Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations. However, this refinement does not affect the accuracy or adequacy of the analysis of

potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made to the text throughout the Draft EIR.

A1b-3 In response to this comment, references in the Draft EIR to "Avenue A" shall be understood to mean "A Avenue." However, the requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made to the text throughout the Draft EIR.

A1b-4 In response to this comment, references in the Draft EIR to "Reservoir Street" shall be understood to mean "Reservoir Avenue." However, the requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made to the text throughout the Draft EIR.

A1b-5 The definition of "SAC" on page x of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~Standard~~ Stranded Aluminum Conductor

A1b-6 See Responses A1b-1 and A1b-2. SCE's PEA is included in the Administrative Record for this Project and may be relied upon by decision-makers and members of the public to clarify why the existing temporary Model Pole Top Substation initially was constructed.

A1b-7 See Response A1b-4.

A1b-8 This proposed Project design change is discussed and analyzed in Section 2.5.

A1b-9 This proposed Project design change is discussed and analyzed in Section 2.5.

A1b-10 The third bullet on page ES-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

- Access road rehabilitation is proposed in case it becomes necessary to conduct Project work along the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line during installation of Fiber-Optic Cable Line Route 1 ~~3~~.

A1b-11 SCE has volunteered to implement a number of measures to address potential effects of the Project on various environmental resources. As explained on Draft EIR page ES-4, these Applicant Proposed Measures, or "APMs," are part of the Applicant's proposed Project; they are not Lead Agency-identified mitigation measures. The last sentence of APM Bio-2 on page ES-5 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Any significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the [Worker Environmental Awareness Plan (WEAP)] training described in Section ~~2.7.3~~ 3.9 of Chapter 3 [of the PEA].

A1b-12 APM Bio-3 on page ES-5 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> **APM Bio-3, Stephens' Kangaroo Rat:** A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted for the entire proposed Project. Protocol level

trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Source Line Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed Project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephens' kangaroo rat Surveys along Segments One, Two and Three and the Proposed Telecommunications Route. If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside 1996).~~

For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-3, including on Draft EIR pages 2-38 et seq., 4-4, 4.4-27, and 9-9.

A1b-13 The following is added to APM Bio-6 on page ES-6 of the Draft EIR:

In lieu of preparing the above-mentioned plan, SCE may participate in the MSHCP.

For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-6, including on Draft EIR pages 2-39, 4-4 et seq., 4.4-28, and 9-10.

A1b-14 APM Bio-7 on page ES-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

APM Bio-7, Avoidance of San Jacinto Valley Crownscale Populations: In order to avoid potential impacts to known populations of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be developed prior to construction to the extent feasible in the final Project Design ([see PEA] Figure 4.4-5). If impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would seek inclusion in the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to this species. ~~If significant impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, a biologist will be selected to prepare and implement a mitigation plan, which will include detailed descriptions of maintenance appropriate for the mitigation site, monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements, and will have the full authority to suspend any operation which is, in the biologist's opinion, not consistent with the mitigation plan. This plan will be submitted for review to the appropriate agencies.~~

For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-7, including on Draft EIR pages 2-40, 4-5, 4.4-28, and 9-10.

A1b-15 In its comments on the Draft EIR, SCE proposes revisions and suggests clarifications that, collectively, affect the conclusion reached in the Draft EIR that the Project is the Environmentally Superior Alternative. See, for example, Draft EIR Section ES.1 (p. ES-1), which declares that "this Draft EIR identifies the Project as the Environmentally Superior Alternative." See also Draft EIR pages ES-8 and 5-3, which report the same conclusion. Informed by data and other information received since the Draft EIR was issued, the CPUC has determined that Alternative 1, Phased Construction Alternative, is the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

The Draft EIR's identification of an Environmentally Superior Alternative was based on two things: differences in the intensity and duration of the significant impacts that would be caused by the Project and alternatives (as summarized in Draft EIR Table 5-2, p. 5-7 et seq.) and the ability of alternatives to meet most of the basic Project objectives (Draft EIR Section 5.3, p. 5-3).[9] The Project and each of the alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR met the basic Project objectives. Therefore, the Draft EIR's selection of the Environmentally Superior Alternative ultimately rested on distinctions among the Project and alternatives' potential effects. As disclosed in Draft EIR Section 7.1 (p. 7-1), implementation of the Project would cause a significant unavoidable effect on one resource area: Air Quality.

As analyzed in Draft EIR Sections 4.3 (p. 4.3-1 et seq.) and 6.2.3 (p. 6-10) the Project would result in significant unavoidable Project-specific and cumulative impacts relating to temporary, construction-related generation of NOx and PM10 emissions that could contribute substantially to violations of ozone and PM air quality standards. The analysis of Alternative 1 concludes that the implementation of Alternative 1 would reduce daily construction air emissions (Draft EIR Table 3-2, p. 3-6). See also the analysis on Draft EIR pages 4.3-21 and 4.3-22, which concludes that the "maximum daily NOx and PM10 emissions associated with Alternative 1 would be substantially reduced compared to the Project, and although emissions of NOx would be reduced to less-than-significant levels (compared to significant under the Project), emissions of PM10 would continue to be significant and unavoidable, similar to the Project." This is consistent with Draft EIR Table 5-2, which summarizes the environmental impact conclusions for the Project and alternatives (Draft EIR, p. 5-7). Table 5-2 reports that phasing construction as would occur under Alternative 1 would reduce the Project's significant unavoidable regional impact to NOx to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. (PM10 emissions under Alternative 1 would, similar to the Project, result in significant and unavoidable impacts to regional air quality and local sensitive receptors). Based on the reduction in the

9 As stated in Draft EIR Section 3.2.2 (p. 3-3), the "basic" objectives of this Project are to serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements and improve the reliability and system operational flexibility within the Electrical Needs Area. The Applicant's objective of beginning in mid-2013 to provide such service was not identified by the CEQA Team as a "basic" objective based on insufficient evidence in the record to support a conclusion that initially projected demand requirements continued to be accurate at the time of EIR development. Therefore, SCE Comments A1a-1 and A1b-6, which update the initial estimate for when the capacity at the Nuevo Substation would be exceeded from 2013 to 2014, have no effect on the selection of the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

significance of temporary, construction-related NOx impacts, Alternative 1 was determined to be preferred over the Project.

As stated in Draft EIR Section 5.1 (p. 5-2), "determining an Environmentally Superior Alternative is difficult because of the many factors that must be balanced." In the Draft EIR for this Project, the CPUC balanced Alternative 1's reduction in short-term NOx impacts, specifically a reduction in daily emissions, with the Project's overall air quality effects, concluding that the overall impacts Alternative 1 "would be greater than the Project because of the additional construction activities associated with the installation of the 12 kV distribution line. The CPUC has determined that the importance of reducing overall Project impacts outweighs the reduction of air quality daily emission associated with Alternative 1. Therefore, the Project would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative…." (Draft EIR, p. ES-8). To emphasize, the fact that the implementation of Alternative 1 would require additional construction activities associated with the installation of a 12 kV distribution line tipped the scales: with the construction-related air emissions associated with the construction of that line, the overall Air Quality impacts of Alternative 1 would be worse than the overall Air Quality impacts of the Project. Thus, the Project was determined to be the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

However, in Comment A1a-2 on the Draft EIR, the Applicant informs the CPUC that it since has determined that the 12 kV distribution line no longer would be required to implement Alternative 1. Without that line, the overall Air Quality effects of Alternative 1 would be reduced relative to those of the Project. Without the emissions that would be caused by the construction of the 12 kV distribution line, Alternative 1 is the Environmentally Superior Alternative. The Draft EIR has been revised to reflect this as follows:

The last line of Draft EIR Section ES.1 (p. ES-1) is revised as follows:

> Based on this evaluation and the documentation which follows, this Draft EIR identifies Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Paragraph three of Draft EIR Section ES.5 (p. ES-8) is revised as follows:

> Among the remaining alternatives, Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative. ~~Although~~ Alternative 1 would provide a reduction in short-term construction related impacts, specifically a reduction in daily emissions as well as reduced ~~, while avoiding placement of the relocated substation (Alternative 2) in a 100-year flood hazard zone, the~~ overall air quality impacts relative to ~~would be greater than~~ the Project ~~because of the additional construction activities associated with the installation of the 12 kV distribution line. The CPUC has determined that the importance of reducing overall Project impacts outweighs the reduction of air quality daily emission associated with Alternative 1~~. Therefore, Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative~~, followed by Alternative 1, then Alternative 2~~.

The first paragraph in Draft EIR Section 5.3, Environmentally Superior Alternative (p. 5-3 et seq.), is revised as follows:

> As discussed in the previous section, the Project and the alternatives would have significant and unavoidable impacts on air quality. The selection of an Environmentally Superior Alternative is based on differences in intensity and duration of significant impacts (Table 5-2) and the ability of the alternative to meet most of the basic Project objectives. Based on these differences, the identified Environmentally Superior Alternative is Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~.

The last paragraph on Draft EIR page 5-4 is revised as follows:

> Although Alternative 1 would still result in significant unavoidable air quality impacts, these impacts would be reduced compared to the Project. Additionally, ~~although Alternative 1 would result in reduced air quality impacts compared to the Project, these impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. While~~ Alternative 1 would meet the Applicant's project objective of serving the Electrical Needs Area by 2014~~, it would require an additional component of stringing a temporary 12 kV distribution line on existing facilities between Nuevo and Bunker substations. This additional component would result in the need for more vehicle trips and possibly new temporary lane closures. Moreover, it would result in additional short-term construction-related impacts to air quality, noise, and traffic and transportation. Although Alternative 1 would be preferred compared to the Project on the basis of air quality impacts, specifically daily thresholds, the overall air quality impacts would be greater than the Project since additional construction activities would be required to install a 12 kV distribution line. The CPUC has determined that the importance of reducing overall Project impacts outweighs the reduction of daily air quality emissions associated with Alternative 1.~~ Therefore, ~~the Project~~ Alternative 1 would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative~~, followed by the Project Alternative 1, then Alternative 2~~.

Draft EIR Section 5.4.2, Summary of the Environmentally Superior Alternative and Its Impacts (p. 5-5), is revised as follows:

> The Environmentally Superior Alternative is defined in Section 5.3 as Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~. Impacts of the Project are defined in each resource area's impact analysis in Sections 4.1, Aesthetics, through 4.18, Utilities and Service Systems, and are also summarized in **Table 5-2**. The Environmentally Superior Alternative would have significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality and meet all of the project objectives.

The first sentence of Draft EIR Section 5.4.3, Conclusion: Comparison of the Environmentally Superior Alternative with the No Project Alternative (p. 5-6) is revised as follows:

> The Environmentally Superior Alternative (Alternative 1 ~~Project~~) would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality.

A1b-16 Comment noted.

A1b-17 Table 1-1 on page 1-3 of the Draft EIR summarizes *potential* permit requirements that were determined to be possibly relevant based on information that was known when the Project was proposed and environmental review initiated. Mere inclusion in Table 1-1, without more, does not impose any independent or greater legal obligation on the Applicant than if it were not included. For example, identification in Table 1-1 does not transform a ministerial authorization into a discretionary one. The proposed clarification of the likeliness of various permit requirements based on the additional data and other information that has developed during the environmental review process is noted; however, no change has been made to Table 1-1.

A1b-18 See Response A1b-17.

A1b-19 The fourth sentence on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Existing wooden ~~distribution~~ poles would be removed and a combination of new wood poles and tubular steel poles (TSPs) would be constructed.

A1b-20 SCE's PEA is included in the Administrative Record for this Project and may be relied upon by decision-makers and members of the public to clarify the level of detail (i.e., planning level assumptions) upon which the Project Description is based. Reliance on planning level assumptions, rather than final engineering, is consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15004(b), which states that "[c]hoosing the precise time for CEQA compliance involves a balancing of competing factors. EIRs… should be prepared as early as feasible in the planning process to enable environmental considerations to influence project program and design and yet late enough to provide meaningful information for environmental assessment."

A1b-21 The following is added after the first paragraph on page 2-8 of the Draft EIR:

> Currently, there is potable water service available at the site; however, no feasible sewer service option is available. Therefore, a portable chemical unit would be placed within the substation perimeter wall, and maintained by an outside service company.

A1b-22 See Section 2.5 regarding the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project.

A1b-23 See Section 2.5 regarding the replacement of the initially proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 with newly proposed work in and near the existing Alessandro Substation.

A1b-24 Corrections to the internal cross-references are noted. However, the requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made to the text.

A1b-25 The first paragraph under Section 2.6.1.1 on page 2-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as requested. Because the slightly larger footprint of the proposed substation falls within survey boundaries and other geographic areas analyzed, these revisions do not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project. The Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Lakeview Substation would be a new, approximately ~~330~~ 395-foot by ~~345~~ 403-foot, 115/12 kV unattended, automated 56 MVA low-profile substation constructed on approximately ~~2.7~~ 3 acres of a 5.4-acre parcel located in unincorporated Riverside County. The substation site would be approximately 452 feet long by 525 feet wide. The remaining ~~2.7~~ 2.4 acres of the proposed site would allow for future street improvements and widening, street set-backs, safety buffers, and landscaping. **Figure 2-3**, *Proposed Substation Layout*, depicts the preliminary plan and profile views of the Lakeview Substation.

A1b-26 The Project Description relies on planning level assumptions, and not the precision of final engineering (see Response A1b-20). Accordingly, the Draft EIR relies on reasonable maximum limits such as "up to 100 feet long by 240 feet wide" so that decision-makers and members of the public may be assured that the EIR analyzes the full extent of potential effects. Nonetheless, the first sentence under "115 kV Switchrack" on page 2-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> One steel 115 kV switchrack, ~~up to~~ approximately 100 feet long by 240 feet wide by 36 feet high would be installed. The switchrack would consist of eight 30-foot-wide positions:

A1b-27 A revised figure showing the Applicant's proposed Project design changes is included in Section 2.5. This figure does not include the number of poles per segment; however, the change is noted. However, there is no indication that that this potential increase by one in the number of wood poles along Segment 1 would result in a corresponding increase in the overall total number of new subtransmission wood poles to be constructed (see Draft EIR Table 2-8, p. 2-25). Therefore, the analysis in the Draft EIR is not affected by the potential increase in the number of wood poles noted in this comment.

A1b-28 See Section 2.5.

A1b-29 It is clear from Response A1b-20 and the revision made in Response A1b-26 specifically with respect to the switchrack that measurements are approximations based on planning level design and not engineering level details. The requested change has not been made.

A1b-30 The transformer bank area is within the substation footprint. Refinements to measurements within the substation footprint do not extend beyond the area that was analyzed in the Draft EIR. In response to this comment, the second sentence under "Two 28 MVA, 115/12 kV Transformer" on page 2-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~The~~ Total transformer bank area would be approximately ~~80~~ 160 feet long by ~~52~~ 60 feet wide by ~~34.5~~ 35 feet high.

A1b-31 See Response A1b-4.

A1b-32 For clarification, the second sentence of the second paragraph on page 2-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> At full build out, the Lakeview Substation could accommodate sixteen ~~16~~ 12 kV distribution circuits.

A1b-33 The reduction in the total amount of acreage required for new ROW is noted. However, because the change results in a more conservative analysis (meaning that the analysis errs, if at all, toward overstating environmental impacts rather than understating them and so is more protective of the environment), the requested change has not been made.

A1b-34 See Section 2.5.

A1b-35 See Section 2.5.

A1b-36 The first sentence under Section 2.7.2 on page 2-14 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE conducted an initial geotechnical investigation report for the ~~Project~~ proposed substation site to determine the nature and engineering properties of the subsurface soils and to provide preliminary recommendations for site grading, foundation design, and construction.

A1b-37 The second bullet on page 2-15 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

- *Nesting Bird*: If Project construction activities would occur during the nesting season (February 15 – September 15), a qualified biologist would survey construction areas for active nests. If active nests are identified, a Project-specific nesting bird management plan would be developed and include appropriate buffers based on species specific biology and behavior. Additionally, reduction of buffers (as identified in the plan) would be based on recommendations of the biological monitors in the field and approved by the SCE project biologist. ~~construction activities would not occur within 200 feet of the active nest.~~

A1b-38 A fifth bullet is added under Section 2.8 on page 2-17 of the Draft EIR:

- Decommissioning of the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations.

A1b-39 The second paragraph under Section 2.8.1 on page 2-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> For the subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication line, access roads would parallel the poles and existing roads would be used where available. If rehabilitation is required for existing roads to accommodate construction activities, related activities could include: grading and repair, vegetation clearance and grubbing, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, re-compaction of the surface, and installation of drainage and erosion control devices, ~~and ensuring~~ to ensure a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, depending upon field construction).

A1b-40 The third paragraph under Section 2.8.1 on page 2-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> New roads (up to 3.5 miles) would be needed to access the new subtransmission source line segments, resulting in a disturbance of approximately ~~8.0~~ 5.94 acres. Construction of new access roads would include clearing the road alignments and grubbing them of vegetation, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, over-excavation, ~~and~~ re-compaction, and installation of drainage and erosion control devices. Like existing roads, new roads would be constructed to provide a minimum drivable width of 14 feet, preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side. Road gradients would be leveled so that any sustained grade would not exceed 12 percent. A 14 percent gradient would be permitted if grades do not exceed 40 feet in length and are located more than 50 feet from other excessive grades or any curves. Excess excavated material from grading the access roads would be properly disposed of off-site, if required (see Section 2.8.9.3).

A1b-41 The following is added to the first paragraph on page 2-18 of the Draft EIR:

> Final material selection and design would be determined during final engineering, and coordinated with local agencies.

A1b-42 The requested revisions result in less overall temporary and permanent land disturbance than was analyzed in the Draft EIR. As a result, the analysis in the Draft EIR would tend to overstate potential environmental impacts rather than understate them, and so is adequately protective of the environment. Table 2-2 on page 2-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

TABLE 2-2 (REVISED)
ESTIMATED LAND DISTURBANCE FOR ACCESS ROADS AND STAGING AREAS

Project Component	Linear Miles or Number of Sites	Disturbed Acreage Calculation (L x W)	Acreage Disturbed during Construction	Acres to be Restored	Acres Permanently Disturbed
New Access Roads	3.5 miles	Linear miles x 14' wide	~~5.1~~ 5.94	0	~~5.1~~ 5.94
Rehabilitation of Existing Access Roads for Subtransmission Lines	1.2 miles	Linear miles x 14' wide	Up to 2.0	0	Up to 2.0
Material and Equipment Staging Area for Subtransmission Lines	1	2.00 to 5.00 acres	2.0-5.0	2.0-5.0	0
Material and Equipment Staging area for Telecommunications	1	1 acre	1	1	0
Rehabilitation of Existing Access Roads for Telecommunications	~~8~~ 1 mile	Linear Miles x 14'	~~7.75~~ 0.7	0	~~7.75~~ 0.7

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a Table 3.4

A1b-43 The last paragraph on page 2-20 of the Draft EIR is revised as shown below. Changes to Table 2-8 on page 2-25 of the Draft EIR are shown in Response A1b-51.

> Laydown areas serve as temporary staging locations for subtransmission equipment and materials. Laydown areas would be located along the proposed subtransmission source line segments within SCE ROW or franchise. Once materials leave the marshalling yard, they would be delivered to pole or wire stringing locations along the proposed routes. Common materials temporarily stored in laydown areas include, but are not limited to: TSPs, wood poles, rebar cages, wire stringing equipment, and conductor reels. ~~Up to 90 laydown areaws would be required, each no larger than 20,000 square feet (typically 200 feet by 100 feet).~~ Information pertaining to the number and approximate size of laydown areas is provided in Table 2-8. The laydown areas would be prepared by clearing existing vegetation and grading (SCE, 2011). ~~Soils in the laydown areas would be stabilized as soon as practical after soil disturbing activities have occurred or one day prior to the onset of precipitation.~~

A1b-44 See Response A1b-43.

A1b-45 The paragraph under "Ground Grid" on page 2-21 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The ground grid consists of a series of bare copper conductor installed in trenches within the substation perimeter to ~~connect~~ ground the various components of the substation. A backhoe would be used to dig the trenches~~,~~ ~~which would be lined with concrete to house the conduit. Where below grade construction would occur (not in fill soil) the~~. The grid conductors are buried at a depth of 12 to 18 inches. Ground rods and ground electrodes may also be

required depending on soil conditions. The design of the ground grid would be based on soil resistivity measurements collected during the geotechnical investigation.

A1b-46 See Section 2.5.

A1b-47 The proposed revision is consistent with the analysis in the Draft EIR, and so the requested change has no effect on the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential direct, indirect, or cumulative Project impacts. The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 2-21 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Installation of substation equipment (including switchracks, the MEER, transformer banks, capacitor banks and ~~two~~ four TSPs) would require the construction of concrete foundations.

A1b-48 Footnote "a" of Table 2-5 on page 2-22 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Excavation "spoils" ~~would~~ may be permanently placed on site during the below-ground construction phase.

A1b-49 SCE remains subject to all otherwise applicable permit requirements, whether federal, state, or local; discretionary or ministerial, irrespective of the EIR. The last sentence of the third paragraph on page 2-23 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Prior to substation construction, SCE would obtain ~~a grading~~ permits from the County of Riverside as required, at which time a final site drainage plan would be determined.

A1b-50 The 15 additional days during which truck deliveries could be made do not affect the conclusions reached in the Air Quality, Noise, or Transportation and Traffic impact analyses (Draft EIR Sections 4.3, 4.13, and 4.17, respectively) because, even with the proposed addition of up to 135 new round trips on each of those 15 days, the Project would not increase air emissions, noise, or average daily traffic so as to exceed established thresholds. Similarly, the additional trips would generate a negligible increase in GHG emissions. The incremental increase in resulting emissions, which are calculated on an annual basis, would not affect the conclusions reached in Draft EIR Section 4.8 (p. 4.8-1 et seq.). Accordingly, the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 2-24 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> It would be delivered by trucks approximately 9 times per day for a total duration of ~~5~~ 20 days (potentially not consecutive) for Lakeview Substation construction (SCE, 2011).

A1b-51 The existence of the pull and tension sites called out in this comment were assumed in the environmental analysis based on the description of construction activities required

for the proposed telecommunications facilities (see Draft EIR Section 2.6.4, p. 2-13 et seq.). However, the request for clarification is noted. The reduction in potential disturbance associated with the 115 kV conductor stringing setup area-tensioner would reduce impacts relative to those analyzed in the Draft EIR, resulting in a more conservative (environmentally protective) analysis. Accordingly, Table 2-8 on page 2-25 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

TABLE 2-8 (REVISED)
ESTIMATED LAND DISTURBANCE FOR 115 KV SUBTRANSMISSION SOURCE LINES AND TELECOMMUNICATION LINES

Project Component	Number of Sites	Disturbed Acreage (Laydown Area) Calculation (L x W)	Acreage Disturbed during Construction	Acres to be Restored	Acres Permanently Disturbed
Guard Structure	8	50' x 75'	0.7	0.7	0
Removal of Existing Wood Poles	10	50' x 50'	0.6	0.6	0
Construction of New TSPs	17	200' x 100'	7.8	6.8	1
Construction of New Subtransmission Wood Poles	73	150' x 75'	18.9	15.2	3.7
115 kV Conductor Stringing Setup Area-Puller	4	200' x 100'	1.8	1.8	0
115 kV Conductor Stringing Setup Area-Tensioner	~~4~~ 3	200' x 100'	~~1.8~~ 1.0	~~1.8~~ 1.0	0
115 kV Conductor Stringing Splicing Setup Area	4	150' x 100'	1.4	1.4	0
Telecommunications Pull and Tension Sites	7	150' x 100'	2.4	2.4	0

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a Table 3-4

A1b-52 See Response A1b-51. The last sentence of the third paragraph on page 2-27 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> These activities generally require an area of approximately ~~50~~ 100 feet wide by ~~100~~ 200 feet long.

A1b-53 The first sentence under Section 2.8.5.6 on page 2-28 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Prior to removal of existing poles, the existing subtransmission lines, distribution lines and telecommunication lines (where applicable) would be transferred to the new poles; all remaining subtransmission, distribution and telecommunication ~~lines~~ facilities that are not reused by SCE would be removed (above- and below-ground) and delivered to a facility for recycling.

A1b-54 See Section 2.5.

A1b-55 The purpose of the reseeding effort has been clarified as requested: the last sentence on page 2-28 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Activities associated with restoration of these areas would include restoring original contours and reseeding with an appropriate seed mix for soil stabilization, to the extent feasible. All construction materials and debris would be removed from the area and recycled or properly disposed of offsite.

A1b-56 The Applicant remains subject to all otherwise applicable laws regardless independent of CEQA. To clarify this, the first sentence of the second paragraph under Section 2.8.6.2 on page 2-29 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Depending on the type, condition and original chemical treatment, wood poles removed from the site could be reused by SCE for other purposes, disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill consistent with the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Article 4, §25143.1.5. Hazardous wastes generated during site activities would be disposed at the properly permitted Class I hazardous landfill.

A1b-57 The last sentence on page 2-29 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Non-hazardous waste, including soil that is not used as fill, would be transported to one of the three Riverside County solid waste management facilities located within 30 miles of the substation site: The El Sobrante Landfill in Corona, the Badlands Sanitary Landfill in Moreno Valley, or the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Beaumont all have sufficient capacity to accommodate Project-related solid waste (CIWMB, 2011).

A1b-58 The third sentence of the fifth paragraph on page 2-30 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The temporary Model Pole Top Substation was installed at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and East Lakeview Avenue in ~~2007~~ 2009 to supplement capacity at the Nuevo Substation until a new substation project could be constructed to provide electrical service in the Electrical Needs Area.

A1b-59 Consistent with Draft EIR Table 2-5 (p. 2-22) and the environmental analysis, the last sentence of the fifth paragraph on page 2-32 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~No import or export of fill/soils would be necessary.~~

A1b-60 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-61 The second complete sentence on page 2-33 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE maintains an inspection frequency of the energized subtransmission overhead facilities a minimum of once per year via ground ~~and/or~~ observation with the option of aerial observation on alternate years.

A1b-62 The proposed increase in the number of gallons of water to be used per day during construction would be temporary. Because the Eastern Municipal Water District has a total annual water usage of 28.3 billion gallons,[10] Project-related water use, even in the increased amount, would not require new or expanded water supplies or entitlements. Accordingly, the conclusion that Project impacts related to Utilities and Service Systems-related CEQA significance criterion d) in Draft EIR Section 4.18.4 (p. 4.18-7) would remain less than significant. Regarding potential impacts of the increased truck trips to Traffic, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, see Response A1b-50. The last sentence of the second paragraph on page 2-33 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons per day would be necessary, and would be delivered to the site by water trucks ~~eight~~ 20 times a day (SCE, 2011).

A1b-63 The following footnote is added to "Fuel Type" in Table 2-9 on page 2-34 of the Draft EIR:

> Diesel fueled vehicles could be interchangeable with gasoline fueled vehicles as seen in this table based on contractor and/or equipment availability.

A1b-64 Portions of Table 2-9 beginning on page 2-36 are revised as set forth on the following page. Collectively, these changes add a total of 50 work days. See Response A1b-76.

A1b-65 See Response A1b-64.

A1b-66 See Response A1b-12.

A1b-67 See Responses A1b-13 and A1b-14.

A1b-68 See Response A1b-42.

A1b-69 See Response A1b-42.

[10] Eastern Municipal Water District, 2012. 2011 Consumer Confidence Report. Available online: http://www.emwd.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3488 (July 2012), p. 4.

TABLE 2-9 (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type[11]
115 kV Subtransmission Line Construction				
Survey (2 people)	13~~5~~	1/2-ton Pick-up Truck, 4x4	8	Gasoline
Marshalling Yard (4 people)	Duration of Project	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4	2	Diesel
		30 Ton Crane Truck	2	Diesel
		10,000lb Rough Terrain	5	Diesel
		Fork Lift		
		Truck, Semi, Tractor	1	Diesel
Right of Way Clearing (5 people)	14	1-ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	8	Diesel
		1 Road Grader	6	Diesel
		1 Water Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		1 Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		1 Lowboy Truck/Trailer	4	Diesel
Roads & Landing Work (5 people)	20	1-ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	2	Diesel
		1 Road Grader	4	Diesel
		1 Water Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		Drum Type Compactor	4	Diesel
		1 Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		Excavator	6	Diesel
		1 Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2	Diesel
Guard Structure Installation (6 People)	5~~2~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Truck Auger Truck Extendable Flat Bed Pole Truck 30 Ton Crane Truck 80 foot Hydraulic Manlift/Bucket Truck Backhoe/Front Loader	6 6 6 6 6 8 4 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Remove Existing Wood Poles (6 People)	5~~1~~	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4 10,000 lb Rough Terrain Forklift 30 Ton Crane Truck Compressor Trailer Flat Bed Truck/Trailer Backhoe/Front Loader	5 4 6 6 8 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Install TSP Foundation (7 people)	41~~34~~	1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 30 Ton Crane Truck Backhoe/Front Loader Auger Truck 4,000 Gallon Water Truck 10 cu. Yd. Dump Truck 10 cu. Yd. Concrete Mixer Truck	2 5 8 8 8 8 5	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Install Subtransmission Wood Poles (8 people)	28~~19~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane Backhoe/Front Loader	5 5 5 6 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel

11 Diesel fueled vehicles could be interchangeable with gasoline fueled vehicles as seen in this table based on contractor and/or equipment availability.

TABLE 2-9 (Continued) (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type
115 kV Subtransmission Line Construction (cont.)				
Steep Pole Haul (4 people)	9~~5~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane 40' Flat Bed Truck/Trailer	5 6 8	Diesel Diesel Diesel
Steel Pole Assembly	9~~6~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane	5 5 5 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Steel Pole Erection (8 people)	9~~6~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane	5 5 5 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Install Conductor (16 people)	15~~10~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Wire Truck/Trailer Dump Truck (trash) Bucket Truck 22 Ton Manitex Splicing Rig Splicing Lab 3 Drum Straw Line Puller Static Truck/Tensioner	8 8 2 2 8 8 2 2 6 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Guard Structure Removal (6 people)	4~~2~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer Extendable Flat Bed Pole Truck 30 Ton Crane Truck 80 Ft. Hydraulic Manlift/Bucket Truck Backhoe/Front Loader	6 6 6 6 8 4 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Restoration (7 people)	4	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4 Road Grader Water Truck Backhoe/Front Loader Drum Type Compactor Truck Type Dozer Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2 6 8 6 6 6 3	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Telecommunications Construction				
Control Building Communications Room (7 people)	10 1	2 Vans 1 Crew Truck	1 1	Gasoline Diesel
Overhead Cable Installation (8 people)	44	2 Bucket Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Splice Lab Truck 1 Crew Truck	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Underground Facility Installation (6 people)	20	2 Crew Trucks	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe	8	Diesel
		1 Flat Bed Truck	2	Diesel
		1 Stake Bed Truck Concrete Mixer	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Underground Cable Installation (6 people)	6	2 Reel Trucks	8	Diesel
		1 Splice Lab Truck 1 Crew Truck	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Optical Systems at Other Locations (6 people)	12	6 Vans	2	Gasoline

TABLE 2-9 (Continued) (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type
Telecommunications Construction (cont.)				
Roads & Landing Work (5 people)	~~116~~	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4	2	Diesel
		Road Grader	4	Diesel
		Water Truck	8	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		Drum Type Compactor	4	Diesel
		Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		Excavator	6	Diesel
		Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2	Diesel

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a

A1b-70 The Draft EIR makes clear the substantive effect of CPUC General Order 131-D with respect to local agencies' land use and planning jurisdiction. See Draft EIR, page 4-11-2. See also Draft EIR, pages 4.1-20, 4.2-4, 4.3-9, 4.4-24, 4.5-15, 4.6-5, 4.8-5, 4.9-10, 4.10-10, 4.11-7, 4.11-10, 4.12-1, 4.13-7, 4.13-9, 4.14-3, 4.15-4, 4.16-3, and 4.17-5. Because the Draft EIR adequately addresses the concern articulated in this comment, no change has been made to the Draft EIR in response to this comment.

A1b-71 Portions of Table 3-2 beginning on page 3-6 are revised as shown on the following page.

A1b-72 See Response A1b-71.

A1b-73 See Response A1b-71.

A1b-74 See Response A1b-71.

A1b-75 See Responses A1a-2 and A1b-15.

A1b-76 This comment states that SCE's calculations regarding the Alternative 1 construction schedule estimate that construction would occur over 24 months rather than 22 months, as stated in the Draft EIR. As shown on Table 3-3 on page 3-9, the estimated 22-month construction schedule is based on the number of days estimated for each component, and the assumptions used in estimating the schedule are given. As shown in Response A1b-64, above, the number of work days for several construction activities has been revised, resulting in a total construction period of approximately 24 months. However, the additional days during which construction activities could occur do not affect the conclusions reached in the Draft EIR because, even with the proposed addition of up to 50 days or 2 months of construction, the Project would not increase air emissions, noise, or average daily traffic so as to exceed established thresholds, or substantially increase other environmental effects. See Response A1b-50. Because the requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, it has not been made.

TABLE 3-2 (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING ANALYSIS – LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Alternative	Project Objectives Criteria	Feasibility Criteria	Environmental Criteria
Passes Screening			
Alternative 1: Phased Construction • Revises the proposed construction schedule to preclude overlapping activities as necessary for construction-related air emissions to remain below SCAQMD-established significance thresholds for NO_x (100 lbs/day) and PM10 (150 lbs/day). ~~• Approximately 2-3 miles of new 12 kV distribution line would be constructed from the Bunker Substation to the Nuevo Substation. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that this distribution line would be strung or undergrounded on/within existing facilities. Addition of this distribution line would allow for up to 6 MVA of electrical demand to be transferred from the Nuevo Substation to provide enough capacity for the Electrical Needs Area through 2015 (SCE, 2011a).~~	Meets most Project objectives.	Meets feasibility criteria.	Meets these criteria. Aesthetics: no change anticipated. Noise: construction noise impacts would be similar and operational noise impacts would be the same as under the Project. Air Quality: would reduce daily construction air emissions. ~~Noise: construction and operational noise impacts would be the same as under the Project.~~ ~~New Impacts: Placement of the temporary distribution line could result in new impacts related to air quality, noise, and transportation and traffic.~~
Alternative 2: Relocated Substation • The alternative substation site would be: - Adjacent to (and northwest of) the proposed substation site. - Like the proposed site, the alternative substation site would be adjacent to the planned extension of 10th Street along the existing parcel boundary. - The alternative substation site also would be adjacent to planned "Avenue A" shown on the Assessor's parcel map and delineated between fields on Project figures. - SCE does not own, control access to, or have an existing right to construct and operate a substation on the alternative substation site. Rights would have to be obtained. • The alternative subtransmission line route would: - Run adjacent to "Avenue A" instead of Reservoir Avenue - Not change the location of the proposed alignment running southwest-southeast down 10th and 11th Streets, but would reduce the distance of the runs by approximately ~~2,900~~1,320 feet per segment. - Substantially maintain the contiguity of existing single ownership by separating seven parcels from one parcel rather than bisecting four parcels from four parcels. - Require ~~3-5 fewer~~ the same number of TSPs to be constructed at the proposed substation site - Require 3-5 fewer wood poles along 11th Street between Reservoir Avenue and the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line - Require new ROW along "Avenue A" between 10th and 11th Streets - Be installed aboveground	Meets most Project objectives.	Meets feasibility criteria.	Meets environmental criteria, although some impacts may be similar to the Project but would merely occur in a different location. Aesthetics: would decrease visual impacts for local motorists and residents along the western edge of Lakeview, but would increase visual impacts for San Jacinto River trail users and motorists on Ramona Expressway. Agricultural: would disturb less Farmland than the Project during both construction and operation Air Quality: daily construction air emissions would be approximately the same; however, local impacts to a residence along 11th Street would be reduced. Noise: would lessen construction and operational noise impacts New Impacts: The relocated Substation would be constructed in a flood zone.

A1b-77 The sixth sentence under Section 3.4.2 on page 3-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The subtransmission line segments along 10th and 11th ~~streets~~ Streets would proceed as proposed for the Project but would not run between "A Avenue ~~A~~" and Reservoir Avenue on 10th or 11th Streets, and as a result the subtransmission line routes for this alternative would be approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet shorter for each segment ~~overall~~ than for the Project.

A1b-78 The second paragraph on page 3-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~***Potential New Impacts Created***~~
>
> ~~Placement of the temporary distribution line between the Nuevo and Bunker Substations under Alternative 1 would result in an increase in vehicle trips and potential new temporary lane closures, resulting in increased air pollutant emissions, noise effects near sensitive land uses, and transportation and traffic impacts.~~

A1b-79 The requested revisions to Figure 3-1 are noted; however, changes requested would not affect the analysis or conclusions of the Draft EIR. Therefore, the figure has not been revised.

A1b-80 See Section 2.5.

A1b-81 The referenced excerpt does not claim that Alternative 2 would reduce NOx and PM10 construction-related emissions to less-than-significant levels, but accurately states that these emissions would be reduced under Alternative 2 when compared to the emissions of the proposed Project. The requested revision has not been made.

A1b-82 The first sentence of the second paragraph on page 3-13 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Distributed generation is electricity production that is on-site or close to the load center that could be interconnected at ~~16 kV~~ distribution, subtransmission, or transmission system voltages.

A1b-83 See Section 2.5.

A1b-84 See Responses A1b-13 and A1b-14.

A1b-85 See Response A1b-14.

A1b-86 See Section 2.5.

A1b-87 See Section 2.5.

A1b-88 See Section 2.5.

A1b-89 The first sentence under "Lakeview Substation Site" on page 4.1-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Lakeview Substation Site is located in an agricultural field ~~northwest~~ southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Reservoir Avenue.

A1b-90 The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.1-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The only relevant County-eligible scenic roadway in the visual study area is the Ramona Expressway, which is ~~designated~~ eligible as a scenic corridor by Riverside County due to its open and unobstructed views of the surrounding hills, the San Jacinto River, and surrounding agricultural land.

For consistency, conforming clarifying revisions are made to the first sentence under Impact 4.1-1 on page 4.1-25 of the Draft EIR.

A1b-91 The last sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.1-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> However, the visual sensitivity of the Project as viewed from parks and trails is generally in the moderate-to-high range due to the ~~change~~ relatively close range from which the Project would be seen.

A1b-92 Figure 4.1-8 has been revised to include the portion of the simulated subtransmission line that inadvertently was omitted in the Draft EIR. This figure is included in Chapter 3, *Revisions to the Draft EIR*.

A1b-93 The last sentence on page 4.1-24 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Because the fiber optic cables would not be visible or would follow existing or proposed utility lines, the telecommunications facilities would have a less-than-significant impact with respect to all visual resources significance criteria.

A1b-94 See Response A1b-90.

A1b-95 See Section 2.5.

A1b-96 The typographical error is noted. However, the requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made.

A1b-97 See Section 2.5.

A1b-98 The fourth sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.1-28 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Although there are several existing subtransmission and distribution ~~lines~~ structures (or facilities) visible from the San Jacinto River corridor, the new subtransmission source line would be located in an area that currently features minimal visual clutter (i.e., straight, geometric and complex forms and lines).

A1b-99 The last sentence of the second paragraph on page 4.1-28 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter with green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings.

A1b-100 The last sentence of the fourth paragraph on page 4.1-29 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter, thereby placing green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings and discouraging graffiti.

A1b-101 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-102 The first complete sentence on page 4.1-32 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~At the proposed Lakeview Substation site~~ For the Project, this is likely to reduce the number of personnel, vehicles, and machinery operating at any one time, thereby reducing the visual clutter and activity of an active construction site, but is not likely to reduce the general visual presence of cleared ground, fencing, material stockpiles or construction-related equipment.

A1b-103 The third sentence of the second paragraph on page 4.1-32 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Under Alternative 2, the proposed Lakeview Substation would be located approximately ~~0.250~~ 0.125 mile further away from the affected local roads and residences, thereby significantly reducing the level of visual impact from KOPs 5, 6, 7 and 8.

To maintain consistency, corresponding changes have been made to the first sentence on Draft EIR page 4.4-36, the first sentence under “Alternative 2” on Draft EIR page 4.5-26, the first sentence of the third paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.7-18, the first

sentence under "Alternative 2" on Draft EIR page 4.9-18, and the first sentence under "Alternative 2" on Draft EIR page 4.10-23.

A1b-104 The editorial error is noted. The last sentence on page 4.1-33 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~As such, while the No Project Alternative would result in reduced impacts compared to the Project, impacts would remain less than significant.~~

A1b-105 See Section 2.5.

A1b-106 For greater consistency with the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's definition of "Prime Farmland," the following is added on page 4.2-2 of the Draft EIR:

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

A1b-107 For greater consistency with the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's definition of "Unique Farmland," the following is added on page 4.2-2 of the Draft EIR:

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

A1b-108 For greater consistency with the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's definition of "Farmland of Statewide Importance," the following is added on page 4.2-2 of the Draft EIR:

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

A1b-109 The period of acreage changes in Table 4.2-1 on page 4.2-2 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~2004-2006~~ 2006-2008

A1b-110 See Section 2.5.

A1b-111 See Response A1b-70. Further, the first sentence under "Riverside County General Plan" on the preceding page (Draft EIR, p. 4.2-4) states that "local land use regulations would not apply to the Project." Therefore, no revision has been made in response to this comment.

A1b-112 The temporary impacts to designated Farmland to accommodate proposed construction activities could remove from production approximately 17.4 acres of Prime Farmland,

2.4 acres of Unique Farmland, and 4.4 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance for a longer period of time than the duration of the construction work itself. For example, removal of crops to accommodate the construction of access roads, pull boxes and other facilities could take the affected area out of production for one or more rotations/ seasons. Accordingly, Impact 4.2-1 and Mitigation Measures (4.1-2a and 4.1-2b) are appropriate. Furthermore, construction activities could result in permanent damage to the quality of Farmland sites and soils. Therefore, Impact 4.2-1 and Mitigation Measures 4.1-2a and 4.1-2b are required to ensure that temporarily disturbed areas are maintained in a manner that protects Farmland during construction, and facilitates the return of Farmland to agricultural production upon construction completion.

For a discussion of the applicability of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ), see Draft EIR Section 4.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*. As stated on Draft EIR page 4.10-8, "The SWPPP must include measures to ensure that all pollutants and their sources are controlled; non-stormwater discharges are identified and either eliminated, controlled, or treated; site BMPs are effective and result in the reduction or elimination of pollutants in stormwater discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges; and BMPs are installed to reduce or eliminate pollutants after construction are completed and maintained." Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a is required in addition to implementation of the SWPPP, to ensure that agriculture-specific impacts are addressed in the EIR, including topsoil replacement, avoidance of over-compaction of topsoil, removal of construction debris, and other measures to ensure that the quality of soil is maintained.

Regarding the comment that SCE will dispose of any excess soil at an appropriately licensed waste facility, the commenter is referred to the first bullet under Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a. In lieu of returning surface and subsurface layers to their appropriate locations in the soil profile on-site, SCE may work with individual property owners to develop a different method for the disposition of topsoil that is impacted on private property, assuming a mutual agreement may be reached. This may include disposal of soil at appropriately licensed waste facilities.

In consideration of the comment pertaining to engineering requirements for soil densities, the second bullet of Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a on p.4.2-7 of the Draft EIR has been modified as follows:

- To avoid over-compaction of the top layers of soil, monitor pre-construction soil densities and return the surface soil (approximately the top 3 feet) to within 5 percent of original density, except where higher soil density is necessary to meet engineering requirements ~~for tower foundations within the tower buffer zone~~.

The comment further states that the third bullet under Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a, requiring SCE to avoid working or traveling on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil structure, is infeasible. The CPUC intended that Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b

and Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a be read together, and not that they conflict. To harmonize the two, the implication in Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a that SCE avoid working or traveling *unnecessarily* on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil is made express by this revision of the third bullet point on Draft EIR page 4.2-7:

- Avoid working or traveling unnecessarily on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil structure.

Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a primarily applies to those circumstances (such as after heavy rains) when working or traveling on wet soil could result in unnecessary soil compaction and loss of soil structure. As clarified, this component of Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a addresses that concern.

SCE's comment that they may work with individual property owners to develop a different method for disposition of topsoil that is impacted on private property is noted.

A1b-113 See Section 2.5.

A1b-114 Regarding the necessity of Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b, see Response A1b-112. The comment that states that "growing season" may vary depending on crop type and the particular landowner is noted.

In consideration of the comment that SCE does not perform crop replacement for liability reasons, the second bullet under Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b on p. 4.2-8 of the Draft EIR has been modified as follows:

- Either ~~S~~supply replacement crops and trees, or financial compensation for the value of replacement crops and trees, to the landowner at a mitigation ratio of one to one (1:1), upon completion of construction. ~~Coordinate planting of replacement crops and trees with landowners.~~

A1b-115 The comment states that the numbers listed in Draft EIR Table 4.2-3 (page 4.2-8) are inconsistent with corresponding numbers in the Applicant's PEA, and requests confirmation of the total numbers of disturbed acres for Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance.

For permanent disturbance from road and substation construction, the numbers in the Draft EIR are the same as the corresponding numbers in the PEA. However, the Draft EIR acreage of agricultural disturbance from poles is lower than the corresponding acreage in the PEA, because the Applicant did not provide exact locations of pole placement. As stated in footnote c of Table 4.2-3 (page 4.2-8), "This analysis assumes that the distribution of subtransmission line poles would be evenly placed along the entire transmission corridor, since exact pole placement will not be determined until final engineering." Specifically, Draft EIR calculations are based on an assumption that the Project would install 73 wood poles and 17 TSPs. Wood poles were estimated to be placed at equal intervals along the source line, with a 10-foot radius of permanent

disturbance. General TSP locations were determined from Figure 3.2 of the PEA, assuming a 25-foot radius of permanent disturbance around the pole. From this analysis it was determined that 22 wood poles and 11 TSPs would be located in *Prime Farmland*, 11 wood poles would be located in *Farmland of Statewide Importance*, and 8 wood poles would be located in *Unique Farmland*.

The totals listed in Draft EIR Table 4.2-3 are correct and may not match individual component values due to rounding.

A1b-116 The following footnote has been added under Draft EIR Table 4.2-3 (page 4.2-8):

> [d] Totals may not match values shown in the table due to rounding.

A1b-117 The language in Mitigation Measure 4.2-2 on page 4.2-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> 1) SCE shall ~~grant a~~ acquire farmland and shall establish an easement for the portion of the land that will no longer be used for agricultural land equal to the acreage converted (i.e., 7.9 acres). This land shall be in an area designated for long-term future agricultural use; or

A1b-118 As stated in footnote a of Table 4.2-3 (page 4.2-8), "All numbers are approximate, and rounded to one decimal point." Also, as explained in Responses A1b-115 and A1b-116, totals may not match values shown in the table due to rounding. Rounding of the sum of the original data to the nearest first decimal point indicates a total permanent disturbance of 7.9 acres of Farmland, which is consistent with the analysis in the Draft EIR.

A1b-119 See Section 2.5.

A1b-120 See Section 2.5.

A1b-121 See Section 2.5.

A1b-122 See Section 2.5.

A1b-123 The characterization of the Project as growth-accommodating as opposed to growth-inducing is consistent with the analysis of potential Project impacts to other resource areas. See, for example, Draft EIR page 4.3-14 relating to Air Quality, which states that "the Project would not induce or cause long-term population growth, and therefore would not affect population growth assumptions that were considered when the 2007 AQMP was developed," and the analysis of Population and Housing Impact 4.14.1, which concludes on Draft EIR page 4.14-5 that the Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Accordingly, the first paragraph on page 4.2-11 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> In addition, there would not be ~~a less-than-significant~~ an impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth caused by the Project. The Project is proposed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area because existing facilities would not meet forecasted, long-term electrical demand. Therefore, the Project would not induce growth but instead is designed to respond to existing growth and demand trends, and therefore would not be expected to substantially induce or exacerbate conversion of agricultural land. ~~Impacts would be less than significant.~~

For consistency within the analysis of potential effects to Agriculture and Forestry Resources and based on the same rationale supporting the revision to the Project-specific analysis above, the third paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.2-12, analyzing the potential effects of Alternative 1 on Agriculture and Forestry Resources, and the first paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.2-13, analyzing the potential effects of Alternative 3 on Agriculture and Forestry Resources, are revised, respectively, as follows:

> In addition, Alternative 1 would have no ~~a less-than-significant~~ impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth, because the provision of electricity would be the same as for the Project.

> In addition, Alternative 2 would have no ~~a less-than-significant~~ impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth, because the provision of electricity would be the same as for the Project.

A1b-124 Recommended mitigation measures demand neither the impossible nor the infeasible. Accordingly, the requested clarification to the last sentence under Mitigation Measure 4.2-3 on page 4.2-11 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> In lieu of implementing the above requirements, SCE shall have the option of negotiating agreements with any affected landowner(s) that shall enable the landowner(s), to the extent practicable, to effect their own irrigation and/or drainage system changes in a manner consistent with the landowner's farming practices and plans.

A1b-125 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-126 The commenter correctly states that Alternative 2 would not require 0.54 mile less of new access road. In fact, Alternative 2 would require 0.12 mile less of new access road, and 0.43 mile less of rehabilitated access road, for a net difference of 0.55 mile less road than the Project. The second sentence of the first paragraph under "Alternative 2" on page 4.2-12 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Construction of Alternative 2 would cause temporary disturbance to Farmland similar to the Project, but because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 2,640 feet and Alternative 2 would require 3 to 5

> fewer wood poles and ~~0.54 fewer~~ 0.55 mile less of rehabilitated and new access roads, the total temporary disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Farmland of Statewide Importance*, and *Unique Farmland* would be slightly less than the Project.

The second sentence of the second paragraph under "Alternative 2" on page 4.2-12 is revised as follows:

> However, because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 2,640 feet and Alternative 2 would require 3 to 5 fewer wood poles and ~~0.54 fewer~~ 0.55 mile less of rehabilitated and new access roads, the total permanent disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Unique Farmland*, and *Farmland of Statewide Importance* would be slightly less than the Project.

A1b-127 See Response A1b-126.

A1b-128 As stated in the second paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.3-7, the South Coast Air Basin is classified as nonattainment of state and federal air quality standards for ozone, PM10, and PM2.5, and classified as nonattainment of the state air quality standards for NO_2. The Project area is classified as attainment of the state and federal standards for CO and the other criteria pollutants; therefore, the standards for these pollutants are not exceeded in the Project area and there is no need to document the ambient emissions concentrations for these pollutants in Table 4.3-1.

A1b-129 See Section 2.5.

A1b-130 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-131 The quoted regulatory exemptions apply whether the regulatory setting summarizes them or not. Because the requested additional language, if added, would not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis in the Draft EIR, the change has not been made.

A1b-132 Specific information related to the basis for the standards relative to their averaging times is not required for this level of analysis. Because the requested additional language, if added, would not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis in the Draft EIR, the change has not been made.

A1b-133 "Regulation IV-Prohibitions, Rule 402-Nuisance," on page 4.3-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> This rule prohibits the discharge of air contaminants or other material, including odorous material, in quantities that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public.

A1b-134 It is true that CARB released new mobile source emission factor modeling tools in September 2011 for the evaluation of tail-pipe emissions from on-road vehicles and off-road equipment, and that the new models account for updated fleet inventories and

regulatory changes. It also is true that the new models were not used in the analysis of environmental effects in the Draft EIR based on the timing of the analysis. However, it is not necessary to revise the Draft EIR to add this language. Accordingly, the requested revision has not been made.

A1b-135 See Section 2.5.

A1b-136 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-137 See Section 2.5.

A1b-138 The following sentence has been added to the first paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.3-16 to describe the control efficiencies that were used in the fugitive dust emissions estimates.

> It should be noted that the PM10 emissions estimates presented in Table 4.3-6 factor in emission reductions that would be achieved by implementing the BACMs, which are general in nature to offer flexibility in implementation. Fugitive dust PM10 emission estimates include control efficiencies of 57 percent, 61 percent, and 90 percent for limiting vehicle speed on unpaved roads and surfaces; watering during ground disturbance activities such as bulldozing, scraping, and grading activities; and watering soil storage piles, respectively. To ensure that the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust BACMs are properly implemented during Project construction activities in a manner that reduces fugitive dust emissions to the extent feasible, SCE shall implement Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b, which would require SCE to develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that would specifically describe how implementation of each of the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust BACMs would be successfully achieved in the field.

A1b-139 Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a has been revised based on recommendations provided by SCE and SCAQMD (see Responses A1b-40 and B3-3). The revised measure requires SCE to make a good faith effort to use model year 2010 and newer diesel trucks for construction hauling as well as to make a good faith effort to use available construction equipment that meets the highest certified tiered emission standards. However, it may not be practical or feasible for the SCE to use such trucks and equipment exclusively due to equipment availability in the Project area. Therefore it is not possible to accurately estimate the construction emission reductions that would be associated with implementation of revised Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a.

It should be noted that even if all construction equipment used for the Project would meet tier 3 standards and all trucks would be model year 2010 or newer, NO_x and PM10 construction exhaust emissions would only be reduced by 63 percent and 45 percent, respectively (SCAQMD, 2012a), assuming that model year 2010 trucks have the same control efficiency as tier 3 off-road equipment. These rates would still not reduce construction NO_x and PM10 emissions to a level that would be considered less than significant.

The following reference has been added to Draft EIR page 4.3-24:

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), 2012a. Table II - Off-Road Engine Emission Rates Comparison of Uncontrolled to Tiered Rates and Tiered to Tiered Rates. Webpage (http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/ FleetRules/ 1186.1Sweepers/index.htm) accessed July 27, 2012.

A1b-140 Based on this comment and SCAQMD recommendations, Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a has been revised to require SCE to make a good faith effort to use the highest USEPA-certified tiered construction equipment available (see Response B3-3).

A1b-141 The editorial error is noted. The second sentence under "Significance after Mitigation" on page 4.3-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> As noted above, implementation of the ~~BAAQMD~~ SCAQMD fugitive dust BACMs have been factored into the emission estimates presented in Table 4.3-6; therefore, further reductions in PM10 emissions through implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b (Fugitive Dust Control Plan) cannot be substantiated.

A1b-142 See Section 2.5.

A1b-143 See Section 2.5.

A1b-144 The Nuevo Substation demolition maximum allowable emissions row in Draft EIR Table 4.3-8 has been revised as follows to show the correct maximum allowable emissions value.

TABLE 4.3-8
CONSTRUCTION LOCALIZED SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

Project Component	CO	NO_x	PM10	PM2.5
Nuevo Substation Demolition Emissions (lbs/day)	28	6	1	<0.5
Maximum Allowable Emissions (lbs/day)[c]	1,059	~~201~~ 116	16	5
Exceedance?	No	No	No	No

A1b-145 See Section 2.5.

A1b-146 The requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made.

A1b-147 The requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made.

A1b-148 The header row for REVISED Table 5 on page C-3 of Draft EIR Appendix C has been further revised as follows to correctly indicate the units for the daily onsite emissions column.

REVISED Table 5
Construction Emissions
Localized Significance Threshold Analysis

Pollutant	Daily onsite Emissions (lb/~~lbs~~ day)	Receptor Distance (m)	Allowable Emissions Interpolation					
			Distance 1 (m)	Emissions 1 (lb/day)	Distance 2 (m)	Emissions 2 (lb/day)	Interpolated Emissions (lb/day)	Allowable Exceeded ?

A1b-149 The Distribution Civil row of Table C-1 in Draft EIR Appendix C page C-9 has been revised as follows to correctly indicate the basis for the number dump trucks.

Dump Truck	HHDT	4	Based on 315 CY (Table 3.1) over 9 days and 10 CY/truck: ~~450~~ 315 / 9 / 10

A1b-150 The first item under the fifth bullet on page 4.4-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

- Focused biological reports that considered the potential presence or absence, and distribution of sensitive resources in the study area, including:
  - special-status plants (BonTerra, 2010b, 2011b);

The following is added to the References on page 4.4-37 of the Draft EIR:

BonTerra, 2011b. Results of the 2011 Special-Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation Project, Prepared for Southern California Edison, October 2011.

A1b-151 The fifth sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.4-2 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Portions of SCE's existing ~~Lakeview~~ Valley-Moval ~~155~~ 115 kV Subtransmission Line are adjacent to or within the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, which is principally located east of the subtransmission line (CDFG, 2011b).

A1b-152 See Section 2.5.

A1b-153 The editorial error in the third sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.4-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

The San Jacinto River is spanned by each of the proposed subtransmission source line segments, the new alternative subtransmission source line alignment associated with Alternative 2, and by Fiber-Optic Cable Route ~~2~~ 1, which would connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the Bunker-Nelson fiber-optic cable.

A1b-154 See Section 2.5.

A1b-155 See Section 2.5.

A1b-156 Table 4.4-2 (p. 4.4-14) is revised to reflect the findings of protocol-level botanical surveys for San Jacinto Valley crownscale in the Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2 (BonTerra, 2010b) as follows:

> ~~Present. Occurs in the alignment near the San Jacinto River.~~ Low potential, not found during surveys.

A1b-157 The third paragraph on page 4.4-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> … Suitable habitat for this species occurs in seasonal pools near the San Jacinto River; however, these areas are not in the study area for the proposed project or alternatives (SCE, 2010, pg. 4.4-10). A 2010 Riverside fairy shrimp habitat assessment performed by BonTerra (2010f) identified no suitable habitat for this species within the footprint of the proposed Project. Designated critical habitat for this species does not occur in the study area for the project or alternatives (USFWS 2001; 2004b).

A1b-158 The first paragraph on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Numerous occurrences are reported in the study area (CDFG, 2011) and this species was detected along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 during focused surveys for the Project (BonTerra, 2010d; 2011).

A1b-159 The fifth paragraph on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> This species is documented by CDFG in the San Jacinto River corridor within Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~ (CDFG, 2011; BonTerra, 2010b).

A1b-160 The following section is added after the last paragraph of the section *Local* on Draft EIR page 4.4-25, to describe the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Stephens' kangaroo rat:

> **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Stephens' Kangaroo Rat**
>
> The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Stephens' kangaroo rat in Western Riverside County is administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. The area covered by the plan includes 533,954 acres in western Riverside County, roughly corresponding to the historic range of the Stephens' kangaroo rat. The HCP permits the lawful "take" of this species consistent with state and federal permitting obligations under the HCP.

A1b-161 As indicated in the sentence preceding the suggested revision, "local land use regulations would not apply to the Project." Therefore, no revision is required in response to this comment. See also, Response A1b-70.

A1b-162 See Section 2.5. Also, the first sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Designated critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on ~~the~~ Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~.

A1b-163 See Response A1b-12.

A1b-164 See Responses A1b-13 and A1b-14.

A1b-165 SCE's PEA is included in the Administrative Record for this Project and may be relied upon by decision-makers and members of the public to summarize in table format the potential impacts to habitat communities in the Project area. Nonetheless, the information and analysis provided in Draft EIR Table 4.4-1 (pg. 4.4-4) is revised as shown on the following page.

The first sentence of the first full paragraph on Page 4.4-33 is modified as follows:

> One CDFG sensitive natural community~~ies~~ occurs in the Project area and would be impacted by the Project. ~~Less than~~ Approximately ~~0.01~~ 0.20 acre of ~~Riversidean sage scrub and disturbed Riversidian sage scrub~~ alkali grassland occurs in association with the San Jacinto River corridor and would be impacted on the proposed Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2 ~~on the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and would be impacted~~ (SCE, 2010; pp. 4.4-89 and 4.4-93).

A1b-166 See Section 2.5 regarding the elimination of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project. The third paragraph on page 4.4-30 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE would avoid known special-status plant populations through general plant protection measures (APM-Bio-6), and avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations (APM-Bio-7); however, if avoidance of these species is not possible by applying applicable APMs, SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP, therefore, impacts to critical habitat ~~to~~ would be less than significant.

A1b-167 See Section 2.5.

A1b-168 The first sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Designated critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on ~~the~~ Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~.

TABLE 4.4-1 (REVISED)
VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IN THE PROJECT AREA

Project Component	Vegetation Type	Area (acres)[a]	Project Impact (acres)[b]
Proposed Lakeview Substation	Agriculture	7.09	7.09
	Disturbed	0.98	0.98
	Subtotal Area	**8.07**	**8.07**
Proposed Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 & 2	Alkali Grassland	0.77	0.20
	Annual Grassland	0.22	0.22
	Alkali Scrub Playa	0.29	0.00
	Disturbed Alkali Scrub Playa	0.03	0.00
	Southern Willow Scrub	0.06	0.00
	Ruderal	1.03	1.03
	Agriculture	26.60	26.60
	Ornamental	0.21	0.21
	Detention Basin	0.19	0.00
	Disturbed	8.40	8.40
	Developed	0.84	0.00
	Subtotal Area	**38.35**	**36.44**
Proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Routes	Annual Grassland	50.88	0.22
	Alkali Grassland	0.77	0.00
	Riversidean Sage Scrub	3.68	0.00
	Disturbed Riversidean Sage Scrub	5.42	0.00
	Ruderal	13.85	2.00
	Agriculture	23.97	14.96
	Ornamental	1.16	0.07
	Irrigation Ditch	1.22	0.00
	Disturbed	30.15	5.83
	Developed	12.08	0.57
	Subtotal Area	**143.18**	**23.65**
	Total Area:	**189.60**	**68.36**
Alternative 2: Relocated Substation	Agriculture	10.60	10.60
	Disturbed	1.13	1.13
	Developed	0.01	0.01
	Subtotal Area	**11.74**	**11.74**
Alternative Subtransmission Segment 2	Developed	0.57	0.57
	Ruderal	1.71	1.71
	Agriculture	0.79	0.79
	Disturbed	4.11	4.11
	Ornamental	0.07	0.07
	Subtotal Area	**7.25**	**7.25**
	Alternative Project Total Area:	**18.99**	**18.99**

a Acreage figures presented in Figure 4.4-1 include a 50-foot study buffer on linear facilities such as proposed subtransmission source line segments and fiber optic cable routes. The acreage figures for the proposed and alternative substation sites correspond to the footprint of proposed facilities.

b The Project impact does not include Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, which was removed from the Project Description.

SOURCE: SCE, 2010, pp. 4.4-87, 4.4-89, 4.4-93, 4.4-98, and 4.4-101

A1b-169 The first paragraph of Impact 4.4-2 on page 4.4-31 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> In addition to known occurrences of Stephen's kangaroo rat in the Project area, potential habitat for this species was identified in portions of Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2 and 3~~. Habitat for this species does not occur at the proposed Lakeview Substation site. SCE performed protocol-level trapping surveys for the Stephen's kangaroo rat and it was determined that there is a presence of the species along Subtransmission Line Segment 1 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1. ~~would have a qualified biologist perform a habitat assessment for Stephen's kangaroo rat along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, 2 and 3 (APM-BIO-3). If potential habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat were to be identified, SCE would perform protocol-level trapping surveys. All the fiber-optic cable routes are~~ The Project is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, ~~if suitable habitat for this species were found,~~ a fee ~~would~~ will be paid in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority (APM-Bio-3). ~~to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys. Additionally, a qualified biological monitor would supervise and assist construction crews to minimize impacts within potential habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat.~~ Therefore, impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat would be less than significant.

A1b-170 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated into Response A1b-169.

A1b-171 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated into Response A1b-169.

A1b-172 The fourth bullet on page 4.4-32 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~• Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions~~

A1b-173 See Section 2.5.

A1b-174 The second sentence of the second paragraph on page 4.4-33 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Portions of the San Jacinto River would be spanned by Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2~~.

A1b-175 See Section 2.5.

A1b-176 See Section 2.5.

A1b-177 The first sentence under Impact 4.4-6 on page 4.4-33 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> As identified in the PEA (SCE, 2010, pg. 4.4-68), the alignments for Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2~~ traverse the San Jacinto River.

A1b-178 See Section 2.5.

A1b-179 See Section 2.5.

A1b-180 The comment is noted that unavoidable Project impacts to Los Angeles pocket mouse, Coulter's goldfields, and San Jacinto Valley crownscale would be mitigated by SCE by participating in the MSHCP. This approach is consistent with the approach presented in the Draft EIR. No revisions are necessary.

A1b-181 See Response A1b-103.

A1b-182 The paragraph under "Cultural Resources" on page 4.5-2 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Project area is located within a wide northeast-southwest trending branch of Perris valley, within an alluvial plain formed by the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River has been realigned and channelized in modern times. ~~The proposed fiber optic cable line runs along the base of the Bernasconi Hills and Mount Russell, ending in Moreno Valley.~~ Elevation ranges from 1,410 to 1,630 feet above mean sea level. Soil in the area consists of decomposed granitic silt, corals sand, and gravel. ~~Hill slopes in the Bernasconi Hills are characterized by granitic bedrock outcrops.~~ Originally, vegetation within the Project area would have consisted of grasslands and coastal sage scrub; however, this has been replaced by non-native grass, weeds, and agricultural fields (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

A1b-183 The first paragraph under "Ethnographic Resources" on page 4.5-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> At the time of Spanish contact, the Project area was located near the boundary between the territories of the Luiseño, the Serrano, and the Cahuilla.

The following paragraph has been added to page 4.5-4, before the heading marked "Historic Setting":

> The Serrano have also been identified as having associations with the area. Serrano territory was bordered to the west by the Cajon Pass in the San Bernardino Mountains, to the east by Twenty-nine Palms and to the south by Yucaipa Valley. The Serrano subsistence strategy relied upon hunting and gathering, and occasionally fishing (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren, 1984). Mountain sheep, deer, rabbits, acorns, grass seeds, piñon nuts, bulbs, yucca roots, cacti fruit, berries, and mesquite were some of the more common resources

utilized (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren, 1984). The Serrano were organized into clans, with the clan being the largest autonomous political entity. They lived in small villages where extended families lived in circular, dome-shaped structures made of willow frames covered with tule thatching. Despite early European and Spanish contact in 1771 and 1772, the Serrano remained relatively autonomous until the period between 1819 and 1834 when most of the western Serrano were removed and placed into missions (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren 1984).

The following reference has been added to the section "References," page 4.5-27:

Bean, L. J., and C. R. Smith, "Serrano", In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 570-574, Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, W. C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 1978.

A1b-184 See Section 2.5.

A1b-185 The discussion of "Archival Research" beginning on page 4.5-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Archival Research. The cultural resources studies included a records search, Native American contact program, and survey of the Project area (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

A records search was completed at the Eastern Information Center for the Project and alternatives and a 0.5-mile radius. The records search included a review of existing site records and literature, historic maps, and listings of resources on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), California Points of Historical Interest, and California Historical Landmarks. ~~For convenience purposes, t~~ The records search ~~was divided into two areas: 1)~~ consisted of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2~~; and 2) Fiber Optic Cable Route 3~~.

The records search indicated that 21 cultural resources investigations have been previously conducted within 0.5 mile of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2, of which eight included portions of the Project area. ~~Twenty-eight cultural resources investigations have been conducted within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, of which eight covered portions of the Project area.~~

Twenty cultural resources have been previously recorded within 0.5 mile of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2. These include 12 prehistoric archaeological sites, 1 prehistoric isolated artifact, 2 historic-era irrigation features, 1 historic-era isolated find, 3 historic-era buildings or groups of buildings, and 1 multi-

component archaeological site. All of the prehistoric sites and the prehistoric component of the multi-component site consist of or include bedrock milling features.

~~An additional 67 cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, including 57 prehistoric archaeological sites, 2 prehistoric isolated artifacts, 2 historic-era archaeological sites, 1 historic-era irrigation ditch, 1 historic-era cistern, 1 historic-era building, 1 historic-era human burial, and 2 multi-component archaeological sites. Fifty-one of the prehistoric sites and the prehistoric components of both of the multi-component sites consist of or include bedrock milling features.~~

Two of the previously recorded resources, P-33-09030 and P-33-05130, lie within the Project area. Resource P-33-09030, located within the proposed Lakeview Substation site, was recorded as an irrigation pump and engine mounted on concrete footings. The pump and engine are now gone. Resource P-33-05130 is located within a subtransmission source line segment and consists of structures associated with the early 20th century Stalder Farm. The farm was evaluated in 1993 as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

~~Four of the previously recorded resources, although not located within the Project area, were recorded within 100 feet of the Fiber Optic Cable Route 3. These resources, P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, and P-33-02951, are all prehistoric archaeological sites consisting of bedrock milling features.~~

A1b-186 The second paragraph on page 4.5-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Native American Contact. Contact with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native American contacts also was performed by SCE. The NAHC responded that a check of their Sacred Lands File did not reveal the presence of Native American resources within the Project area. ~~No responses were received from any of the Native American contacts recommended by the NAHC as of the filing of SCE's application for a PTC.~~

A response from the Cahuilla Band of Indians was received via email on April 6, 2010. The Cahuilla Band of Indians expressed interest in the Project area due to the Project location being within the traditional use of the tribe. However, no traditional cultural properties or sacred lands were identified by the Cahuilla Band of Indians.

A1b-187 The second paragraph under "Archaeological Survey" on page 4.5-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

As a result of the archaeological surveys, five resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3), two previously recorded and three newly recorded, were identified within the Project area. All five resources are historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources. ~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6), four previously recorded and three newly recorded, are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources.~~ An additional three built historic resources were identified adjacent to the Project area. All resources are described in detail below.

A1b-188 The discussion of "Cultural Resources Located Adjacent to the Project Area" beginning on page 4.5-10 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

~~The following seven archaeological resources and t~~ Three built historic resources are located outside of, but within 100 feet of, the Project area. They have not been evaluated for significance under the National Register or California Register of Historical Resources.

~~**P-33-00525:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet west of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of three bedrock milling slicks and one bedrock mortar. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-00526:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet northwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-02951:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 16 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1983 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-00608:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 100 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of two bedrock milling slicks on separate granitic bedrock outcroppings. The site was originally recorded in 1973 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**CWA63-4:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a partially collapsed structure with a concrete foundation and lumber walls covered in corrugated galvanized steel. The structure may have been a well house. The resource is located about 25 feet southeast of the fiber optic cable route.~~

> ~~**CWA63-5:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a 6-foot-high, 60-foot diameter dirt mound surrounding the base of a cylindrical water reservoir. The reservoir is composed of granite boulders and cobbles bound by mortar and lined with cement plaster. Several historic-era artifacts were recorded in the reservoir, including a cylindrical "Prince Albert" tobacco can, a rectangular can, an aluminum-top beverage can with a pull-tab opening, and several lumber fragments. The resource is located about 65 feet east of the fiber optic cable route.~~
>
> ~~**CWA63-6:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of the remains of an irrigation pumping feature and a capped well. The pumping feature consists of a concrete slab with protruding steel pipes, but no pumping equipment, and is flanked by two concrete standpipes. The capped well is a steel pipe set in concrete and projecting to a height of 42 inches above the ground surface. The top of the pipe is capped with a flat steel plate. The resource is located about 30 feet west of the fiber optic cable route.~~

A1b-189 The first paragraph under Impact 4.5-1 on page 4.5-19 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> As a result of the archaeological surveys, five resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3) were identified within the Project area. All five resources are historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources. ~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6) are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources.~~

A1b-190 The last sentence on page 4.5-19 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Fiber optic cable would be strung along existing ~~transmission~~ <u>distribution</u> line poles and once installed, would have no additional visual impact; therefore, the setting of the houses would not be changed by the Project and no indirect impacts would occur.

A1b-191 See Section 2.5.

A1b-192 See Section 2.5. With the elimination of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project, potential impacts specific to this alignment would be avoided.

A1b-193 The section "Cultural Resources Located within the Project Area" (Draft EIR, pp. 4.5-8 through 4.5-11), discusses each of these five resources located in the Project area and their lack of eligibility for the CRHR and NRHP. In addition, Draft EIR Section 4.5.4, "Impacts and Mitigation Measures" (p. 4.5-19), states, "None of the archaeological

resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3) located within the Project area were evaluated as eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, or local register, or otherwise qualify as an historical resource under CEQA. Therefore, impacts to these resources would not be considered significant." Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a, 4.5-1b and 4.5-1c pertain to resources P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6, and not to resources P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3 as the commenter suggests.

A1b-194 See Section 2.5.

A1b-195 See Section 2.5.

A1b-196 See Section 2.5.

A1b-197 Mitigation Measure 4.5-3 on Draft EIR page 4.5-22 has been revised as follows:

> **Mitigation Measure 4.5-3:** Prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall contract with a qualified professional paleontologist or a California Registered Professional Geologist (California RPG) with appropriate paleontological expertise, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (SVP 1995 Guidelines) to develop ~~carry out a paleontological resources training program~~ WEAP training for construction workers and implement a paleontological monitoring program. The qualified paleontologist shall be available "on-call" to SCE and/or its contractors throughout the duration of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the scope of services shall include: …
>
> - *Paleontological resources training*. All construction forepersons and field supervisors shall be trained ~~in the recognition of~~ regarding the potential to encounter fossil materials prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction. Training on paleontological resources shall also be provided to all other construction workers, but may include videotape of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by the qualified paleontologist. ~~In addition to fossil recognition, t~~The training shall convey procedures to follow if potential fossil materials are encountered by construction crews in the course of earthwork, excavation, or grading, as described below."

A1b-198 See Section 2.5.

A1b-199 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-200 See Response A1b-103.

A1b-201 The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.6-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~There are currently~~ The Electrical Needs Area consists of that part of unincorporated western Riverside County (including the developing areas of Nuevo and Lakeview) now served by SCE's 33/12 kV Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers ~~in the portion of unincorporated western Riverside County that would be served by the Project~~.

A1b-202 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-203 The second sentence of the first paragraph on page 4.6-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE currently provides electricity to the Project area via overhead and underground ~~transmission and~~ distribution lines.

A1b-204 See Section 2.5.

A1b-205 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-206 The last paragraph on page 4.6-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Project would be located within SCE's service territory and would ~~transmit energy~~ have energy delivered from the regional power grid. By replacing an older, less efficient substation that has reached its capacity limit with no further ability for capacity expansion with a new, more efficient one that would have the capability for accommodating the current electrical needs of the area as well as the electrical needs of the foreseeable future, the Project would ~~contribute~~ increase the ability to deliver approximately ~~74 percent more power~~ four times the capacity to the area as needed ~~to~~ from the grid than the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, meeting both existing and projected local energy needs. Consequently, the Project would have a beneficial impact on local and regional energy supplies because it would ensure that current energy needs are met and that there is capacity to met projected future energy needs in the Electrical Needs Area. No adverse impact on local or regional energy supplies or capacity would result (No Impact).

Item e) on page 4.6-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> As discussed above, the Project would increase the capacity ~~efficiency~~ of the existing site's ~~existing~~ contribution of energy delivered from ~~to~~ the grid by approximately four times the capacity of that of ~~74 percent above~~ the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and Model Pole Top Substations while also increasing the efficiency of the energy delivered. Consequently, the Project would not result in adverse impacts on energy resources (No Impact).

A1b-207 See Section 2.5.

A1b-208 See Section 2.5.

A1b-209 See Section 2.5.

A1b-210 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-211 See Section 2.5.

A1b-212 See Section 2.5.

A1b-213 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-214 The second paragraph on page 4.7-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Project area is located in the north-central portion ~~of the greater~~ Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province is characterized by ~~a series of~~ northwest trending mountain ranges separated by northwest trending valleys and faults. The valleys are alluvium-filled basins ~~of Cenozoic sedimentary~~ and Mesozoic granitic rocks (SCE, 2010). ~~The structural geology of the area is dominated by faults.~~ Major active faults in the province are the San Jacinto and the Elsinore faults. The study area relevant to geology and soils includes the proposed Lakeview Substation site, the subtransmission source line route, and the telecommunications system where new facilities are proposed. The Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations would be removed as part of the Project and would no longer be subject to geologic or seismic hazards. For this reason, these components are not included as part of the geology/soils study area.

A1b-215 The third paragraph on page 4.7-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Project is located on the Perris Block ~~Plain~~, between the San Jacinto and Elsinore Faults ~~Valley and the Perris Valley~~, and is bounded by the Bernasconi Hills to the northwest and the Lakeview Mountains to the southeast. The Perris Block ~~Plain~~ consists of active valley deposits (late Holocene) along the San Jacinto River, young alluvial-fan deposits (Holocene and late Pleistocene) north of the proposed Lakeview Substation site in Lakeview and along ~~much of~~ the eastern portion of the fiber-optic route, old alluvial-fan deposits (late to middle Pleistocene) underlying the proposed Lakeview Substation site, the City of Nuevo, and the western portion of Fiber-Optic Route 1 and the southern portion of Fiber-Optic Route 2 ~~much of the fiber-optic route~~, and granitic outcrops (Cretaceous) that form the surrounding mountain ranges (Morton and Miller, 2006).

Footnote 1 on page 4.7-1 is revised as follows:

> The ~~Cenozoic and~~ Mesozoic ~~are~~ is a geological era~~s~~ that spans the period of 65 ~~date from the present~~ to 248 million years ago.

A1b-216 See Section 2.5.

A1b-217 See Section 2.5.

A1b-218 The second paragraph under "Soils" on page 4.7-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> **Table 4.7-1** lists the soil units mapped on the proposed Lakeview Substation site and the subtransmission source line route, and their key physical characteristics. Soils at the proposed Lakeview Substation site consist mostly of the Hanford coarse sandy loam unit with minor components of the Pachappa fine sandy loam and the Exeter sandy loam. These units range from coarse to fine sandy loam[1], ~~which is~~ are well-drained soils, and ~~has~~ have low liquid limits[2]. ~~While Figure 4.7-2 does not show the fiber optic line route, t~~The soils underlying the length of the fiber-optic route ~~are the~~ consist of sandy loams with soil properties the same or similar ~~as~~ to the Hanford coarse sandy loam (NRCS, 2008). Soil types along the subtransmission source line routes range from silty loam to coarse sandy loam. In the areas where the subtransmission source line routes cross~~es~~ the San Jacinto River, soils range from silty clay to Riverwash.

A1b-219 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated in Response A1b-218.

A1b-220 The sixth sentence under "Accelerated Erosion" on page 4.7-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Areas along the subtransmission source line routes and the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay may have a higher potential for soil loss from erosion relative to other soils in the Project area due to their high erosion factor and/or runoff potential.

A1b-221 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated in Response A1b-218.

A1b-222 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated in Response A1b-220.

A1b-223 See Section 2.5.

A1b-224 Table 4.7-1 on page 4.7-5 of the Draft EIR is revised as suggested. Revisions are shown below under Response A1b-225.

A1b-225 Table 4.7-1 is revised as follows:

TABLE 4.7-1 (REVISED)
SOIL TYPES UNDERLYING THE PROJECT AREA

Location	Soil Type	Drainage Class	Liquid Limit[a]	Shrink/ Swell Potential	Risk of Corrosion[b] (concrete / uncoated steel)	Hydrologic Soil Group[c] / Erosion Factor (Kf)[d]
Proposed Lakeview Substation Site	Hanford Coarse Sandy Loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.28
	Pachappa Fine Sandy Loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.24
	Exeter sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate / High	B / 0.24
Subtransmission Source Line Routes	Domino silt loam	Moderately Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low/ High	C / 0.55
	Exeter sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate / High	B / 0.24
	Hanford coarse sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low	Low / Low	B / 0.28
	Pachappa fine sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.24
	Ramona sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low	Low / Moderate	B / 0.20
	Riverwash	Excessively Drained	Low	--	--	--
	Willows silty clay	Poorly Drained	Moderate	High	Low / High	D / 0.20

A1b-226 The second complete sentence on page 4.7-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> While no soils were identified as having the highest shrink/swell category ("very high"), the Willows silty clay, which underlies portions of the subtransmission source line routes and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, is estimated to have a high shrink/swell potential (see Figure 4.7-2).

A1b-227 The first sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.7-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Ground subsidence and associated fissures have been documented in basin fill sediments of the San Jacinto Valley and the Perris ~~Plain~~ Block.

A1b-228 The second paragraph on page 4.7-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> No active fault zones are present within 1 mile of the substation site. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment of the San Jacinto fault zone, located approximately 4 miles to the northeast of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, has the greatest ground acceleration potential (0.401 g) in the vicinity of the Project. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment includes the Casa Loma,

Claremont, Hot Springs, and Park Hill faults. In addition, the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a 31 percent probability of experiencing an earthquake greater than a 6.7 in magnitude over the next 30 years (USGS, 2008). Studies suggest that the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a slip rate of greater than 5 millimeters per year, with a recurrence interval for large earthquakes of 65 to 98 years (USGS, 2010). The maximum historical earthquake magnitude on the Claremont segment was a 6.9 magnitude in 1918 (USGS, 2010).

A1b-229 See Section 2.5.

A1b-230 See Responses A1b-70 and A1b-17 regarding Applicant-proposed requests for clarification involving CPUC General Order 131-D in the context of permits and other authorizations required for the Project.

A1b-231 See Section 2.5.

A1b-232 The third complete sentence on page 4.7-19 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

A geotechnical investigation of Alternative 2 ~~would~~ may be required prior to final design and construction, and would involve site soil characterization and testing, determination of seismic design coefficients, and recommendations for installation of wood poles and TSPs, consistent with the CBC and CPUC General Order 95.

A1b-233 The last sentence of the second paragraph under Impact 4.7-2 on page 4.7-16 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

As discussed in the setting (see Table 4.7-1), these include portions of the subtransmission source line route and the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay.

A1b-234 See Section 2.5.

A1b-235 See Section 2.5.

A1b-236 See Section 2.5.

A1b-237 The first paragraph on page 4.7-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

As discussed in the setting, expansive soils were not encountered during the initial geotechnical investigation conducted for the proposed Lakeview Substation site; however, based on the regional soil survey, there are soils along the subtransmission source line route and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 that could be subject to shrink/swell behavior (TDBU, 2009). Expansive soils along the source line route and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 are unlikely to pose a geotechnical problem because subtransmission source line/fiber-optic cable poles

would be direct buried to depths of 9 to 40 feet (depending on pole type and location) using augured holes.

A1b-238 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-239 See Response A1b-103.

A1b-240 See Response A1b-232.

A1b-241 Although the SCAQMD GHG significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO_2e per year for stationary/industrial sources is considered interim, it is not draft. The following edits have been made to the first two sentences in Section 4.8.4, *Approach to Analysis*, on Draft EIR page 4.8-6 to clarify that the adopted screening threshold is considered interim.

> This analysis uses an approach for the determination of significance of GHG emissions based on the interim GHG significance thresholds adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD has adopted an interim operational screening significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO_2e per year for stationary/industrial sources (SCAQMD, 2008).

A1b-242 See Section 2.5.

A1b-243 See Section 2.5.

A1b-244 See Section 2.5.

A1b-245 The last sentence on page 4.9-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Although substation transformers now almost exclusively use mineral oil as an insulating agent, transformer oil historically used at substations contained several constituents of concern, including ~~lead,~~ petroleum hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

A1b-246 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-247 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-248 The third paragraph on page 4.9-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> There are no public airports or private airstrips within 2 miles of the Project. The closest public airports to the Project are the Hemet-Ryan Airport, located ~~6.5~~ 8.4 miles ~~southwest~~ southeast, and the Ontario International Airport, located approximately 29 miles west of the Project area. A number of additional small airfields in the general area at the following distances from the Project: an airstrip located on the March Airforce Base (6.5 miles northwest); Perris Valley Airport

(6.5 miles southwest); March Global Port (8.8 miles northwest); Skylark Field (16 miles southwest); Pines Airpark (12 miles southeast); and, French Valley Airport (17 miles south). There is also a helipad located 1.2 miles ~~east~~ west at the Riverside County ~~Hospital~~ Regional Medical Center (SCE, 2010).

A1b-249 The first sentence under "Schools" on page 4.9-4 of the Draft EIR is not revised as suggested because the additional school is not located within the Project footprint; however, a bullet is added that identifies the addition of this school to this list of those located within 0.25 mile of the Project:

- Armada Elementary School, located at 25201 John F. Kennedy Drive, Moreno Valley, approximately 0.15 mile west of the Project.

For the reasons provided in the analysis of Hazards and Hazardous Materials criterion c), regarding whether Project construction, operation and maintenance would handle hazardous materials within 0.25 mile of schools, the identification of the Armada Elementary School as within 0.25 mile of the Project does not alter the conclusion that the Project would cause a less-than-significant impact related to this criterion.

A1b-250 See Section 2.5.

A1b-251 See Section 2.5.

A1b-252 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-253 See Section 2.5.

A1b-254 The fourth sentence under Impact 4.9-3 on page 4.9-15 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Standard construction water quality BMPs required by the RWQCB through its review ~~and approval~~ of the SWPPP include measures for the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials used during construction to prevent a release and methods to contain any such release if it should occur.

A1b-255 See Section 2.5.

A1b-256 See Section 2.5.

A1b-257 See Section 2.5.

A1b-258 See Section 2.5.

A1b-259 The last sentence on page 4.9-16 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-4 requires SCE and/or its contractors to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers ~~in and~~

~~along the subtransmission source line route~~ for the Project to minimize disruption to emergency vehicle access (see Section 4.17, *Transportation and Traffic*).

A1b-260 See Section 2.5.

A1b-261 See Section 2.5.

A1b-262 See Section 2.5.

A1b-263 See Section 2.5.

A1b-264 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-265 See Response A1b-103.

A1b-266 See Section 2.5.

A1b-267 The requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made.

A1b-268 The last sentence of the first paragraph on page 4.10-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ became effective July 1, 2010, superseding Order No. 99-08; it applies to construction sites that include 1 or more acre of soil disturbance.

A1b-269 The second paragraph on page 4.10-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Construction General Permit requires that the landowner and/or ~~contractor~~ project owner file permit registration documents prior to commencing construction and pay an annual fee. The~~se~~ Permit Registration ~~d~~Documents (PRDs) include a ~~n~~Notice of ~~i~~Intent (NOI), risk assessment, site map and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and ~~signed certification statement~~ are submitted via the SWRCB's database, known as "Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System" (SMARTS), in order to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit.

A1b-270 The requested revision does not affect the adequacy or accuracy of the analysis of potential environmental effects of the Project, and so has not been made.

A1b-271 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated in Response A1b-269.

A1b-272 The fifth sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.10-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

The western-most area of Riverside County, where the Project is planned, is under the jurisdiction of the SARWQCB.

A1b-273 The last two sentences under "Waste Discharge Requirements" on page 4.10-9 of the Draft EIR are revised as follows:

For discharges directly to surface water (waters of the United States) an NPDES permit is required, which is issued under both state and federal law; for other types of discharges, such as waste discharges to land (e.g., ~~spoils disposal and storage~~ soils found to be contain hazardous materials or meeting the definition of a waste), erosion from soil disturbance, or discharges to waters of the state (such as isolated wetlands), Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are required and are issued exclusively under state law. If needed, SCE would contact the SARWQCB and file a Report of Waste Discharge; the SARWQCB then would determine whether an issuance or a waiver of WDRs is required.

A1b-274 The second sentence of the second paragraph on page 4.10-12 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

The new NPDES permit (Order ~~R2~~ RB8-2010-0033 Permit No. 618033) issued by the SARWQCB is designed to enable the RCFCWCD to meet CWA requirements.

A1b-275 The last sentence of the second paragraph on page 4.10-12 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

The Project has linear components and, therefore, the ~~LUP provisions would apply~~ Qualified SWPPP Developer may decide, at the time that permit coverage is obtained, that portions of the Project should be covered under Attachment A of the Construction General Permit. Attachment A specifically applies to LUPs.

A1b-276 See Section 2.5.

A1b-277 The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.10-7 is revised as follows to remove an incorrect reference to project size:

The total disturbance area associated with Project implementation would be concentrated at discrete sites (e.g., substation site, staging areas and marshalling yards, and electrical subtransmission and telecommunication installation sites) but spread out over a large area ~~approximately 80 acres~~.

A1b-278 The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.10-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Portions of ~~T~~the Project ~~is~~ may be considered a LUP ~~by the SARWQCB~~ and have~~s~~ been evaluated as a Type 1 LUP.

A1b-279 The second paragraph on page 4.10-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> ~~The temporary storage~~ Discharge to land of excavation material and imported fill that are found to meet the State of California's definition of a waste would likely require issuance of WDRs or a wavier thereof issued by the SARWQCB. SCE and/or its contractors would be required to comply with the WDRs should they apply to the Project, and any storage or excavation of materials and fill that are found to contain hazardous materials or meet the definition of waste would be required to be consistent with the water quality objectives defined in the Basin Plan (SARWQCB, 2010).

A1b-280 The second paragraph on page 4.10-18 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The existing measures required of the Applicant (e.g., the General Construction Permit/SWPPP implementation, WDRs [if required], and LUP standards) are sufficient to reduce construction-related water quality impacts to a less-than-significant level.

A1b-281 See Section 2.5.

A1b-282 See Section 2.5.

A1b-283 See Section 2.5.

A1b-284 See Section 2.5.

A1b-285 The second bullet on page 4.10-20 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> - ***Subtransmission Lines, Wood Poles, and TSPs*.** Construction of the subtransmission source lines would span drainages, including the San Jacinto River, but would not place any structures within drainages. The wood poles and TSPs would each result in minor alterations to the drainage patterns. Each TSP would have a ~~footprint of up to 4 feet~~ concrete foundation between 5 to 8 feet in diameter ~~and would be spaced approximately every 200 feet~~. If located in a flood area, these structures would comprise less than 2 percent of the total available area.

A1b-286 See Section 2.5.

A1b-287 See Section 2.5.

A1b-288 Impact 4.10-5 on page 4.10-22 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> **Impact 4.10-5: Project operation could expose people or structures to impacts resulting from flooding caused by failure of a levee or dam**. ***Less than Significant*** ~~***with Mitigation***~~ **(Class III)**

A1b-289 See Section 2.5.

A1b-290 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-291 See Response A1b-103.

A1b-292 The location of the Alternative 2 Relocated Substation is depicted in Draft EIR Figure 3-1. No figure revisions have been made in response to this comment.

The discussion of Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative on page 4.10-24 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Substation site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto River corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line route compared to the Project. As such, the potential for erosion and water quality impacts during construction would decrease because the area of construction disturbance would be reduced and the relocated substation site would remain outside of the bed and banks of the San Jacinto River. Further, the disturbance area would not be sufficiently reduced to avoid having to comply with the regulatory controls described above (i.e., SWPPP). Similar to the Project, the Alternative 2 substation site is located outside of the 100-year flood zone. Placement of TSPs along the subtransmission source line segments in the 100-year floodplain would also be the same as the Project. Alternative 2 would result in slightly less erosion and water quality impacts compared to the Project but impacts otherwise would be similar.
>
> ~~In contrast to the Project, which is outside of the 100-year FEMA flood hazard zone, half of the relocated substation site would be located within 100-year flood zone. In the event of a 100-year flood, the Lakeview Substation could be damaged, possibly resulting in the interruption of electrical service until such time the substation could be repaired. This would be a significant impact under CEQA criteria h) and j). However, implementation of Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1, which would require SCE to protect the site from a 100-year flood using earthen berms, by grading the site to above the flood elevation, or by other means, would reduce the impact to less than significant. to provide studies, calculations, plans and other information required to meet FEMA requirements, and obtain a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a LOMR prior to occupancy.~~
>
> > ~~**Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1:** SCE and/or its contractor shall design the Lakeview Substation site to be protected against a 100-year flood along the San Jacinto River. SCE and/or its contractor shall include in its drainage plan and grading plans any combination of engineered features, such as earthen berms, elevated building pads, or other measures necessary to protect vital substation components from 100-year~~

~~flood flows. Such measures shall be designed by a qualified professional engineer (P.E.), and include flood flow modeling necessary to determine the depth and extent of flooding expected in a 100-year flood. These studies, calculations, and plans shall be required to meet FEMA requirements and shall comply with Riverside County flood control ordinance (Ordinance No. 458). If necessary, SCE and/or its subcontractor shall obtain from FEMA a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) prior to occupancy.~~

~~While the decreased disturbance area results in slightly lesser impacts from construction activities and associated water quality impacts, Alternative 2 could result in a potentially significant impact with respect the FEMA 100-year flood hazard zone that does not exist under the Project. For this reason, Alternative 2 results in greater impacts than the Project.~~

A1b-293 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-294 See Section 2.5 and Response A1b-2.

A1b-295 See Section 2.5.

A1b-296 See Section 2.5.

A1b-297 See Section 2.5.

A1b-298 See Section 2.5.

A1b-299 See Section 2.5.

A1b-300 See Section 2.5.

A1b-301 See Section 2.5.

A1b-302 Impact 4.11-1 on Draft EIR page 4.11-9 has been revised as follows:

Impact 4.11-1: The Project construction ~~c~~would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan ~~the Western Riverside County MSHCP~~. *Less than Significant ~~with Mitigation~~* (Class III)

The Project would be located within the established Western Riverside County MSHCP boundary and within several of its identified Criteria Areas, and within the boundaries of the HCP for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, as described in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*. If the Project would cause take of any federal listed threatened or endangered species, the requirements of FESA may be satisfied though compliance with the MSHCP and Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP.

As described in APMs Bio-2, Bio-3, Bio-4, Bio-6, and Bio-7, SCE ~~has the option~~ will seek to become a Participating Entity in the MSHCP and Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP, and as such would be entitled to have its "future facilities," including electrical utilities, considered Covered Activities under the plans provided that they comply with the criteria outlined in the ~~MSHCP~~ plans …. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP or Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP. ~~However, if through the permitting process CDFG and/or USFWS determine that participation in the MSHCP would be appropriate to offset potential Project impacts to biological resources, the Project could conflict with the MSHCP if SCE would not be a Participating Entity. This would be a potentially significant impact.~~

~~**Mitigation Measure 4.11-1:** If through the permitting process CDFG and/or USFWS determine that participation in the MSHCP is appropriate, SCE shall participate in the Western Riverside County MSHCP for the Project. SCE shall hire a biological consultant who holds a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Riverside to prepare a consistency analysis to determine the Project's consistency with the applicable criteria in the Western Riverside County MSHCP. If the consistency analysis determines that the Project would not be consistent with the criteria, SCE shall implement the necessary measures to bring the Project into compliance, as determined by the consistency analysis and review by the Riverside County Environmental Programs Department.~~

~~**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than Significant.~~

A1b-303 The paragraph under the heading "Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative" is revised as follows:

… ~~Alternative 2 could also conflict with the Western Riverside MSHCP because it would construct the Project components that are within Criteria Areas in the same locations. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.11-1 would reduce this impact to less-than-significant.~~ Like the Project, Alternative 2 would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP or Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP. The impacts of Alternative 2 on land use and planning would be the same as the Project.

A1b-304 See Section 2.5.

A1b-305 See Section 2.5.

A1b-306 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-307 See Section 2.5.

A1b-308 See Section 2.5.

A1b-309 See Section 2.5.

A1b-310 See Section 2.5.

A1b-311 The third sentence in the second paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.13-7 has been revised as follows:

> The alternative substation site and subtransmission source line Segment Two would be as close as approximately ~~0.5~~ 0.4 mile northwest, and ~~0.4~~ 0.3 mile west-northwest of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively.

The incremental 0.1 mile difference between the distance provided in the Draft EIR and the revised difference does not result in any change to the impact conclusions documented in Draft EIR Section 4.13.5 (p. 4.13-17).

A1b-312 As indicated in the sentence preceding the suggested revision, "local land use regulations would not apply to the Project." Therefore, no revision is required in response to this comment.

A1b-313 The fourth sentence in the last paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.13-8 has been deleted:

> ~~These criteria are consistent with the standards presented in the County's General Plan.~~

A1b-314 See Section 2.5.

A1b-315 The first sentence in the second paragraph under Impact 4.13-1 on Draft EIR page 4.13-11 has been revised as follows:

> Chapter 2, *Project Description*, does not identify a daily construction schedule for the Project; however, Section 2.~~7~~8.2, *Marshalling Yards*, indicates that construction-related deliveries would be scheduled to occur during off-peak traffic hours, which are generally considered to be outside the primary commute times of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The commenter indicates that construction is anticipated to comply with the applicable noise ordinances and if not possible, SCE would seek a variance from the applicable agency; therefore, mitigation would not be required. However, just because SCE would seek a variance from the applicable agency does not necessarily mean that one would be granted. California Government Code section 65906, a section of the state's Planning and Zoning Law, restricts when local agencies may authorize a variance from the terms of its zoning ordinances. In part, section 65906 states: "Variances from the terms of the zoning ordinances shall be granted only when, because of special circumstances applicable to the property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of the zoning ordinance deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and under identical zoning

classification. [¶] Any variance granted shall be subject to such conditions as will assure that the adjustment thereby authorized shall not constitute a grant of special privileges inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity and zone in which such property is situated." Based on the prerequisites to obtain a variance, it is not clear that, if SCE determines that it would not be possible to comply with applicable noise ordinances, that the affected agency would be authorized under the Planning and Zoning Law to grant a variance. Because construction activities would violate local municipal code construction time-of-day restrictions under these circumstances, Mitigation Measure 4.13-1 has not been removed.

A1b-316 See Section 2.5.

A1b-317 See Section 2.5.

A1b-318 See Section 2.5.

A1b-319 See Section 2.5.

A1b-320 See Section 2.5.

A1b-321 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-322 See A1b-315.

The commenter appears to indicate that the Impact 4.13-4 analysis should not evaluate whether a nuisance would be created, and should only evaluate whether a substantial temporary or periodic increase in noise levels would occur. CPUC staff does not agree. For example, a project with no noise sensitive receptors in the area could result in a substantial increase in noise levels, but if the nearest sensitive receptors to the project are at such a distance that the noise levels would not be considered a nuisance, the impact to the sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

A1b-323 See Section 2.5.

A1b-324 See Section 2.5.

A1b-325 The paragraph under "Alternative 1" on page 4.13-17 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in the phased construction of the various Project components to reduce combined daily regional air quality emissions. From a noise impact perspective, which is assessed based ~~at the local level for each component of the Project~~ on the distance from Project-related activities and facilities to nearby receptors, Alternative 1 would involve construction and operation in the same locations as that of the Project, and therefore, impacts under this alternative would be the same as the Project.

A1b-326 See Section 2.5.

A1b-327 See Section 2.5.

A1b-328 The third sentence under Impact 4.14-1 on page 4.14-5 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The proposed subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication routes would include installation of subtransmission poles, subtransmission conductors ~~cables~~, and fiber-optic telecommunication cables in new and existing utility ROWs, and operation of these components would be performed periodically by current SCE personnel.

A1b-329 See Section 2.5.

A1b-330 See Section 2.5.

A1b-331 See Section 2.5.

A1b-332 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-333 See Section 2.5.

A1b-334 See Section 2.5.

A1b-335 See Section 2.5.

A1b-336 As indicated in the preceding section, "local land use regulations would not apply to the Project." Therefore, no revision is required in response to this comment.

A1b-337 See Section 2.5.

A1b-338 See Section 2.5.

A1b-339 See Section 2.5.

A1b-340 The footnote on page 4.15-7 of the Draft EIR is deleted and the following is inserted after the fourth sentence of the first paragraph on page 4.15-7:

> In Riverside County in 2010, there were 686,260 individual households and the total county population of children under the age of 18 was 620,108 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). This gives a rough average of 0.9 children per household. Assuming each of the 40 temporary construction workers represented one average household in Riverside County, this could result in an increase of 36 children in the service areas of the NUSD and MVUSD.

This revision in the number of the potential additional school aged children that could result if all of the 40 temporary construction workers moved into the area (as opposed to being an existing part of the local labor pool) is less than the number of potential new school children analyzed in the Draft EIR. Because fewer potential children would cause fewer potential impacts, the analysis in the Draft EIR is appropriately conservative. In any event, this revision provides no basis to change the "no impact:" conclusion reached in connection with Public Services significance criterion a.iii).

A1b-341 See Section 2.5.

A1b-342 See Section 2.5.

A1b-343 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-344 See Section 2.5.

A1b-345 See Section 2.5.

A1b-346 See Section 2.5.

A1b-347 See Section 2.5.

A1b-348 See Section 2.5.

A1b-349 See Section 2.5.

A1b-350 The second sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.16-5 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which could require the trail to be closed intermittently during construction activities ~~(up to 12 months)~~.

A1b-351 Regarding the Alternative 1 construction duration, see Response A1b-76. The first sentence on page 4.16-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Alternative 1 could result in a longer-term (i.e., an additional 10 months) intermittent closure of the informal trail along the San Jacinto River than the Project.

A1b-352 The second paragraph on page 4.17-2 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Reservoir Avenue, 10th Street, and 11th Street are two-lane Riverside County roads in the community of Lakeview. Portions of these roadways are currently undeveloped; however, their future ultimate widths and expansions can be seen

in the Riverside County General Plan. The proposed Lakeview Substation site is adjacent to the intersection of Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street. The intersection of Lakeview Avenue and 10th Street would be the primary access point for construction traffic that would access the proposed Lakeview Substation site and the Subtransmission Source Line Segment One. At that intersection, both streets are two-lane, undivided paved roads. Access to Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two and corresponding access roads would be achieved via 11th Street ~~or~~ and Lakeview Avenue or Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street.

A1b-353 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated into Response A1b-352.

A1b-354 See Section 2.5.

A1b-355 See Section 2.5.

A1b-356 See Section 2.5.

A1b-357 The second sentence under "Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation" on page 4.17-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> No County-designated bikeways or trails currently exist in the Project area; however, there is ~~an~~ a Class I bike path and informal trail along the San Jacinto River that would be crossed by both subtransmission source line segments (see Section 4.16, *Recreation*).

A1b-358 The first sentence under "Local" on page 4.17-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Ordinance No. 499 gives the County of Riverside Transportation Department the authority to require ministerial permits to be obtained for any type of work conducted within a County road ROW, which in many cases extends beyond the paved road to the adjacent private property boundary.

A1b-359 See Section 2.5 regarding proposed changes in the Project Description. The paragraph under "Construction Easement Requirements" on page 4.17-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The portions of the proposed subtransmission source line segments along 10th and 11th streets would be constructed within planned or existing unpaved County road ROWs and would require easement rights from private property owners and encroachment permits from the county.

A1b-360 See Section 2.5.

A1b-361 The second complete sentence on page 4.17-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Construction personnel could use additional local ~~paved~~ roads, such as 11th Street to access the ~~s~~Subtransmission ~~s~~Source ~~l~~Line Segment Two.

A1b-362 The last sentence on page 4.17-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which could require the informal trail to be closed intermittently during construction activities ~~resulting in a potential significant impact to trail users lasting approximately 1 week.~~

A1b-363 See Section 2.5.

A1b-364 The fifth sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.17-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE maintains an inspection frequency of its overhead energized subtransmission lines of a minimum of once per year via ground and/or aerial observation in alternate years.

A1b-365 The commenter states that providing local residences with notification of the construction schedule, duration of closures, etc., per Mitigation Measure 4.17-1 could be problematic as field conditions and contractor availability could require shifts in the construction schedule. Although SCE may view the measure as problematic, SCE has not effectively demonstrated that it would be infeasible to implement. The measure is required so that local residences can plan around any road, lane, or private driveway closures that would result due to the Project. Accordingly, no changes have been made to Mitigation Measure 4.17-1.

A1b-366 See Section 2.5.

A1b-367 See Section 2.5.

A1b-368 See Section 2.5.

A1b-369 See Section 2.5.

A1b-370 See Section 2.5.

A1b-371 See Section 2.5.

A1b-372 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-373 See Response A1b-3.

A1b-374 The last sentence of the third paragraph on page 4.18-4 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD) is specifically charged with the responsibilities of (Riverside County, ~~2008~~ 2003):

The reference on page 4.18-10 is revised as follows:

> County of Riverside, 2003. Riverside County General Plan, ~~Land Use Element~~ Environmental Impact Report, (http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/content/~~gp/chapter03.html~~ eir/volume1.html) accessed September 19, 2011.

A1b-375 See Section 2.5.

A1b-376 See Section 2.5.

A1b-377 See Section 2.5.

A1b-378 The analysis of Impact 4.18-1 on page 4.18-6 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> During construction, dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing would require ~~3~~62,000 gallons of water per day.

For the reasons provided in Response A1b-62, this increase in the total amount of construction-related water demand would not affect the significance conclusion reached relating to Utilities and Service Systems criterion b).

For consistency, the first two sentences under Impact 4.18-2 on page 4.18-7 of the Draft EIR also are revised:

> Project construction would use approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water per day for dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing. This water would be delivered to the site by water trucks approximately 20 ~~eight~~ times per day (SCE, 2011a).

For the reasons provided in Response A1b-62, this increase in the total amount of construction-related water demand would not affect the significance conclusion reached relating to Utilities and Service Systems criterion d).

A1b-379 See Section 2.5.

A1b-380 Changes in response to this comment are incorporated into Response A1b-378.

A1b-381 See Section 2.5.

A1b-382 The second sentence of the first paragraph on page 4.18-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Construction crews would collect and separate waste items and materials into roll-off boxes at the materials staging area and/or marshalling yards.

A1b-383 See Section 2.5.

A1b-384 See Section 2.5.

A1b-385 See Response A1b-76.

A1b-386 The third sentence relating to Alternative 2 on Draft EIR page 4.18-9 is revised as follows:

> Because it would result in more than a ~~several~~ thousand fewer feet of subtransmission source line construction and road work, and would therefore use less water, generate less wastewater, and generate less solid waste, Alternative 2 would have slightly less, but still less-than-significant impacts with respect to water and wastewater treatment facilities, water supply, and landfill capacity.

A1b-387 See Response A1b-15.

A1b-388 The discussion of Geology and Soils for Alternative 1 in Table 5-2 on page 5-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The potential for construction-related impacts from erosion and soil loss would be slightly ~~decreased~~ increased, but remain less than significant. All other impacts would be the same as the Project.
>
> **~~Slightly Preferred~~ Less Preferable**

A1b-389 See Section 2.4.

A1b-390 The first sentence of the third paragraph on page 6-9 of the Draft EIR is revised as shown below. See also Response A1b-115.

> The Project would contribute incrementally (approximately 7.9 ~~9.9~~ acres) to Riverside County's overall decline in Farmland.

A1b-391 See Section 2.5.

A1b-392 The sixth sentence of the third paragraph on page 6-11 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> SCE would avoid ~~or prepare a mitigation plan to be reviewed by appropriate agencies for~~ native or special-status vegetation and special-status plant populations or participate in the Western Riverside County MSHCP to mitigate for unavoidable impacts (APM-Bio-6); avoidance would be likely.

A1b-393 See Section 2.5.

A1b-394 See Section 2.5.

A1b-395 The second sentence of the third paragraph on page 9-3 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> Though other state and local agencies would have permit and approval authority over construction of the subtransmission line, the CPUC would continue to act as the lead agency for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures required by this EIR.

A1b-396 See Response A1b-2.

A1b-397 See Response A1b-12.

A1b-398 All revisions relating to impact conclusions and mitigation measures are shown by section in Chapter 3, *Revisions to the Draft EIR*. All revisions made to mitigation measures area also made in the MMRCP (Appendix H).

Comment Letter B1

PECHANGA CULTURAL RESOURCES

Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians

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March 2, 2012

VIA E-MAIL and USPS

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Pechanga Tribe Comments on the Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016), SCH No. 2010121035

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

This comment letter is written on behalf of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (hereinafter, "the Tribe"), a federally recognized Indian tribe and sovereign government. The Tribe formally requests, pursuant to Public Resources Code §21092.2, to be notified and involved in the entire CEQA environmental review process for the duration of the above referenced project (the "Project") as well as the regulatory process. The Tribe further requests to be directly notified of all public hearings and scheduled approvals concerning this Project. Please incorporate these comments into the record of approval for this Project as well. B1-1

The Tribe submits these comments concerning the Project's potential impacts to cultural resources in conjunction with the environmental and regulatory review of the Project and its Alternatives to assist the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in preparing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures for the cultural resources that may be discovered during development of this Project. B1-2

The Tribe is highly concerned about the lack of consultation and communication by the CPUC and Southern California Edison (SCE) with the Tribe on this Project. The Tribe verbally and via electronic mail notified the SCE Project archaeologist in August 2010 that we wanted to consult and receive project notices and documents. To date, the Tribe has still not been contacted to begin consultation with the CPUC. We were also not afforded the opportunity to participate during the archaeological survey(s) and physically view the Project which assists in our determination of impacts to these cultural resources. According to Senate Bill 1059, tribal consultation is mandated for electric transmission corridors and we are to be provided "ample opportunity" to consult (See Appendix A, page A-16). One notification from the Project archaeologist does not constitute ample opportunity. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the B1-3

CPUC to consult with the Tribe, not the consultant, unless the consultant has been formally designated by the CPUC and the Tribe has been notified of such action. The Tribe sees this as a failure on the part of the CPUC to consult as requested in order to deliberately ignore Tribal and cultural information. The Tribe has confidential information about this area that it wishes to share with the CPUC that will require a revision to the proposed mitigation measures. B1-3 cont.

In addition, the Cultural Resources section in the DEIR is deficient: it incorrectly states the actual number of cultural sites within the Project boundaries or within the 100 foot boundary; it does not indicate that the Pechanga Tribe conveyed comments to the Project archaeologist orally via telephone; it does not adequately address indirect, visual, auditory or cumulative effects to cultural resources; and it does not provide adequate mitigation measures such as appropriate buffer zones for the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) designations and tribal consultation or monitoring during earthmoving. B1-4

Therefore, the Tribe requests that this Project not proceed further until it can consult with the CPUC and the environmental consultant, ESA. Additional comments and recommendations have been provided below. B1-5

THE CPUC MUST INCLUDE INVOLVEMENT OF AND CONSULTATION WITH THE PECHANGA TRIBE IN ITS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

It has been the intent of the Federal Government[1] and the State of California[2] that Indian tribes be consulted with regard to issues which impact cultural and spiritual resources, as well as other governmental concerns. The responsibility to consult with Indian tribes stems from the unique government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This arises when tribal interests are affected by the actions of governmental agencies and departments. In this case, it is undisputed that the project lies within the Pechanga Tribe's traditional territory. Therefore, in order to comply with CEQA and other applicable Federal and California law, it is imperative that the CPUC consult with the Tribe in order to guarantee an adequate basis of knowledge for an appropriate evaluation of the Project effects, as well as generating adequate mitigation measures. B1-6

PECHANGA CULTURAL AFFILIATION TO PROJECT AREA

The Pechanga Tribe has previously submitted cultural affiliation details on the Project area in prior comments however; the following is being provided again as a basis for beginning consultation with the CPUC. B1-7

[1]See e.g., Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994 on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, Executive Order of November 6, 2000 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, Executive Memorandum of September 23, 2004 on Government-to-Government Relationships with Tribal Governments, and Executive Memorandum of November 5, 2009 on Tribal Consultation.
[2] See California Public Resource Code §5097.9 et seq.; California Government Code §§65351, 65352.3 and 65352.4

The Pechanga Tribe's knowledge of our ancestral boundaries is based on information passed down from our elders through songs and stories; published academic works in the areas of anthropology, history and ethno-history, and through unpublished ethnographic and linguistic field notes. Many anthropologists and historians who have proposed boundaries of the Luiseño traditional territory have included the project area in their descriptions (Kroeber 1925[3]; Drucker 1939[4]; Heizer and Whipple 1951[5]; Smith and Freers 1994[6]). With the exception of Smith and Freers, these boundaries were determined from information provided to the ethnographers by Luiseño consultants. The boundary determinations were based upon multiple factors including language, village locations, oral tradition, personal beliefs, etc. Smith and Freers made their determination utilizing known rock art sources. The Pechanga Tribe bases the Luiseño territory boundary on descriptions communicated to the Pechanga people by our elders in combination with the sources indicated above, i.e. ethnographic and historic literature, published maps, etc.

D. L. True, C. W. Meighan, and Harvey Crew[7] stated that the California archaeologist is blessed "with the fact that the nineteenth-century Indians of the state were direct descendants of many of the Indians recovered archaeologically, living lives not unlike those of their ancestors." Similarly, the Tribe knows that their ancestors lived in this land and that the Luiseño peoples still live in their traditional lands. While we agree that anthropological and linguistic theories as well as historic accounts are important in determining traditional Luiseño territory, the Pechanga Tribe asserts that the most critical sources of information used to define our traditional territories are our songs, creation accounts and oral traditions. Luiseño history begins with the creation of all things at *'éxva Teméeku (EHK-vah Te-MEH-koo)*, known today as Temecula. The first people or *Káamalam* (KAH-mah-lam) were born at this location and dispersed to all corners of creation (what is today known as Luiseño territory). The last of the *Káamalam* born was *Wuyóot* (We-YOUGHT). He was innately gifted with *ayélkwish* (ah-YELL-kwish) or knowledge, and he learned how to make the first food, *tóovish* (TOH-vish, white clay), to feed the *Káamalam*. It is said *Wuyóot* gave the people ceremonial songs when he lived at *'éxva Teméeku.*[8] While the following creation account is a brief summary, it does demonstrate that the Luiseño people have knowledge of and are affiliated with the Project area. B1-7 cont.

According to the creation narratives, *Wuyóot* was poisoned, and in an attempt to be cured, he visited several hot springs within Luiseño territory. The First People followed *Wuyóot*

[3] Alfred. L. Kroeber 1925. *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Bulletin 78, Bureau of American Ethnology, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.
[4] Phillip Drucker 1939. Culture Element Distribution, V, Southern California. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology,* Vol. 1.
[5] Robert F. Heizer and M.A. Whipple 1951. *The California Indians*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
[6] Gerald A. Smith and Steven M. Freers 1994. *Fading Images: Indian Pictographs of Western Riverside County*. Riverside Museum Press, Riverside, Ca.
[7] D. L. True, C. W. Meighan, and Harvey Crew. Archaeological Investigations at Molpa, San Diego County, California, *University of California Press* 1974 Vol. 11, 1-176
[8] Constance DuBois 1908. The Religion of the Luiseño Indians of Southern California. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 8(3):69-186.

throughout the territory and he named the places as they traveled. Upon *Wuyóot's* death, he was taken to *'éxva Teméeku* and cremated. *Wuyóot's* passing was the first death of the *Káamalam* and they were frightened by the event. A traditional song recounts the travels of eagle, as he searches for a place where there was no death. His travels begin at Temecula, flying north to San Bernardino and then to the east, south, and west through Julian, Cuyamaca, and Palomar, and returning to Temecula.[9] He likely flew over the Project area. After a Grand Council of the *Káamalam*, they dispersed from *'éxva Teméeku*, establishing villages and marking their territory. The first people also became the mountains, plants, animals and heavenly bodies. Songs called *Moníivol (moh-NEE-vull)*, speak of the places and landmarks that were destinations of the Luiseño ancestors, several of which are located near the Project area. They describe the exact migration route of the Temecula people and the landmarks made by each to claim title to their places.[10] B1-7 cont.

The Tribe knows of a large village complex and several smaller habitation sites that are located within the Project area. To the east, is the village of *Paavo'*. It is one of the largest Luiseño villages in this area. Recent archaeological excavations have shown that the central core of the village is over 15 feet in depth and contains some of the oldest known ceramics. Additional smaller habitations can be found surrounding the Project. To the west and north, along the Bernasconi Hills and Mt. Russell, are numerous milling and food processing areas. Pictographs extend from northern point of Mt. Russell to several miles south of Lake Perris Reservoir. In fact, very rare white and black pigment pictographs can be found less than 1 ½ miles from the Project. The Tribe believes that rock art was utilized primarily for ceremonial activities and this is supported in the archaeological record as there are several "shaman's caves" recorded in this area. Furthermore, the Tribe believes that portions of the modern Ramona Expressway/Cajalco Road were part of a large trade and travel route that connected the Luiseño villages of *Qaxáalku*, *Túu'uv* and *Paxávxa* in the Mead Valley and Corona areas and over the National Forest mountains to the Pacific Ocean and eastward through the Badlands to lands controlled by the Cahuilla. This route would have also served other interconnected communities and gathering locations located in Lake Mathews, off Van Buren and Alessandro, in Mockingbird Canyon and Sycamore Canyon and in the Motte Reserve. All of these resources are highly significant and have the potential to be impacted, yet were not adequately evaluated in the DEIR. B1-8

Further resources used in the identification and determination of the Luiseño territory are *tóota yixélval* (rock art). *Tóota yixélval* can consist of petroglyphs (incised) elements, or pictographs (painted) elements. The archaeological study completed for Specific Plan 00342, The Villages of Lakeview, notes that the style of rock art found on the Project site is specifically associated with the Luiseño Indians, in particular the San Luis Rey style. Throughout their broad work in the archaeological field, D.L. True and the Museum of Man's Ken Hedges extensively described the San Luis Rey I and II rock art style. As quoted in Smith and Freers book, True B1-9

[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid, p.110.

indicated that 'diamonds, zigzags, chevrons, straight lines found often in vertical series are generally associated with late prehistoric and historic Luiseño populations' (pg. 26)[11]. The San Luis Rey style incorporates elements also include dot patterns, sunbursts, handprints, net/chain, anthropomorphic (human-like) and zoomorphic (animal-like) designs. Tribal historians and photographs inform us that some design elements are reminiscent of Luiseño ground paintings. A few of these design elements, particularly the flower motifs, the net/chain and zig-zags, were sometimes depicted in Luiseño basket designs and can be observed in remaining baskets and textiles today.

Further evidencing the connection between the San Luis Rey rock art style and Luiseno people are these descriptions of how the diamond chain pattern, which is uniquely San Luis style rock art, was incorporated into the Luiseño girls' ceremony. In 1892, Bureau of Ethnology anthropologist H.W. Henshaw compiled information on what was called the "Girls Ceremony." He wrote: 'that during the fourth new moon of the young girl's puberty rite, diamond shaped marks were painted vertically on the cheeks of the girls faces' (Smith & Freers, pg. 19). For Pechanga, the connection to the rock art images held a known meaning. J.P. Harrington would later cross-reference this same "face painting" information in his 1933 work entitled *The Luiseno Girls Ceremony.*[12] B1-9 cont.

It is no accident that the diamond chain rock art design occurs in our ancestor's discrete east-to-west waterways and village complexes. This diamond chain pattern is repeated at CA-RIV-61 in Mockingbird Canyon, CA-RIV-12 in south Lake Perris, CA-RIV-34 in Temescal Canyon and CA-RIV-393 at *Paavo' located east of the Project*, which are all known to be Luiseno cultural areas. This four-sided geometric element is also echoed in preserved Luiseño basket designs, generally from late 19th century. The presence of this element can be identified in the San Jacinto, Salt Creek, and San Luis Rey River drainages, all located within known Luiseño territory.

An additional type of *tóota yixélval*, identified by archaeologists also as rock art or petroglyphs, are cupules. Throughout Luiseño territory, there are certain types of large boulders, taking the shape of mushrooms or waves, which contain numerous small pecked and ground indentations, or cupules. Many of these cupule boulders have been identified within a few miles of the Project. Additionally, according to historian Constance DuBois: B1-10

> When the people scattered from Ekvo Temeko, Temecula, they were very powerful. When they got to a place, they would sing a song to make water come there, and would call that place theirs; or they would scoop out a hollow in a rock with their hands to have that for their mark as a claim upon the land. The different parties of people had their own marks. For instance, Albañas's ancestors

[11] Smith, Gerald and Steve Freers, 1994, Fading Images: Indian Pictographs of Western Riverside County, Riverside Museum Press, Riverside, CA
[12]

had theirs, and Lucario's people had theirs, and their own songs of Munival to tell how they traveled from Temecula, of the spots where they stopped and about the different places they claimed (1908:158).

Among southern California rock art aficionados, a rock art element has emerged that has currently only been identified in the San Jacinto and Salt Creek Drainages called painted-cupules. Author and rock art specialist Steven Freers wrote: 'the association of cupules at (these) and other sites suggests that this form of rock art may have been created as part of the boys' puberty ceremony' (Smith & Freers, 7). The Village of *Táawila,* CA-RIV-333, "Dead Dog site" CA-RIV-202 near *Páyve*, and the *Paavo'* RIV-393 cupule-cave at "Lizard Shrine" all exhibit painted-cupules, and are all Luiseno cultural areas. We surmise that archaeologists have mistaken the presence of pigment within the cupules for iron oxide—which often it is not. Like our Harrington place name research, for us it is no accident that we Luiseño continue to turn up the clues left to us by our Ancestor's in their places. Given what we currently know, Pechanga is suggesting that these painted-cupules are also distinctly Luiseno. B1-10 cont.

As is evident from the above discussion, the Pechanga Tribe has a wealth of cultural knowledge, supported by academic research, oral histories, songs, place names and art forms which both establish the Pechanga Tribe's specific connection to the Project and the *Paavo'/Páyve* (modern community of Lakeview) area, but also demonstrates a long-standing Luiseño presence in the area.

The Tribe has additional information regarding specific place names and sensitive cultural areas that the Project may impact which are not included in this letter to protect their confidentiality. We request an opportunity to meet with CPUC and SCE to further explain and provide documentation and information concerning our specific cultural affiliation to and knowledge of these lands and the Project area. B1-11

THE DEIR INADEQUATELY EVALUATES THE IMPACTS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES

The proposed Project and its Alternatives are located in a highly sensitive region of Luiseño territory and the Pechanga Tribe believes that the potential for impacting significant cultural resources both directly and indirectly, as well as the potential for recovering subsurface resources during ground-disturbing activities is high. The Tribe is not opposed to this Project; however, we are opposed to any direct, indirect and cumulative impacts this Project may have to tribal cultural resources. B1-12

The CPUC Has Not Begun Consultation with the Tribe

The Tribe has specific and serious concerns regarding the DEIR, including the lack of consultation with the Tribe, as well as deficiencies within the document itself. The Tribe was initially notified of the Project by SCE archaeologist Sara Bholat in March 2010. We contacted B1-13

her via telephone and discussed the Project, as we had serious concerns and knew that the Project impacted a sensitive cultural area. We verbally requested to begin consultation as we had additional information to which the archaeologist did not have access. Ms. Bholat informed us that the entire Project would be in previously disturbed areas and that no cultural resources would be impacted and that we would have the opportunity to comment when the DEIR was released. We were additionally not provided the opportunity to participate during the archaeological survey(s) as was requested as the surveys had already been completed prior to sending the tribal scoping notice. The ability to physically survey a Project assists the Tribe in our determination of impacts to these cultural resources and we have continually requested, on this and other SCE projects, that a tribal representative be contacted to accompany the archaeologist(s). B1-13 cont.

An electronic mail communication was sent to Ms. Bholat August 6, 2010 requesting a copy of the archaeological study, to be placed on all distribution lists and to receive all project documentation for review and comment. We received a response from Ms. Monisha Gangopadhyay of the CPUC on August 9, 2010 indicating that the Project had not been filed with the CPUC yet however we would be put on the CEQA list-serve. This is especially frustrating to the Tribe as it appears that although we requested consultation and the CPUC was aware that the Tribe was interested in the Project, we still were not contacted to begin consultation. B1-14

The DEIR states "Contemporary Native American resources…can include archaeological resources, rock art, and the prominent topographical areas, features, habitats, plants, animals, and minerals that contemporary Native Americans value and consider essential for the preservation of their traditional values. These locations are <u>sometimes hard to define and traditional culture often prohibits Native Americans from sharing these locations with the public</u> [p. 4.5-1:emphasis added]." The Tribe has information that, due to sensitivity and specific tribal policies, we do not provide to the general public and to which archaeologists are not privy however we often share this confidential information with the Lead Agency, in order to preserve and protect our traditional cultural areas. Early consultation with the Tribe ensures that concerns about potential impacts to significant and important cultural resources are addressed in a sensitive and meaningful manner. Relying solely on the archaeological consultant for information without contacting tribes regarding *their* ancestors and *their* history does not fulfill the spirit of consultation according to CEQA or SB1059 nor does it acknowledge that tribes themselves have specific information about the land, its past history and uses and, more importantly, their ancestors, that is vital in the planning process. B1-15

<u>Inadequacies within the DEIR</u>

The DEIR does not properly address significant sites within and near the Project area

It is imperative that the DEIR presents an adequate and thorough study of cultural resources within the Project area and within the region and includes information that can be B1-16

provided by Native American tribes. The DEIR addresses direct and limited indirect impacts to cultural resources; however it must also take into account the full suite of impacts to cultural resources - including all indirect, visual, auditory and cumulative impacts. These topics should be included in the archaeological discussion and analysis reviewed in the technical study. The Tribe would like to emphasize that portions of the proposed Project are located within the overlapping footprints of habitation sites and a large village complex (*Paavo'*). Portions of these sites have been preserved and protected by the County of Riverside. The Tribe is also working with the County and Caltrans towards preservation and avoidance of sites along Ramona Expressway for the Mid County Parkway Project, sites which may be visually and cumulatively impacted by the Lakeview Substation Project. Habitation sites and village complexes are of utmost importance to the Tribe because they are the last physical remains of where the ancestors lived. They contain information and data that are reflective of every aspect of tribal culture. It is well known that native village and habitation complexes enveloped large areas of land, sometimes several square miles. The Tribe understands that, for various reasons, Cultural Resource Management (CRM) work is often limited to the proposed project with no resources expended for a regional analysis. However, in order for an environmental document to evaluate the full impacts of the Project on cultural resources, not only those resources within the Project area, but also the adjacent resources must be taken into account from not only a scientific archaeological perspective but from a cultural one as well. The Tribe asserts that in the DEIR, any analysis of impacts to cultural resources for this Project area must necessarily include all village complexes within the larger area, even if such complexes exist adjacent to or nearby the Project area.

B1-16 cont.

B1-17

Piecemealing/Landscape Analysis

The Tribe understands that, for management purposes, cultural sites are often recorded as separate entities. However, this has caused a narrow interpretation of cultural areas; each individual 'site' is often viewed as a single, isolated event and little to no research or analysis is conducted on the surrounding areas that may indicate a larger habitation area or Village Complex, as has been done on this Project to date. If indiscriminate destruction of individual "sites" (i.e., individual features) is allowed to continue with little to no effort put forth by the Lead Agency or Archaeologists to attempt to accommodate both the goal of preservation and the goal of development, the only remaining features of our villages will be small portions that have been chosen by archaeologists to be "saved" based only on a scientific assessment and valuation of the site rather than the cultural significance attributed to it by the Tribe. This sort of methodology completely ignores the value of an individual feature / site's contribution to the entire habitation area and the cultural importance of these villages and larger areas of habitation. The Tribe would like to encourage a broader, landscape approach in analyzing how these features relate to each other and to the larger environment instead of separating them into discrete and isolated sites and thus diminishing their importance.

B1-18

Inadequate Data Collection

Based upon the information presented in the DEIR, the records search only covered a ½ mile radius outside the Project area[13]. Ethnographic accounts have shown that villages often extended upwards of five miles, similar to modern communities. Had a larger radius been researched, a more exhaustive data set would have been collected that, in conjunction with information from the Tribe, would have provided the Project archaeologist and the EIR preparers with a broader understanding of the area. In fact, the DEIR states that 61 Native American cultural resources were identified within a ½ mile radius of the Fiber Optic Cable Route 3 alone. Fourteen additional sites were identified within the ½ mile radius of the substation site, source line segments and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 & 2. However, no analysis - landscape or otherwise, was provided in the DEIR. In Chapter 6 Cumulative Effects, Specific Plan 00342 is identified as being ½ mile from the proposed Project. This is the Villages of Lakeview Project in which sits one of the oldest and deepest village complexes in California and the site is therefore highly significant. Undoubtedly, the records search identified a few of the individual locations that make up this village; however without looking at a larger radius and speaking with the Tribe, *Paavo'* has been overlooked and disregarded. B1-19

The Tribe is further concerned about the number of cultural sites indicated in the DEIR that would be impacted by the Project. According to the DEIR, there are four Native American resources within 100 feet of the boundaries (P-33-00525, -00526, -02951, -00608). However, based upon our information, there are an additional 10 sites that may be in the Project boundaries but are most likely within 100 feet (P-33-000021, -000524, -003388, -004211, -004212, -008266, -008168, -008169, -008170, -008171)[14]. Two additional sites may also be impacted. P-33-000528 contains milling features, pictographs, lithic scatters, and midden however it is unclear from the site record how close it is to the transmission line. Also, P-33-000858 is a "large camp" that was recorded in a field on the southernmost portion of three distinct bedrock outcrops. The Tribe is concerned that this site could be impacted because we are aware that the other two outcroppings also contain milling features and that, although the surface has been disturbed by agriculture, this habitation site could extend subsurface and onto the Project area. The Tribe would like to further discuss this with the CPUC and ESA in order to remedy the incorrect data and eventually assist with the adequate evaluation of such data. B1-20

As such, the Tribe believes that it is imperative that the impacts the Project will pose to cultural sites be adequately evaluated and addressed in the DEIR. For example, there is no discussion on visual or auditory impacts to cultural resources. The Tribe knows that there are numerous sites, which make-up the various habitation and villages, located within a close proximity to the Project boundaries. The existing transmission line has already directly visually B1-21

[13] The Pechanga Tribe was not provided a copy of the archaeological study for review. Our comments are based upon the Cultural Resources Chapter of the DEIR.

[14] The Tribe was not provided the specific GIS Project boundaries. We therefore are unable to claim that there are sites within the boundaries without this information; however, based upon the site records and aerial photographs, they can be identified as within 100 feet.

impacted these resources. Because of the size and complexity, the Project will have visual and auditory impacts on the surrounding landscape and such visual and auditory impacts to cultural resources should be thoroughly evaluated within the final document. The Tribe has additional information on these cultural resources and potential impacts there to which will assist in a thorough evaluation. . B1-21 cont.

Other indirect impacts are also a serious concern for the Tribe. While the mitigation measures do provide some protection for indirect impacts to sites located within 50 feet of the Project area, we believe a more protective distance would be 100 feet. This can assist with protection from not only equipment and staging disturbances but also for operator and other personnel disturbances as well. The Pechanga Tribe requests further consultation on this issue to assist in such an evaluation. B1-22

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Cumulative impacts are also a major concern for the Tribe. While Chapter 6 addressed Cumulative Impacts to cultural resources, it is flawed in its analysis. Initially, the geographic scope of impacts was identified at one mile, yet the archaeological records search was only a ½ mile radius. Because archaeological and cultural sites are heavily influenced by a region's geography and are often based around water, lithic, and vegetative resources, there can be large differences in relatively short distances. The assumption that other sites in that additional ½ mile are the same as the sites within the Project area is based upon insufficient data and misinterpretation. Because no consultation was conducted with the Tribe and specific types of cultural resource activity areas were not collected from the EIC, the impact analysis is faulty and inaccurate. B1-23

Secondly, the Tribe is concerned with the cumulative impact of allowing the destruction of individual or "non-significant" sites. For instance, the DEIR seems to imply that data recovery to archaeological and cultural sites is not an impact or at least fails to take it into account as an impact. Cultural sites are a non-renewable resource. Once excavated, disturbed, looted or destroyed in any way, there is no chance for that site to ever be the same again. The destruction of any "individual" cultural resource is detrimental to the whole cultural landscape and serves to further destroy the Tribe's traditional ancestral places. Unfortunately, most of the traditional ancestral places of the Tribe are on private and public lands which are constantly threatened by development. The Tribe is not anti-development; however, we increasingly struggle with lead agencies to protect and preserve our invaluable resources which continue to be destroyed and impacted on nearly a daily basis leading to the cumulative impact of the destruction of the sites. Improper recordation and analysis of features within a larger community or habitation context allows for the piecemealing of sites and can result in improper eligibility determinations which leads ultimately to damage or destruction of sites. While the Tribe is aware that not all sites and cultural resources can be saved during development, it is important to acknowledge in project documentation that these are not renewable resources and thus the impairment or destruction of any site or resource <u>is</u> a cumulative impact. B1-24

Additionally, this section does not address the fact that once construction occurs – no matter whether it is a transmission line, roadway, residence or industrial building, it will bring people into the area and increase the potential for cultural resources to be impacted (i.e., is growth inducing). This can occur in many ways including obvious impacts like graffiti or looting as well as less obvious impacts such as the build-up of air pollutants on *tóota yixélval.* Very little research has been conducted to determine the effects of air pollutants on boulder outcrops and rock art; however, the Tribe knows that the constant exposure will erode the delicate pigments left on the rocks. This kind of indirect and cumulative impact needs to be addressed in more detail in the final document. We know that resources sensitive to these kinds of exposures are present within and around the Project. As such, the document is inadequate in that it fails to assess and address these kinds of impacts. B1-25

Cultural Studies Should be Completed for Analysis Prior to Approval and Certification of the DEIR

The Tribe is concerned that the Project may not have been appropriately surveyed for cultural resources. It is not clear in the DEIR if the Project has been entirely surveyed or would still require additional studies since Section 2.7.3 states "[Further] Surveys would identify and/or address any potential sensitive biological and cultural resources in the vicinity of the Project…" yet only biological studies are recommended. We do not understand what cultural studies would need to be conducted this late in the Project. The Tribe believes that this is deferred mitigation which is generally disfavored under CEQA and creates an uncertainty in the mitigation measures, as it defers mitigation to a later time yet lacks performance standards to ensure that impacts to significant cultural resources will be addressed and mitigated.

The Tribe believes that the Project should be fully surveyed for evaluation in the DEIR with a complete assessment of the activity areas/cultural sites located within the Project boundaries and within a reasonable vicinity of the Project. Additionally, with the Tribe's identification of 10 additional cultural sites within the Project boundaries and no mention of them in the DEIR, the Tribe also questions the validity of the records search. In the event that additional surveys are required, the Tribe requests to be involved in all assessment and evaluation done by the CPUC and SCE, including participating in all archaeological surveys and excavation programs, and to participate as a partner in interpreting the results and devising appropriate mitigation based upon those results. B1-26

The Pechanga Tribe requests that the CPUC take steps for the protection of any uncovered resources in the process of these assessments. If required, the additional surveys may reveal significant cultural resources and sites which may be eligible for inclusion in the historic site registers, may contain human remains and/or may be sacred Luiseño sites.

The Project Mitigation Measures are Inadequate

The Tribe is concerned about both the protection of unique and irreplaceable cultural resources, such as Luiseño village sites, sacred sites and archaeological items which would be displaced by ground disturbing work on the Project, and on the proper and lawful treatment of cultural items, Native American human remains and sacred items likely to be discovered in the course of the work. The Tribe believes that the proposed mitigation measures are inadequate and do not fully provide for avoidance and protection of cultural resources as is CEQA's preferred mitigation. They also do not allow for Native American consultation or tribal monitoring. Recommended revisions are provided below.

CEQA's preferred mitigation for cultural resources is avoidance and preservation in place (See 14 CCR §15126.4(b)(3)(A) and (B).). Standard mitigation measures should be added to the Project's environmental documentation as both mitigation measures and conditions of approval. We further note that all mitigation measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements or other legally binding instruments (14 CCR §15126.4(a)(2).).

B1-27 cont.

The Tribe would like the CPUC, SCE and ESA to know that it does not view monitoring as mitigation, but rather, as a way to enforce the project's CEQA mandated mitigation measures. Monitoring, in our view, does not meet the law's preference for avoidance or preservation in place. Rather, monitoring is a salvage operation with the sole function of collecting the last vestiges of tribal cultural heritage that cannot be preserved or avoided before being totally destroyed. Further, we note that while individual "objects" (i.e., artifacts) can be "salvaged" through data recovery and mitigation, their context is forever destroyed and can never be regained, no matter how complete the recovery efforts or subsequent monitoring report offered by an archaeologist. Therefore, it is the position of the Pechanga Tribe, to assist in enforcing the Project mitigation measures and as additional protection for cultural resources, that an agreement specifying appropriate treatment of inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources be executed between SCE as the Project Applicant and the Pechanga Tribe and which agreement must be made a condition precedent to commencement of the Project.

PROJECT MITIGATION MEASURES

The Tribe possesses necessary information about the cultural sensitivity of this area that an archaeological survey alone cannot reveal, and should be consulted to assist in identifying and mitigating the cultural resources impacts for this Project as soon as possible. The Tribe had previously requested to have a professional tribal monitor participate in the site survey already conducted, however we were not informed of the fieldwork. Therefore, we also request to be included in any future site visits, surveys and excavations to assist the Project Archaeologist in assessing impacts in the Project area. The Tribe further requests detailed copies of the Project maps that define the exact boundaries of the Project components so that we may continue to refine the identification of sites that may be impacted.

B1-28

Below are the Tribe's recommended revisions to the proposed mitigation measures. The Tribe is again requesting consultation with the CPUC in order to discuss our concerns further.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a: SCE and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeology (Department of the Interior, 2008), to carry out all mitigation measures related to archaeological resources.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-1b: At least 30 days prior to beginning Project construction, SCE shall contact the Pechanga Tribe to notify the Tribe of any grading, excavation or ground disturbing activities and to provide the Tribe a copy of the monitoring program, as well as to develop a Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement. The Agreement shall address the treatment of known cultural resources, the designation, responsibilities, and participation of professional Native American Tribal monitors during grading, excavation and ground disturbing activities in conjunction with the archaeological monitors specified in 4.5-2a; Project grading and development scheduling; terms of compensation for tribal monitors; and treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains discovered on the site. B1-29

Mitigation Measure 4.5-1~~b~~c: SCE and/or its contractors shall avoid all impacts to archaeological resources P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, ~~and~~ CWA63-6, P-33-000021, -000524, -003388, -004211, -004212, -008266, -008168, -008169, -008170, and -008171. If any Project-related construction activity would occur within ~~50~~ 100 feet of these archaeological sites, the sites shall be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas to ensure avoidance. Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be established in coordination with the qualified archaeologist and the Pechanga Tribe and shall include a 30 foot buffer around ~~follow~~ the recorded site boundaries of each ~~significant historical~~ resource. Protective fencing or other markers shall be erected around Environmentally Sensitive Areas prior to any ground disturbing activities; however, such Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall not be identified specifically as cultural resources, in order to protect sensitive information and to discourage unauthorized disturbance or collection of artifacts. B1-30

Mitigation Measure 4.5-1ed: If archaeological resources are encountered during Project related activity, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the Pechanga Tribe. If the archaeologist and the Tribal representative determines that the resources are significant, the archaeologist shall notify the CPUC and the resource shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is B1-31

infeasible, a Treatment Plan that documents the research approach and methods for data recovery shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with CPUC and with ~~appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature)~~the Pechanga Tribe. Work may proceed on other parts of the Project area while treatment is being carried out. B1-31 cont.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a: Prior to issuance of a grading permit, a~~n~~ qualified archaeological monitor shall be retained by SCE and/or its contractors to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including brush clearance and grubbing. In addition, the archaeological monitor shall carry out monitoring in the vicinity of designated ESAs as specified in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1c~~d~~. The monitor shall work under the supervision of the qualified archaeologist. The duration and timing of monitoring shall be determined by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the lead agency and the Pechanga Tribe and based on the grading plans. Initially, all ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored. However, the qualified archaeologist, based on observations of soil stratigraphy or other factors, and in consultation with the lead agency and the Pechanga Tribe, may reduce the level of monitoring as warranted. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological monitor shall be empowered to halt or redirect ground-disturbing activities away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated and appropriate treatment determined. Contingency funding and time in the construction schedule should be made available to appropriately manage the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources. B1-32

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b: If archaeological resources are encountered at any point during Project implementation, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within ~~50~~ 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the Pechanga Tribe. If the archaeologist and the Tribal representative determines that the resources may be significant, and if avoidance is determined to be infeasible, the archaeologist shall notify the lead agency and shall prepare a treatment plan, in consultation with the lead agency and ~~with appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature)~~ and the Pechanga Tribe. All sacred sites, should they be encountered within the Project area, shall be avoided and preserved as the preferred mitigation. B1-33

The Pechanga Tribe believes that if human remains are discovered, State law will apply and the mitigation measures for the permit must account for this. According to the California Public Resources Code, § 5097.98, if Native American human remains are discovered, the Native American Heritage Commission must name a "most likely descendant," who shall be consulted as to the appropriate disposition of the remains. Given the Project's location in Pechanga B1-34

territory, the Pechanga Tribe intends to assert its right pursuant to California law with regard to any remains or items discovered in the course of this Project.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-4: If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work. SCE shall contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, ~~and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in §15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA *Guidelines*.~~ If the County coroner determines that the remains are Native American, ~~SCE and/or its contractors~~ the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code 5097.98, SCE shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the SCE and/or its contractor has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (PRC 5097.98), with the most likely descendents regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains. B1-34 cont.

Mitigation Measure 4.5.5: The CPUC and SCE agree to assist the Pechanga Tribe in working with the landowner to relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including sacred items, burial goods and all archaeological artifacts that are found on the Project area to the Pechanga Tribe for proper treatment and disposition. B1-35

Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-CUL-1: SCE and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified archaeologist (defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeology) to survey those portions of the final selected Project footprint that have not been previously subjected to systematic pedestrian cultural resources survey. SCE shall also contact the Pechanga Cultural Resources Department at least 14 days in advance in order to notify them of the survey and to schedule a Native American monitor. After additional archaeological survey is carried out, the archaeologist shall prepare a report, for approval by the CPUC, that summarizes the survey efforts, and evaluates any identified cultural resources for their eligibility for listing in the National Register, California Register, or local register, or as a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5. A~~ny resources determined to be significant~~ All resources shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is infeasible, a Treatment Plan that documents the research approach and methods for data recovery shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with CPUC and with the Pechanga Tribe .~~appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).~~ B1-36

The Tribe reserves the right to fully participate in the environmental review process, as well as to provide further comment on the Project's impacts to cultural resources and potential mitigation for such impacts. Further, the Tribe reserves the right to participate in the regulatory process and provide comment on issues pertaining to the regulatory process and Project approval.

The Pechanga Tribe looks forward to working together with the CPUC in protecting the invaluable Pechanga cultural resources found in the Project area. Please contact me at 951-770-8104 or via e-mail at ahoover@pechanga-nsn.gov once you have had a chance to review these comments so that we can begin consultation and analysis of impacts to cultural resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Hoover
Cultural Analyst

Cc Pechanga Office of the General Counsel
Brenda Tomaras, Tomaras & Ogas, LLP

2.6.2 Letter B1 – Responses to Comments from Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians

B1-1 Thank you for your interest in this Project. The Pechanga Tribe has been included on the distribution list, and so will be notified of upcoming hearings about the Project.

B1-2 Comments concerning the cultural resources that could be affected by this Project are appreciated.

B1-3 In response to these concerns, the CPUC consulted with representatives of the Tribe in April and July, 2012, and respects and appreciates the Tribe's special access to information highly relevant to the analysis of potential effects on cultural resources. With this information in mind, the following revisions have been made to page 4.5-8 of the Draft EIR under the section entitled Native American Contact:

> **Native American Contact.** Contact with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native American ~~contacts also~~ representatives was performed by SCE. The NAHC responded that a check of their Sacred Lands File did not reveal the presence of Native American resources within the Project area. ~~No responses were received from any of the Native American contacts recommended by the NAHC as of the filing of SCE's application for a PTC.~~
>
> In a letter dated March 2, 2012, Pechanga Cultural Resources, Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians (Pechanga) commented on the Draft EIR indicating its concerns about the Project and the lack of consultation to solicit information about sensitive cultural resources that may be present in the Project area. The letter requests that consultation be initiated; provides important contextual information concerning the Pechanga's cultural affiliation with the Project area, archaeological sites including villages and ceremonial sites, and a trade and travel corridor that connects several Luiseño villages in the Project vicinity; expresses that archaeological resources be viewed from a holistic landscape perspective rather than as individual sites; and presents mitigation recommendations. The Pechanga's interests and concerns with the Project are detailed in the March 2, 2012 letter and are included in the Final EIR through the Draft EIR response to comments process.
>
> Since receiving the comment letter, the CPUC, its cultural resources consultant, and SCE have initiated and engaged in coordination with the Tribe to elicit important information concerning the cultural resources sensitivity of the Project area. Telephone conferences were held on April 4 and July 11, 2012 and a meeting between Tribal representatives and the CPUC's cultural resources consultant took place on July 18, 2012. During this meeting, the Pechanga provided additional information concerning the proximity of the Project area to the Lakeview Hot Springs which may have been of cultural, traditional, and/or

> ceremonial importance to the Luiseño prehistorically and historically and the proximity of the Project to the modern Ramona Expressway, which extends along what was once an important Luiseño trade and travel route as evidenced by the types of cultural resources located in the area. Additionally, they have expressed concern about four sites located in the general Project vicinity, CA-RIV-858, CA-RIV-111, CA-RIV-1772, and CA-RIV-528, the closest of which is approximately 500 feet from the closest Project component.

In addition, the following modifications have been made under Section 4.5.4, Impacts and Mitigation Measures, subheading a), on page 4.5-19 of the Draft EIR.

> The Pechanga have expressed concern regarding the proximity of the Project area to the Lakeview Hot Springs, which may have been of cultural, traditional, and/or ceremonial importance to the Luiseño prehistorically and historically, and the proximity of the Project to the modern Ramona Expressway, which extends along what was once an important Luiseño trade and travel route as evidenced by the types of cultural resources located in the area. Additionally, they have expressed concern about four sites located in the general Project vicinity, CA-RIV-858, CA-RIV-111, CA-RIV-1772, and CA-RIV-528, the closest of which is approximately 500 feet from the closest Project component. The proposed Project would not impact these sites, nor would it impact known Luiseño village sites, none of which are located in close proximity to the Project area.

B1-4 See Section 2.5 regarding the elimination of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project. See also Response B1-23.

B1-5 See Response B1-3.

B1-6 See Response B1-3.

B1-7 See Response B1-3.

B1-8 See Response B1-3.

B1-9 See Response B1-3.

B1-10 See Response B1-3.

B1-11 Such meetings have occurred. See Response B1-3.

B1-12 Comment noted.

B1-13 See Response B1-3.

B1-14 See Response B1-3.

B1-15 See Response B1-3.

B1-16 See Responses B1-3 and B1-23.

B1-17 See Responses B1-3 and B1-23.

B1-18 See Response B1-3.

B1-19 CPUC acknowledges that more information could have been collected if a larger records search radius been used. However, the intent of the records search was to identify previously recorded cultural resources that could be affected by the proposed Project; a 0.5-mile radius was sufficient to accomplish this goal. Regarding landscape analysis, please see Response B1-3. Regarding the village of Paavo, please see Response B1-3.

B1-20 Further discussions have occurred. Resources P-33-000021, -000524, -003388, -004211, -004212, -008266, -008168, -008169, -008170, -008171, and -000528 are all located adjacent to Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, which has been eliminated from the proposed Project (See Section 2.5). Therefore, none of these 11 resources would be affected by the Project. Resource P-33-000858 is located approximately 530 feet from Subtransmission Source Line Routes 1 and 2. An archaeological survey performed for the Project did not identify any surface expression of this site within the Project area. The Draft EIR acknowledges that Project construction could cause an impact on buried or otherwise obscured, previously unknown archaeological resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.5-2a, which would require archaeological monitoring of ground-disturbing activities, and 4.5-2b, which would provide for measures in the event of inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources, would reduce the impact to currently unknown archaeological resources to less than significant.

B1-21 Because of the elimination of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, there no longer are any prehistoric or Native American sites in close proximity to the Project area. See Section 2.5.

B1-22 Because of the elimination of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, there no longer are any cultural resources located in close proximity to the Project area that would require the creation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas. See Section 2.5. However, the unanticipated discovery Mitigation Measure (Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b) has been modified to be consistent with the 100-foot radius suggested by the Pechanga (see Response B1-27).

B1-23 The 1-mile radius referred to in Section 6.2.5 is the geographic scope of cumulative impacts, and does not correspond with the records search radius referred to in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Cultural Resources. The CPUC considers the 1-mile geographic scope for the cumulative impacts to be appropriate.

B1-24 See Response B1-27. The following clarifications have been made to Draft EIR Section 6.2.5, Cultural Resources (pp. 6-12 and 6-13):

The Project area vicinity contains a significant archaeological and historical record that, in many cases, has not been well documented or recorded and that contains cultural resources of important value to local Tribes. Thus, there is the potential for ongoing and future development projects in the vicinity to disturb landscapes that may contain known or unknown cultural resources. Environmental analysis is either underway or completed for many of these projects.

The potential direct construction impacts of the Project to historical and archaeological resources are mitigated such that preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigation ~~historical or archaeological resources~~ and because such resources are non-renewable, they ~~are either~~ should be avoided completely~~,~~. ~~or i~~If they cannot be feasibly avoided, ~~that~~ a treatment plan shall be prepared and the resources be subject to data recovery excavations (Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b). There would be no impact from maintenance or operation of the Project. Because mitigation is designed to avoid a change in the significance of any known or potential cultural resources, there is no residual impact after mitigation. Should other projects in the cumulative scenario not implement similar measures, the cumulative scenario could result in a significant cumulative impact; however, the Project, with mitigation, would not contribute to the cumulative impact.

B1-25 As discussed on page 7-3 of the Draft EIR, "The Project is needed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area…The Project is designed to increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than to induce growth." In addition, as explained on Draft EIR page 4.15-5, "The Project would not result in a population increase, nor introduce any new uses to the Project area, that would generate increased long-term demand for fire protection services…." Therefore, the Project is not considered growth inducing.

B1-26 As stated on Draft EIR page 4.5-8, the entire Project area was surveyed for cultural resources in 2009 and 2010. Impacts to all resources located within or adjacent to the Project area are considered in Draft EIR Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*. The CPUC will work with the Tribe to ensure that the Tribe can remain involved in any future cultural resources assessment that may be necessary for the Project, including surveys or excavation.

B1-27 The following modifications have been made to mitigation measures recommended in the Draft EIR on page 4.5-22 to clarify roles for monitoring and coordination in the event of accidental discovery:

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a: Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor shall be retained and contracted by SCE and/or its contractors to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including brush clearance and grubbing. ~~In addition, the archaeological~~

~~monitor shall carry out monitoring in the vicinity of designated ESAs as specified in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1c.~~ The archaeological monitor shall work under the supervision of the qualified archaeologist. The Native American monitor shall be selected from the list of Native American groups demonstrating affiliation with the Project area and demonstrating interest in the Project. ~~The duration and timing of monitoring shall be determined by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the lead agency and based on the grading plans.~~ Initially, all ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored. However, the qualified archaeologist, based on observations of soil stratigraphy or other factors, and in consultation with the Native American monitor and the lead agency, may reduce the level of monitoring as warranted. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological and Native American monitors shall be empowered to halt or redirect ground-disturbing activities away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated and appropriate treatment determined. Arrangements for the appropriate curation of any cultural materials encountered during Project implementation shall be made prior to the issuance of grading permits and in coordination with the Native American group selected for monitoring. Contingency funding and time in the construction schedule should be made available to appropriately manage the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b: If archaeological resources are encountered at any point during Project implementation, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within ~~50~~ 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the Native American group selected for monitoring (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature). Preservation in place shall be the preferred means of mitigating impacts to cultural resources. If the archaeologist determines that the resources may be significant, and if avoidance is determined to be infeasible, the archaeologist shall notify the lead agency and shall prepare a treatment plan, in consultation with the lead agency and with appropriate Native American representatives ~~(if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).~~

B1-28 The CPUC will work to involve the Tribe in any future Project-related archaeological work, and will notify the Tribe in the event of unanticipated discovery of Native American cultural resources during Project construction. The Tribe has been provided detailed maps of Project components.

B1-29 See Response B1-27.

B1-30 As a result of the elimination of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project, Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a, 4.5-1b, and 4.5-1c are no longer necessary and have been eliminated from the EIR (see Section 2.5).

B1-31 See Response B1-30.

B1-32 See Response B1-27.

B1-33 See Response B1-27.

B1-34 As stated on Draft EIR page 4.5-25, Mitigation Measure 4.5-4 requires compliance with Public Resources Code section 5097.98 in the event of the discovery of human remains during Project construction, and reiterates applicable legal codes for the treatment and disposition of human remains. The CPUC notes that the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians intends to assert its right as a most likely descendant under state law; however, pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(b), the ultimate decision of most likely descendant is the responsibility of the Native American Heritage Commission. In response to this comment, Mitigation Measure 4.5-4 has been revised as follows:

> **Mitigation Measure 4.5-4:** If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work, contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in ~~§15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA *Guidelines*~~ Health and Safety Code §7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, ~~SCE and/or its contractors~~ the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code §5097.98, SCE shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the SCE and/or its contractor has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (Public Resources Code §5097.98), with the most likely descendents regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.

B1-35 See Response B1-27.

B1-36 In response to this comment, Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-CUL-1 on page 4.5-27 of the Draft EIR has been revised as follows:

> **Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-CUL-1:** SCE and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified archaeologist (defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeology) to survey those portions of the final selected Project footprint that have not been previously subjected to systematic pedestrian cultural resources survey. SCE also shall notify interested Native American representatives in advance in order to notify them of the survey and to schedule a Native American monitor. After additional archaeological survey is carried out, the archaeologist shall prepare a report, for approval by the CPUC, that summarizes the survey efforts, and evaluates any identified cultural resources for their eligibility for listing in the National Register, California Register, or local register, or as a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5. Any resources determined to be significant shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is infeasible, a Treatment Plan that documents the research approach and methods for data recovery shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with CPUC and with appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).

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Ontario, California 91764
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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/CDFG-WRIV-12B0130-12CPA0104

MAR 5 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, California 94104

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Lakeview Substation Project, Unincorporated Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the California Department of Fish and Game (Department), hereafter collectively referred to as the Wildlife Agencies, have reviewed the subject Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Lakeview Substation Project received on January 23, 2012. The DEIR has been submitted to identify the proposed project's direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts, to discuss alternatives, and to propose mitigation measures that avoid, minimize, or offset significant environmental impacts.

The primary concern and mandate of the Service is the protection of public fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has legal responsibility for the welfare of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered animals and plants occurring in the United States. The Service is also responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The Department is a trustee agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP). The Wildlife Agencies are providing the following comments as they relate to the project's consistency with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

On June 22, 2004, the Service issued a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The MSHCP establishes a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit. The Department also issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the MSHCP as per Section 2800, *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code.

One of the requirements of CEQA is to address any inconsistencies between a proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans, such as the MSHCP. The purpose of our comments is to address the biological analysis in the DEIR relative to CEQA and the analysis of the project impacts on MSHCP implementation.

Southern California Edison (SCE) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a new 115/12 kilovolt (kV) substation (Lakeview Substation) on approximately 5.4 acres located at Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street in the community of Lakeview. The project would also include installation of two new 115 kV subtransmission line segments; construction of two new underground vaults (12 kV distribution getaways); facilities to connect the substation to SCE's existing fiber-optic telecommunications system; construction of new access roads, upgrades to an existing access road and the telecommunications equipment at various existing substations; and the decommissioning of two existing substations (the Nuevo Substation and the Model Pole Top Substation).

The Wildlife Agencies have questions and concerns regarding the DEIR and the proposed project's potential impacts on sensitive flora and fauna. We recommend that the following items be analyzed and included in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR):

1. The DEIR does not adequately address all potential sensitive species within the project area, including State and federally listed species. Sensitive species listed in Table 4.4-2 are missing from the analysis discussion. For example, Los Angeles pocket mouse (LAPM) is known to occur on the project site. Except for mention in Table 4.4-2, there is no discussion of where they occur, avoidance of the suitable habitat, or appropriate mitigation measures. The MSHCP conservation strategy for this species includes avoidance of areas with long-term conservation value for the species. The FEIR should identify appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures for this species and identify the degree to which the project's avoidance and mitigation measures will affect the MSHCP conservation strategy for LAPM. Additionally, MSHCP monitoring surveys have documented spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) near the project site. Table 4.4-2 indicates low potential within portions of the project site. Please provide details of the habitat and survey results for this species. Please include all potential species in the analysis and propose appropriate avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures. These measures should be coordinated with the Wildlife Agencies as appropriate. Impacts to MSHCP covered species that could undermine or interfere with the MSHCP conservation strategy for that species should be identified and discussed. B2-1

2. Future surveys are not mitigation for impacts to sensitive species therefore we cannot agree that the project is consistent with the MSHCP policies. If SCE proposes to complete focused species surveys after project approval (pg. 2-15) SCE must first clearly describe and commit to specific, well-defined mitigation and avoidance measures that will be implemented if sensitive species are found. B2-2

3. We recommend that SCE does not defer development of mitigation and monitoring plans for special status species, such as the San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata var. notatior*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). B2-3

4. The DEIR must discuss how the project does or does not impact the MSHCP conservation strategy. The DEIR does not adequately address if the project is in conflict with the conservation strategy of the MSHCP (p. 4.4-34; f). B2-4

5. The DEIR should include an alternatives analysis which focuses on environmental resources and methods to avoid or minimize impacts to those resources. The alternatives analysis in the DEIR does not adequately analyze the project alternatives and needs to be revised for the FEIR. B2-5

6. The DEIR includes a description of permanent and temporary land disturbance for various construction components in Chapter 2. This discussion does not include the acres of each vegetation type that would be impacted by the project. Also, the DEIR does not include a discussion of proposed mitigation measures for impacts to habitat. Please include specific acreage impacts to each habitat type and proposed mitigation measures for permanent and temporary impacts in the FEIR. B2-6

7. Portions of the proposed project are located within the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Please disclose the potential impacts (direct, indirect, temporary and/or permanent) the project may have on the wildlife area and propose avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures as applicable. Clarify if coordination with the wildlife area manager has occurred. B2-7

8. The project is located within a raptor concentration area. The DEIR does not adequately address this resource and the potential impacts of the project on raptors. We recommend the report include additional available data documenting the avian resources in and adjacent to the Lake Perris State Recreation Area/San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Other raptor and avian species documented in or near the project vicinity (e.g., northern harrier) are MSHCP covered species. B2-8

9. There is a known turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) nest located in the Bernasconi Hills near the project location. This is an MSHCP-covered species and few nest sites are known within the MSHCP Plan Area. Conservation requirements of the MSHCP for this species include protection and buffering of nests from disturbance. We recommend that the FEIR include measures to avoid or minimize nest disturbance. B2-9

10. Mitigation Measure 4.4-4 (pg. 4.4-32) is proposed to minimize collision and electrocution risk for raptors. We recommend that the mitigation measure be more inclusive of elements of the *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006* (APLIC 2006) report to also include, but not be limited to, perch management techniques, post-construction mortality monitoring and reporting, and development of an Avian Protection Plan. B2-10

11. The proposed project has the potential to impact Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). The golden eagle is a State fully protected species, and is federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*) and under Executive Order 13186 - Responsibility of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. In addition to MBTA, eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Golden eagles are known to occur in the vicinity of the project. We recommend providing up-to-date biological survey information about eagles that breed, forage, shelter and/or migrate within a 10-mile buffer of the project site. Please refer to the Interim Golden Eagle Inventory and Monitoring Protocols (Pagel et al. 2010) for appropriate survey methods (Available at http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/oklahoma/documents/te_species/wind%20power/usfws_interim_goea_monitoring_protocol_10march2010.pdf). B2-11

12. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*, "SKR") is known to occur within the project site. We are aware that an agreement is in development between the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) and SCE for authorization of take of SKR through the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan (SKR HCP). We recommend that the FEIR provide clarification that the project will receive take authorization for SKR by participating in the SKR HCP. Also, the FEIR needs to be clear on where and when SKR have been documented on the project site. Future surveys for SKR are not mitigation for impacts to SKR. Avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures, such as payment of the SKR fee, should be clearly identified in the FEIR. B2-12

13. Remote photo studies are not a valid survey methodology for jurisdictional waters or any other sensitive species. A Jurisdictional Delineation for State and Federal Agencies must be prepared to identify impacts to State waters and waters of the U.S. The results of the Jurisdictional Delineation should be included in the FEIR to clarify if wetlands and/or other jurisdictional features will be impacted by the proposed project. If any impact would occur; additional avoidance, minimization and/or mitigations measures will be required. B2-13

14. Several habitat communities previously disclosed in the document are missing in the DEIR analysis (Section 4.4.4 b). Please clarify if the project will impact Alkali Scrub Playa, Alkali Wetland, and /or Southern Willow Scrub. Please note that mitigation for impacts to these sensitive vegetation communities is likely to be required as part of the project. B2-14

15. Section 6.2.4 Biological Resources states that the proposed project will impact 0.02 acres of Sensitive Natural Communities. This is inconsistent with previous Sections. This section also includes measures, such as transplant of special-status plants that were not disclosed in other sections. Please note that without an adequate analysis of the impacts to the different biological resources, the cumulative effects section needs to be revised. Also note that there are California Species of Special Concern and other sensitive species that would need to be evaluated, particularly if the project has the potential to preclude or otherwise interfere with MSHCP conservation objectives or strategies. B2-15

If affects to spreading navarretia and San Jacinto Valley crownscale cannot be avoided, SCE can choose to become a Participating Special Entity in the MSCHP and receive coverage for project-related impacts to those species. An agreement is in development between RCHCA and SCE for authorization of take of SKR through the SKR HCP. The Final EIR should specify how or whether the project will obtain take of affected State and federally listed species. B2-16

A Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification will be required by the Department should the site contain State jurisdictional waters. Additionally, the Department's criteria for determining the presence of jurisdictional waters are more comprehensive than the Clean Water Act. Any mitigation measures required by the resource protection policies of the Army Corps of Engineers should be included in the CEQA document. Additionally, project impacts to resources that would be avoided or protected under the MSHCP's Riparian Riverine Protection Policy should be discussed. B2-17

The Department recommends submitting a notification early on, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. A Streambed Alteration Agreement notification package is available at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Noelle Ronan of the Service at (760) 431-9440, extension 215 or Juan Lopez Torres of the Department at (909) 484-3979.

Sincerely,

for Kennon A. Corey
Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jeff Brandt
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Game

cc:
Charles Landry, Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, Riverside, CA

Literature Cited

Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2006. Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art 2006. Edison Electric Institute and the Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C., 2006.

2.6.3 Letter B2 – Responses to Comments from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

B2-1 As presented in Response A1b-165, with few exceptions, the majority of Project impacts would occur to agricultural lands, and ruderal and disturbed areas that do not support sensitive biological resources. With the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description, the portion of the Project area where native habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species occurs is in association with the San Jacinto River corridor. At this location, the Project alignment includes tubular steel poles near the river to provide a maximum span with minimal habitat impacts, and otherwise wood subtransmission line poles that have a small footprint and would cause minimal habitat disturbance. The habitat within the Project area is mostly disturbed (e.g., 0.64 acre of natural habitat within a disturbed envelope of 67.87 acres; see Response A1b-165); thus, with the exception of a few small areas, the likelihood of encountering special-status wildlife species is low. The "potential to occur" determination for many species was identified as, "Absent. No habitat present" in the Draft EIR analysis in Table 4.4-2 (pg. 4.4-9 to 4.4-16).

With the completion of plant and wildlife surveys, the distribution of plant and wildlife in the Project area is known and extremely limited. Thus, Applicant Proposed Measure (APM)-BIO-2 would be applied to avoid wildlife populations during construction.

Specific measures that were proposed to protect Stephens' kangaroo rat in the Draft EIR (APM-BIO-3) will equally apply to protect Los Angeles pocket mouse, which is present within the same habitat in and near the San Jacinto River corridor.

Impact 4.4-2 on page 4.4-30 of the Draft EIR is revised and Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 is added on page 4.4-31 as follows:

> **Impact 4.4-2: Construction activities associated with the Project could result in adverse impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat as well as non-listed special status wildlife species.** ***Less than Significant <u>with Mitigation</u>*** **(Class III)**
>
> > **<u>Mitigation Measure 4.4-2:</u>** <u>SCE shall implement measures to reduce Project impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles Pocket mouse in the San Jacinto River corridor as follows:</u>
> >
> > <u>SCE shall implement a Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse trapping and relocation effort only if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency.</u>
> >
> > <u>Habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse within Project area grasslands (such as those identified in BonTerra, 2011) shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone to be</u>

approved by the USFWS and CDFG. SCE shall stake, flag, fence, or otherwise clearly delineate the construction right-of-way that restricts the limits of construction to the minimum necessary to implement the Project that also would avoid and minimize impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat.

Where avoidance of confirmed Stephens' kangaroo rat precincts is infeasible and unavoidable, and if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, SCE shall install silt fence or other impermeable barrier to Stephens' kangaroo rat to exclude Stephens' kangaroo rat from entering the active work areas.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Surveys for spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) were performed in the Project area and at reference sites by BonTerra Consulting in May 2009 and May 2010 (BonTerra, 2010b). Reference populations and regional rainfall amounts were monitored to ensure the scientific adequacy of focused surveys. A significant spreading navarretia population was visited at the San Jacinto River near the Nuevo Road crossing, and plants were readily identifiable. Surveys verified that spreading navarretia habitat was potentially present in the Project area; however, a "low potential" to occur was determined because this species was not observed during adequately timed protocol-level surveys over a two-year period. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, potential impacts to MSHCP covered species would neither undermine nor interfere with the MSHCP conservation strategy.

B2-2 Focused plant and wildlife surveys in the Project area were complete at the time of Draft EIR circulation, and so commitments made in the APMs to conduct them later already have been fulfilled. See, for example, APM-BIO-3, relating to Stephens' kangaroo rat (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27); APM-BIO-4, relating to Riverside fairy shrimp (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27); APM-BIO-5, relating to burrowing owl (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28); and APM-BIO-6, relating to special-status plants (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28). Mitigation for potential impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse are described in Response B2-1. Further, most special-status plant and wildlife species that occur in the regional Project area do not occur in the local Project area. Therefore, avoidance measures are not provided for plant and wildlife species that would not be affected by the Project. The avoidance and minimization strategy for other species that have been identified in the Project area or are identified during preconstruction surveys is defined in the Draft EIR.

B2-3 The Applicant has proposed a suitable mitigation strategy (APM-BIO-5; pg. 4.4-28) to identify the potential presence of burrowing owl in the Project area, adequately respond in a manner that avoids impacts to nesting owls, and is consistent with recommended CDFG protocols. It is not known whether the Project will impact identified populations of San Joaquin crownscale, as the final Project alignment has not been selected. The principal mitigation strategy for this species is to delineate and avoid identified crownscale populations.

B2-4 The Project is consistent with the MSHCP conservation strategy because it focuses Project facilities within and near developed areas and utilizes existing utility corridors whenever possible with few new linear facilities. The Project clusters new facilities (e.g., the proposed substation and substation upgrades) within or adjacent to existing development in the cities of Lakeview and Moreno Valley. In doing so, it minimizes impacts to natural habitat (see Response A1b-165) where sensitive biological resources occur.

B2-5 As explained in Draft EIR Section 3.2.4, *Potential to Eliminate Significant Environmental Effects* (p. 3-4), one of the factors used to identify potential alternatives to the proposed Project was "the potential to 'avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project' (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(a))." The potential significant environmental effects of the Project identified in Table 3-1 (Draft EIR, p. 3-5) were projected to be to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, and noise. However, because this screening-level impact summary was developed prior to completion of the EIR analysis, it identified more "potentially significant" impacts than subsequently were identified in Draft EIR Chapter 4. Ultimately, the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project identified a significant unavoidable impact only to air quality (see, e.g., Draft EIR, pp. ES-10, 5-2).The commenter's opinion as to the adequacy of the alternative analysis is noted; however, without evidence or other details to support the opinion, the CPUC does not have enough information to provide a detailed response.

B2-6 See Response A1b-165.

B2-7 Please see Section 2.5. The Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description. Therefore, the Project would cause no effect on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

B2-8 In response to this Comment, the following paragraph is added on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR following the discussion of Stephens' kangaroo rat and immediately prior to the subheading *Special-Status Plants*:

> ***Raptors.*** The San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris State Recreation Area are important breeding and foraging area for many resident raptor species, and also serve as important wintering grounds for numerous migratory raptors. The regional topography, variety of local habitats, and availability of year-round water attract a wide variety of birds, including high densities of wintering raptors. Common resident and wintering raptors in the region include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*),white-tailed Kite, osprey, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), among others. Numerous owl species also occur locally and include burrowing owl (*Athene*

cunicularia) and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), among others.[12] Generally, raptors can be susceptible to human activities such as habitat alteration, loss of breeding habitat, poisoning, disturbance of nesting or roosting sites, or interactions with powerlines or towers through electrocution or collision.

B2-9 APM-BIO-1 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27) details the protection measures that would be applied to avoid impacts to nesting turkey vultures. With implementation of the measure, no impacts are anticipated to this species.

B2-10 As identified in the Project Description (Draft EIR, p. 2-12), poles have been designed to be consistent with the *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006* (APLIC, 2006). These design features could include one or more of the following: conductor and insulator covers, increased conductor spacing, suspending phase conductors, insulated jumper wires, horizontal jumper supports, and perch deterrents on crossarms. The voluntary APLIC guidelines recommend preparing an Avian Protection Plan, and SCE already has an Avian Protection Program in place to protect birds from electrocution hazards.

B2-11 Golden eagles have been reported from the regional Project area, including a nest site approximately 6 miles west of Winchester (BonTerra, 2010a). Suitable foraging habitat is present throughout much of the Project area. The Project will follow the current APLIC guidelines for avian protection on power lines and is expected to have a minor impact, if any, on golden eagles. CEQA requires an analysis of potential Project impacts relative to baseline conditions (see the description of the environmental assessment methodology that is provided beginning on page 4-2 of the Draft EIR). Acknowledging that survey information generated subsequent to baseline studies could be helpful to USFWS in exercising its independent jurisdiction over the species affected by the Project, the CPUC does not have authority under CEQA to require that they be done. In any event, in this case, the recommendation that comprehensive aerial surveys be performed for golden eagles within 10 miles of the Project following the Interim Golden Eagle Inventory and Monitoring Protocols has been considered and determined to be unwarranted due to the relatively small scale of the Project and concentration of Project activities near developed areas.

B2-12 See Response A1b-169.

B2-13 A Jurisdictional Delineation Report was prepared for the Project area in May 2012, and is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would cause no impact to jurisdictional waters, confirming the conclusion identified in the analysis of Alternative 2 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-36).

[12] McCrary, M. D., R.. McKernan, W. D. Wagner, and R. E. Landry. 1986. Roadside raptor census in the San Jacinto Valley of southern California. Western Birds 17:123-130.

B2-14 Vegetation communities that were identified in the study area for the Project, which included the Project corridor and a 50-foot buffer, were presented in Table 4.4-1 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-4). This table does not present anticipated impacts to sensitive vegetation communities, which are presented in Impact 4.4-5 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-33). No impacts would occur to alkali scrub playa, alkali wetland, or southern willow scrub vegetation communities.

B2-15 The Draft EIR (p. 4.4-33) identified that less than 0.01 acre of Riversidean sage scrub and disturbed Riversidian sage scrub would be affected by the Project; which was incorrectly presented as 0.02 acre of impact in the cumulative impacts analysis (draft EIR, p. 6-11). However, given that the Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), no Riversidean sage scrub would be affected by the Project, and so no revisions are proposed to the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR's analysis of cumulative effects to biological resources (Section 6.2.4, p. 6-12, first paragraph, third sentence) does not propose the transplanting of special-status plants and is consistent with the impact analysis. Given the small footprint of the Project and associated minor impacts to California Species of Special Concern, the Project would not interfere with the MSHCP conservation objectives or strategies.

B2-16 See Response A1b-180.

B2-17 As identified in the Draft EIR (p. 4.4-33), Project activities would not affect jurisdictional waters of the United States or waters of the state. Similarly, no impacts are anticipated to riparian habitat at the San Jacinto River; therefore, the requested discussion of the MSHCP's Riparian Riverine Protection policy would not aid decision makers or members of the public in understanding potential Project impacts and so has not been included.

South Coast
Air Quality Management District
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E-MAILED: MARCH 2, 2012 March 2, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer, lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com
Environmental Project Manager
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Proposed Lakeview Substation Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final CEQA document.

In the project description, the lead agency proposes the construction including a new 56 megavolt (MVA) sub-station on an approximately 5.4 acre site; the installation of new sub-transmission source lines; poles to carry these lines; and the construction of new access roads that will require excavation and aggregate base import. The proposed project would also require approximately 20.6 acres of new right-of-way. Construction is anticipated to be completed in approximately 12 months. Since the lead agency has determined that regional construction air quality impacts will exceed the AQMD recommended daily significance thresholds for NOx and PM10, the AQMD staff recommends that all feasible mitigation measures be considered in the Final EIR. Additional details are included in the attachment. B3-1

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, please provide the AQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Report. The AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other air quality questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Ian MacMillan
Program Supervisor, Inter-Governmental Review
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

IM:GM
Attachment

RVC120113-01
Control Number

Construction Mitigation Measures

1. In its air quality analysis, the lead agency has determined that construction emission impacts would exceed the SCAQMD recommended daily significance thresholds for both PM10 and NOx. In order to minimize significant impacts from PM10 emissions, the lead agency included Mitigation measure 4.3-1b on page 4.3-17, which refers to measures found Table 4.3-3 (SCAQMD Fugitive Dust Best Available Control Measures (BACMs) for All Construction Activity Sources). From that measure, the lead agency states, in part, that "SCE shall develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how compliance with each of SCAQMD Rule 403 BACMs shall be achieved." Although the lead agency intends to identify specific measures at a later date, the lead agency is reminded that complying with a rule, regulation, law, etc., in itself should not be considered mitigation if it is required. The AQMD staff would further recommend that the lead agency commit to specific measures from the table now based on the information at hand, include those specific measures in the project description, and incorporate those measures in the project specific impact calculations in the Final EIR. B3-2

2. Based on the lead agency's determination that project construction emissions will exceed the recommended thresholds for NOx and PM10, the AQMD staff recommends the following mitigation measures to further reduce construction NOx and PM10 impacts in addition to Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 4.3-1b listed in the Draft EIR, if applicable and feasible: B3-3

Recommended Additions - NOx

- Prohibit truck idling in excess of five minutes, on- and off-site;
- Require the use of 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks (e.g., material delivery trucks and soil import/export) and if the lead agency determines that 2010 model year or newer diesel trucks cannot be obtained the lead agency shall use trucks that meet EPA 2007 model year NOx and PM emissions requirements;
- Use electricity from power poles rather than temporary diesel or gasoline power generators;
- Use street sweepers that comply with SCAQMD Rules 1186 and 1186.1; and
- Provide dedicated turn lanes for movement of construction trucks and equipment on- and off-site.

Recommended Additions – PM10

- Limit soil disturbance to the amounts analyzed in the air quality analysis;
- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered;
- Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip;

- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more);
- Suspend all excavating and grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph;
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads to be reduced to 15 mph or less;
- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more);
- Replace ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible;
- Apply water three times daily, or non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications, to all unpaved parking or staging areas or unpaved road surfaces;
- Sweep streets at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water); and
- Appoint a construction relations officer to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity including resolution of issues related to PM10 generation;

B3-3 cont.

3. Further, other lead agencies in the region including LA County Metro, the Port of Los Angeles, and the Port of Long Beach have also enacted the following mitigation measures. AQMD staff recommends the following measures to further reduce air quality impacts from construction equipment exhaust:

   ✓ Project start to December 31, 2014: All off-road diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 hp shall meet Tier 3 off-road emissions standards. In addition, all construction equipment shall be outfitted with BACT devices certified by CARB. Any emissions control device used by the contractor shall achieve emissions reductions that are no less than what could be achieved by a Level 3 diesel emissions control strategy for a similarly sized engine as defined by CARB regulations.

   ✓ Post-January 1, 2015: All off-road diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 hp shall meet the Tier 4 emission standards, where available. In addition, all construction equipment shall be outfitted with BACT devices certified by CARB. Any emissions control device used by the contractor shall achieve emissions reductions that are no less than what could be achieved by a Level 3 diesel emissions control strategy for a similarly sized engine as defined by CARB regulations.

   A copy of each unit's certified tier specification, BACT documentation, and CARB or AQMD operating permit shall be provided at the time of mobilization of each applicable unit of equipment.

B3-4

For additional measures to reduce off-road construction equipment, refer to the mitigation measure tables located at the following website: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html

B3-4 cont.

2.6.4 Letter B3 – Responses to Comments from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

B3-1 The comment includes a summary statement and refers to subsequent comments for additional details. The comment is noted; see also Responses B3-2 through B3-4.

B3-2 Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b requires SCE to develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how SCE would comply with each of the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 Best Available Control Measures (BACMs). There are 49 general BACMs identified in Rule 403 that are not specific in terms of implementation. Several of the measures require that soils be "stabilized" at certain areas of the Project site or during certain construction activities. Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b would ensure that the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust BACMs are properly implemented in the field in a manner that would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level, while offering flexibility in implementation. See also Response B3-3 for specific fugitive dust control measures that have been added to Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b at the request of the SCAQMD. It should be noted that the PM10 emissions estimates presented in the Draft EIR factor in emission reductions that would be achieved by implementing the BACMs, which are general in nature.

B3-3 Construction haul trucks already are prohibited from idling for more than five minutes per state law; therefore, there is no need for an idling mitigation requirement. In any event, the following paragraph has been added to the discussion of California's Diesel Risk Reduction Plan and Diesel Fuel Regulations after the first paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.3-9 for clarification.

> In addition, on-road vehicles with a gross vehicular weight rating of 10,000 pounds or greater shall not idle for longer than 5 minutes at any location as required by Title 13 California Code of Regulations Section 2485. This restriction does not apply when vehicles remain motionless during traffic or when vehicles are queuing.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a (Draft EIR, p. 4.3-16) has been revised in response to this comment to require SCE to make a good faith effort to use model year 2010 and newer diesel trucks for construction-related hauling and to use electricity rather than diesel generators when feasible (see below).

> **Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a:** For diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment of more than 50 horsepower~~ and on-road diesel fueled vehicles~~, SCE shall make a good faith effort to use available construction equipment that meets the highest USEPA-certified tiered emission standards~~ ensure achievement of a Project-wide fleet-average 20 percent NO_x reduction and 45 percent PM10 exhaust reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average~~. SCE shall also make a good faith effort to use 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks. An Exhaust Emissions Control Plan ~~to achieve~~ that indentifies each off-road unit's certified tier

specification, Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and the CARB or SCAQMD operating permit number (if applicable), as well as the model year of all haul trucks to be used on the Project that are under direct control of SCE or its construction contractor ~~these reductions~~ shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. Construction activities cannot commence until the plan has been approved. ~~Acceptable options for reducing emissions include the use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as such become available.~~ For all pieces of equipment that would not meet Tier 3 emission standards, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation from two local heavy construction equipment rental companies that indicates that the companies do not have access to higher-tiered equipment for the given class of equipment. In the event that 2010 or newer diesel haul trucks are not available for the Project, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall document that a good faith effort to obtain such haul trucks has been made.

During construction of the Lakeview Substation, SCE and/or its construction contractor(s) shall use electricity from the regional power grid where feasible rather than diesel or gasoline power generators. In the event that SCE determines that this would not be feasible, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation to support the determination.

SCAQMD Rule 1186 appears to apply only to owner/operators of paved and unpaved public roads (SCAQMD, 2008)[13]. Since SCE would not own or operate a public road under the Project, Rule 1186 would not apply. In addition, SCAQMD Rule 1186.1 for street sweepers appears to apply only to governmental agencies that operate street sweepers or to those that provide sweeping services for a government agency (SCAQMD, 2012)[14]; therefore, this rule does not apply to the Project, which would be developed by SCE, an investor-owned utility. Also, given the rural and lightly traveled nature of the streets that provide direct access to the proposed substation site, there is no need to require SCE to provide a dedicated turn lane to the site to reduce exhaust emissions.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b (Draft EIR, p. 4.34-17) has been revised as follows to include the recommended fugitive dust control measures.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b: SCE shall develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how compliance with each of SCAQMD Rule 403 Best Available Control Measures (BACMs) shall be achieved. If it is determined that any of the BACMs are not applicable to construction of the Project, the plan shall present rational as to why the BACMs are not applicable and would not be implemented. This plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval and the approved plan shall be distributed to all employees and construction contractors prior to commencement of construction activities.

13 SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District), 2008. Rule 1186. PM10 Emissions From Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations. Last amended July 11, 2008. Obtained online (http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/reg/reg11/r1186.pdf).

14 SCAQMD, 2012. Rule 1186.1 -- Less-Polluting. Webpage (http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/FleetRules/1186.1Sweepers/index.htm) accessed July 27, 2012.

The Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following specific control measures as applicable:

- Limit soil disturbance to the amounts analyzed in the air quality analysis;
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials;
- Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip;
- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more);
- Suspend all excavating and grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph;
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads shall not exceed 15 mph;
- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more);
- Replace ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible;
- Apply water three times daily, or non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications, to all unpaved parking or staging areas or unpaved road surfaces;
- Sweep streets adjacent to the construction site at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water); and
- Appoint a construction relations officer to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity including resolution of issues related to PM10 generation.

B3-4 It is acknowledged that requiring the use of only off-road construction equipment that would meet Tier 3 or higher emission standards would achieve reductions beyond the requirements of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a; however, it may not be practical or feasible for the Applicant to use such equipment exclusively due to equipment availability in the Project area. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a on Draft EIR pages 4.3-16 and 4.3-17 has been revised as shown above (see Response B3-4) to require the Applicant to make a good faith effort to use the highest-tiered construction equipment available, and the Applicant shall provide documentation of its efforts to obtain such equipment for construction of the Project.

Janna Scott

Subject: FW: Comments on Lakeview Substation Project, Southern California Edison, CPUC
Attachments: Robertson, Glenn.vcf

From: Glenn Robertson [mailto:grobertson@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 5:17 PM
To: jgibson@dfg.ca.gov; Doreen_Stadtlander@fws.gov; Heather Beeler; karin_cleary-rose@fws.gov; sally_brown@fws.gov; Scott Cashen; James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil
Cc: Falcon Ridge; lakeview@esassoc.com
Subject: Re: Comments on Lakeview Substation Project, Southern California Edison, CPUC

To Mr. John Boccio or ESA representative working on Lakeview Substation Draft EIR:

I am the Region 8 Water Quality Control Board CEQA coordinator. I am not sure of the correct contact email for the planner for this site, and I am aware that the comment period is closed. I want to add that though I quickly reviewed the document, my oversights were pointed out to me during a recent conversation with Mr. Cashen and his subsequent compelling letter, which I hope is attached (will forward it if not).

I tend to concur with Mr. Cashen's assertions, and support his effort to see photos and large scale maps included in the DEIR to indicate probable wetlands and/or seasonal ponds that have taken on beneficial uses, as well as alkali playa/wetland, and representation of the southern willow scrub and other riparian-related vegetative communities listed (Table 4.4-1; ps. 4.4-4 - 4.4-6). This is part of the Regional Board's purview. B4-1

I definitely agree that aside from the PEA, a formal delineation of wetlands, non-wetland waters of the U.S., and all-encompassing waters of the state needs to be conducted, acreages of each tabulated, and placed in the EIR at this juncture of the project,"up front" and not deferred.... B4-2
....Such an investigation may begin with the water bodies stated in "Waters of the U.S." p.4.4-6, including the San Jacinto River, and those water bodies indicated in the photos provided by Mr. Cashen's research. If conclusions then indicate the presence of water bodies to be impacted by "dredge or fill" where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not already take jurisdiction, then a Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted to the Regional Board for the chosen alignments that will cause the impacts, with mitigation proposed for the impacted acreage and linear feet. B4-3

Thank you for incorporating the above into your planning. Please assist with getting this message to the correct planner. Glenn Robertson

Glenn Robertson, Engineering Geologist
CEQA Coordinator
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (8)
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348
(951) 782-3259
Fax (951) 781-6288
Email grobertson@waterboards.ca.gov
Website: www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana>>> Scott Cashen <scottcashen@gmail.com> 3/5/2012 11:57 AM >>>
Sorry, my head is a bit foggy from a cold and I forgot to attach the comment letter. It is attached to this email.

Scott Cashen, M.S.
Wildlife and Forest Ecology Consultant
3264 Hudson Ave.
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Office: (925) 256-9185
Cell: (510) 517-0100
scottcashen@gmail.com

On Mar 5, 2012, at 11:55 AM, Scott Cashen wrote:

Attached are my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that was prepared for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project. The project site is located near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo in western Riverside County, and it involves the construction of a new substation, roads, and transmission lines. The transmission lines would span the San Jacinto River. The new access roads would be built across the San Jacinto River floodplain, but they would not cross the river.
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
The following special-status species were detected on the project site: San Jacinto Valley crownscale (FE), Coulter's goldfields (CNPS List 1B), smooth tarplant (CNPS List 1B), chaparral sand verbena (CNPS List 1B), vernal barley (CNPS List 3), Stephens' kangaroo rat (FE/ST), Los Angeles pocket mouse (CSC), and golden eagle, among others. In addition, the California Natural Diversity database indicates the project site has (or had) western spadefoot breeding ponds, spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*; FT), and either South Coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*; CNPS List 1B) or Davidson's saltscale (*A. serenana* var. *davidsonii;* CNPS List 1B). The project may impact Riverside fairy shrimp (FE), vernal pool fairy shrimp (FT), and potentially jurisdictional wetlands. The project also would impact critical habitat for spreading navarretia, and perhaps critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea (FT/SE). Many of these resources lie within, or immediately adjacent to, the project's footprint.
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
The project proponent has not committed to participating in western Riverside County's MSHCP. As explained in the attached letter, the currently proposed project does not meet the provisions of the MSHCP, nor does it include adequate mitigation should the project proponent decide not to seek coverage under the MSHCP.
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope the attached comments are informative.

Scott Cashen, M.S.
Wildlife and Forest Ecology Consultant
3264 Hudson Ave.
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Office: (925) 256-9185
Cell: (510) 517-0100
scottcashen@gmail.com

2.6.5 Letter B4 – Responses to Comments from Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

B4-1 Comment noted.

B4-2 A Jurisdictional Delineation Report was prepared for the Project area in May 2012 and is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would cause no impact to jurisdictional waters.

B4-3 See Response B4-2.

Comment Letter B5

RCHCA

RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY

A Joint Powers Authority

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Executive Director
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General Counsel
Tiffany North
Deputy County Counsel

February 6, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR)
Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016)
SCH No. 2010121035

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

The Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) is the agency that implements the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The RCHCA examined the Draft EIR for the Lakeview Substation Project.

The Draft EIR states that MSHCP-covered wildlife species includes the Stephens' kangaroo rat (Page 4.4-25). This statement is correct outside of the area covered by the SKR HCP. The Lakeview Substation Project is located within the area covered by the SKR HCP. For that reason the Draft EIR should include reference to the SKR HCP and its relationship to the Project. B5-1

Impact 4.4-7 references the MSHCP only and goes on to state "There are no Natural Community conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan that would be applicable to this Project". Without the mention of the SKR HCP, this is an erroneous statement. B5-2

Payment of the SKR fee is mentioned in the document and Ordinance 663.10 establishing the SKR Fee is referenced in the Biological Resources. The SKR HCP, which is the more important document pertaining to the Project is not addressed or referenced. B5-3

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We trust that the information we have provided will be evaluated and included as appropriate in the final document.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Syms Luna

Carolyn Syms-Luna
RCHCA Executive Director

4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor • Riverside, California 92501 • (951) 955-6097
P.O. Box 1605 • Riverside, California 92502-1605 • Fax (951) 955-0090

2.6.6 Letter B5 – Responses to Comments from Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA)

B5-1 See Response A1b-160.

B5-2 In response to the comment that the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan is not addressed in the discussion of Impact 4.4-7 (pg., 4.4-34 to 4.4-35), the third paragraph on page 4.4-35 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> The Lakeview Substation Project is also located within the area covered by the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKRHCP), which is administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. If the avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale and Stephens' kangaroo rat is not possible by applying applicable APMs and mitigation measures, SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP and SKRHCP. While it is uncertain as to whether or not SCE will participate in the MSHCP or SKRHCP; by performing focused biological resource survey and carrying out APMs, SCE has committed to protect sensitive and protected species and habitats in a manner that is consistent with these HCPs ~~MSHCP~~ (SCE, 2010; pg. 4.4-82). Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the provisions of an approved HCP ~~the MSHCP~~.

B5-3 In response to this comment, the fourth full paragraph on page 4.4-30 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> In addition to known occurrences of Stephens' kangaroo rat in the Project area, potential habitat for this species was identified in portions of Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2, Fiber-Optic Cable Route 2 and 3. Habitat for this species does not occur at the proposed Lakeview Substation site. SCE would have a qualified biologist perform a habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, 2 and 3 (APM-BIO-3). If potential habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat were to be identified, SCE would perform protocol-level trapping surveys. All the fiber-optic cable routes are within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species were found, SCE would participate in the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan and a fee would be paid to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys. Additionally, a qualified biological monitor would supervise and assist construction crews to minimize impacts within potential habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat. Therefore, impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat would be less than significant ~~level~~.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

John R. Hawkins ~ Fire Chief
210 West San Jacinto Avenue ~ Perris, CA 92570
(951) 940-6900 ~ www.rvcfire.org

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

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BEAUMONT
CALIMESA
CANYON LAKE
COACHELLA
DESERT HOT SPRINGS
EASTVALE
INDIAN WELLS
INDIO
JURUPA VALLEY
LAKE ELSINORE
LA QUINTA
MENIFEE
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NORCO
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March 8, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
C/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, California 94104

Re: Lakeview Substation Project, Review & Comments for the DEIR

Mr. Rosauer,

Per your recent request for comment, RCFD, Strategic Planning Bureau has reviewed the DEIR for the above Project and finds most concerns to be adequately mitigated for to a level of "less than significant". However, DEIR Section 4.15.4 *Impacts and Mitigation* describes the Project as effectively having no impact to fire facilities and services. The Project meets what CEQA defines as having "direct" and "growth inducing impacts" which must be considered and mitigated for, i.e. it allows for the future growth and development of that area that would otherwise not be possible. Ordinarily, a Project's impacts are offset through the County's Ordinance 659 for impact fees. Because of the nature of the Project, that ordinance is not practically or easily applied. A simple development agreement might suffice to reach the intent of that impact fee ordinance. B6-1

To discuss this issue or any other, please contact me at 951.571.8178 or email at ben.johnson@fire.ca.gov.

Thank you,

Ben R. Johnson, AICP
Planning & Development Supervisor
Strategic Planning Bureau

2.6.7 Letter B6 – Responses to Comments from Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD)

B6-1 As discussed on page 7-3 of the Draft EIR, "The Project is needed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area…The Project is designed to increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than to induce growth." In addition, as explained on page 4.15-5, "The Project would not result in a population increase, nor introduce any new uses to the Project area, that would generate increased long-term demand for fire protection services…." Therefore, the Project is not considered growth inducing and there is no mitigation that would be warranted.

LOZEAU DRURY LLP

T 510.836.4200
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richard@lozeaudrury.com

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL AND US MAIL

February 10, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 896-5900
Fax: (415) 896-0332
lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

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

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) SCH No. 2010121035: Request for Notice, Request for Extension of Comment Period.

Dear Mr. Rosauer and California PUC:

I am writing on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184, and its members living in Riverside County ("Commenters") to request that the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") put us on its notice list for any and all notices issued under California Planning and Zoning Law and/or the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), referring or related to Draft Environmental Impact Report for Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) State Clearinghouse No. 2010121035 ("Project"), in the unincorporated Riverside County near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo, and also to request a 30-day extension in the comment period for the draft EIR prepared for the Project. C1-1

In particular, we hereby request that the CPUC send by mail or electronic mail to my firm at the address below notice of any and all actions or hearings related to activities undertaken, authorized, approved, permitted, licensed, or certified by the CPUC and any of its subdivisions, and/or supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans or other forms of assistance from the CPUC, including, but not limited to the following:

- Notice of any public hearing in connection with the Project as required by California Planning and Zoning Law pursuant to Government Code Section 65091.

- Any and all notices prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), including, but not limited to:

  - Notices of any public hearing held pursuant to CEQA.
  - Notices of determination that an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") or supplemental EIR is required for a project, prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4.
  - Notices of availability of an EIR or a negative declaration for a project prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 and Section 15087 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.
  - Notices of approval and/or determination to carry out a project, prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 or any other provision of law.
  - Notice of approval or certification of any EIR or negative declaration prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 or any other provision of law.
  - Notice of exemption from CEQA prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21152 or any other provision of law.
  - Notice of any Final EIR prepared pursuant to CEQA.

C1-1 cont.

Please note that we are requesting notices of CEQA actions and notices of any public hearings to be held under any provision of Title 7 of the California Government Code governing California Planning and Zoning Law. This request is filed pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21092.2, and 21167(f) and Government Code Section 65092, which require local agencies to mail such notices to any person who has filed a written request for them with the clerk of the agency's governing body.

Please send notice by electronic mail to:

Richard Drury
Lozeau Drury LLP
410 12th Street, Suite 250
Oakland, CA 94607
Richard@Lozeaudrury.com

We also request an extension of 30-days in the public comment period on the draft EIR, to allow for adequate review of the Project and its environmental impacts. C1-2

Please call me should you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Drury

2.6.8 Letter C1 – Responses to Comments from Lozeau Drury, LLP

C1-1 As indicated in Section 2.1, above, an extension of the comment period was granted. The commenter's firm was added to the distribution list for the Project, and Project notices and other documents were made readily available for review.

C1-2 The CPUC extended the comment period by seven days, from February 27 to March 5, 2012.

Comment Letter C2

LOZEAU DRURY LLP

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Oakland, Ca 94607

www.lozeaudrury.com
christina@lozeaudrury.com

Via Email and U.S. Mail

February 13, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 896-5900
Fax: (415) 896-0332
lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

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

Re: **Public Records Act Request For Documents Related To Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) SCH No. 2010121035, Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Rosauer and California PUC:

I am writing on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184, and its members living in Riverside County ("Commenters") pursuant to the **California Public Records Act**, Government Code Section 6250 et seq, and the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Section 21092(b)(1), which requires that "all documents referenced in the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration" be available for review and "readily accessible" during the entire comment period.

Pursuant to the Public Records Act and CEQA, I request that California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") make immediately available for inspection and copying the following documents related to the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) State Clearinghouse No. 2010121035 ("Project"):

C2-1

Any and all documents referenced in the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for the Lakeview Substation Project, including but not limited to any reports, consultant documents, correspondence, or any other documents referenced in any portion or appendix of the Draft EIR, including, but not limited to background biological studies for species including the gnatcatcher survey report, checkerspot butterfly survey report, etc., that were conducted for the project. These and other biological studies are listed in the reference section of the DEIR's Biology chapter, but do not appear to be available at the website for the Project. The documents appear to have been produced by the BonTerra Consulting.

We request immediate access to review the above documents pursuant to section 6253(a) of the Public Records Act, which requires public records to be "open to inspection *at all times*

during the office hours of the state or local agency" and provides that "every person has a right to inspect *any public record*." (Gov. Code §6253(a) (emphasis added).)

This request seeks access to the above documents for inspection under Section 6253(a), and does not request that the CPUC provide copies of these documents. Therefore, the ten day response period applicable to a "request for a *copy* of records" under Section 6253(c) does not apply to this request.

If any of the above requested documents are available online, please provide us with the URL web address at which the documents may be downloaded. If any of the requested documents are retained by the CPUC in electronic computer-readable format such as PDF (portable document format), please provide us with pdf copies of the documents via email, or inform us of the location at which we can copy these documents electronically. We reserve the right to have a copy service make copies of any and all of the requested documents depending on the volume.

Please include in your response to this request the following examples of "documents," as well as any similar physical or electronic forms of communication: any form of writing such as correspondence, e-mails, legal and factual memoranda, facsimiles, photographs, maps, videotapes, film, data, reports, notes, audiotapes, or drawings.

C2-1 cont.

In preparing your response, you have an obligation under Government Code section 6253.1 to (1) identify all records and information responsive to our request or the purpose of our request; (2) describe the information technology and physical location in which the records exist; and (3) provide suggestions for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or information sought. In responding to this request, any exemptions from disclosure you may otherwise believe to be applicable may be narrowed or eliminated by the recent adoption of Proposition 59, which amended article I, section 3(b)(2) of the California Constitution to direct that any "statute ... or other authority ... [that] limits the right of access" to "information concerning the conduct of the people's business" must be "narrowly construed." As for any records that you nonetheless decline to produce on the grounds of an exemption, please bear in mind that the case law under the Public Records Act imposes a duty on you to distinguish between the exempt and the non-exempt portion of any such records, and to attempt in good faith to redact the exempt portion and to disclose the balance of such documents. Should you choose to withhold any document from disclosure, you have a duty under Government Code section 6255, subd. (a) to "justify withholding any record by demonstrating that the record in question is exempt under express provisions" of the Public Records Act or that "the public interest served by not disclosing the record clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. You may direct any email responses to richard@lozeaudrury.com and christina@lozeaudrury.com.

Sincerely,

Richard Drury
Christina Caro
Lozeau | Drury LLP

2.6.9 Letter C2 – Responses to Comments from Lozeau Drury, LLP

C2-1 The documents referenced in the Draft EIR were readily accessible to agencies and members of the public at all times throughout the EIR process. The CPUC issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Project on January 12, 2012, which identified multiple locations where the EIR and other Project documents could be reviewed, including the CPUC's physical address in San Francisco, which is 505 Van Ness Avenue; and the office of the CPUC's EIR consultant for the Project, which is 225 Bush Street, Suite 1700, in San Francisco, CA 94104. The NOA states clearly that Draft EIR materials may be requested by telephone at (415) 896-5900 or by e-mail at lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com. To supplement existing access to Project documents, the CPUC made each of the documents relied upon in the Draft EIR available for review on the Project website: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lakeview/deir_resources.html.

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Via Email and U.S. Mail

February 14, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Janna A. Scott, J.D.
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 896-5900
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lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

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

Re: Extension Request For Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) SCH No. 2010121035, Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Scott, Mr. Rosauer and California PUC:

I am writing on behalf of Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 1184, and its members living in Riverside County ("Commenters") to request that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) extend the public comment period for the **Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016) ("Project") SCH No. 2010121035, Draft Environmental Impact Report** ("DEIR") until at least 45 days from the date that the CPUC makes available all documents referred to in the DEIR. This request is made pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Section 21092(b)(1) which requires that "all documents referenced in the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration" be available for review and "readily accessible" during the entire comment period. C3-1

Yesterday, we sent a letter requesting several supporting documents referenced in the DEIR, including several biological assessments prepared by BonTerra Consulting. Today, you promptly responded by electronic mail, stating that although the documents are relied upon in the DEIR, they are not publicly available. Your email message states further that the studies "will be accessible in the next few days." (See, Exhibit A)

CEQA section 21092(b)(1) requires that the CEQA notice for an EIR must include "the address where copies of the proposed EIR and all documents referenced therein are available for review and readily accessible during the agency's normal working hours." As noted by leading CEQA commentators, Remy and Thomas: C3-2

> The above-referenced section [21092(b)(1)] requires the agency to notify the public of the address at which "all documents referenced in a draft EIR" can be found (and presumably read) . . . seems to require agencies to make available for public review all documents on

> which agency staff or consultants expressly rely in preparing a draft EIR. In light of case law emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the public can obtain and review documents on which agencies rely for the environmental conclusions (see, e.g., *Emmington v. Solano County Redevel. Agency*, 195 Cal.App.3d 491, 502-503 (1987)), agencies should ensure that they comply literally with this requirement.

Remy, Thomas and Moose, *Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*, p. 293 (Solano Press, 1999). The courts have held that the failure to provide even a few pages of a CEQA documents for a portion of the CEQA review period invalidates the entire CEQA process. *Ultramar v. South Coast Air Quality Man. Dist.*, 17 Cal.App.4th 689 (1993).

The CEQA comment deadline is February 27, 2012. The BonTerra studies are relied upon and referenced in the DEIR, but they have not been made available to the public. Our experts require access to the studies to conduct their review of the DEIR. Even if the requested documents are made available in "the next few days," we will have only one week to review the relevant documents prior to the comment deadline – much less than the 45-days required by statute. By failing to provide "all documents referenced" in the DEIR for public review for the minimum 45 day review period, the CPUC would be violating the procedural mandates of CEQA. C3-2 cont.

Therefore, we request that the comment period for this Project be extended to at least 45-days after all documents relied upon and referred to in the DEIR, including, but not limited to the BonTerra studies, are made available to the public. Given the shortness of time before the current comment deadline, please contact me as soon as possible with your response to this request. Feel free to call me at 510-836-4200 or email me at Richard@lozeaudrury.com should you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Drury
Christina Caro
Lozeau | Drury LLP

2.6.10 Letter C3 – Responses to Comments from Lozeau Drury, LLP

C3-1 See Responses C1-1 and C1-2 regarding the extension of time granted to provide comments on the Draft EIR and Response C2-1 regarding the availability of Project documents.

C3-2 See Response C2-1.

FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
P.O. Box 4266
Idyllwild CA 92549
www.northfriends.org

February 24, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
C/O ESA
225 Bush St. Suite 1700
San Francisco CA 94104
lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR)—Lakeview Substation Project (A. 10-09-016)- SCH No. 201021035

Mr. Rosauer:

The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley believe this project should be deferred for the following reasons.

The Draft EIR Biological analysis improperly defers implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement to some poorly defined future Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) procedures/implementation. The MSHCP is currently being implemented pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act section 10(a) Incidental Take provision and the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP- Fish and Game Code section 2800-2835). Nothing in the NCCP Act exempts a project proposal in a natural community conservation planning area from CEQA (see Fish and Game Code 2826). The Lakeview Substation Project fails to properly implement/adhere to CEQA Guidelines sections 15021 and 15065. C4-1

In addition, the Project proponent's indecision whether or not to participate in the MSHCP (DEIR p. 4.4-34) is in and of itself a conflict with the provisions of the adopted MSHCP/NCCP for western Riverside County. Further consideration of this project should therefore be deferred, or the No Project alternative should be selected, pending preparation and public review of an adequate CEQA document for the Project. C4-2 C4-3

We are particularly concerned that the ongoing improper implementation of the MSHCP will result in the extinction of the San Jacinto Crownscale, a federal endangered plant species. We are also concerned the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is not correctly C4-4 C4-5

exercising its jurisdiction pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act on the San Jacinto River. We are including the electronic links to two recent Press Enterprise newspaper articles concerning these potential project impacts and ask that they be included in the CEQA administrative record for this project.

http://www.pe.com/local-news/topics/topics-environment-headlines/20120218-san-jacinto-army-corps-probes-wetlands-area-grading.ece

http://www.pe.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20120114-san-jacinto-endangered-plant-loses-to-duck-ponds.ece

C4-5 cont.

The purpose of this Project, as stated in the Villages of Lakeview EIR, is to serve the Villages and the County's new dream City of Lakeview. The applicant and the County stated that the Villages would not begin construction until 1. Housing prices return to August 2007 levels 2. In more than ten years 3. When the developer decides it is economically feasible to build. This means the twelfth of never. Whether construction beings now or whether you await construction until the need arises, it is certain that a new EIR will be required and probable that the means for delivering electricity will have changed, so that this project, as currently designed, will be obsolete.

C4-6

C4-7

For all of the above reasons, the No Project alternative should be adopted.

Please inform the Friends of the availability of the Final EIR.

Susan Nash

President

909-228-6710

snash22@earthlink.net

Comment Letter C4

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE PE.com

SAN JACINTO: Army Corps probes wetlands area grading

BY DAVID DANELSKI

STAFF WRITER

ddanelski@pe.com

Published: 18 February 2012 04:09 PM

A Text Size

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating heavy grading work at a duck hunting club next to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area to determine whether the work may have violated federal water laws.

Stephen M. Estes, a Los Angeles-based project manager and biologist for the Corps' regulatory division, confirmed by telephone Friday that he was investigating the work at the Ramona Duck Club for possible violations of the Clean Water Act.

He said a violation would have occurred if fill material was discharged into waterways that fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government without a permit. The Army Corps must still determine whether the area in question falls under federal jurisdiction, Estes said in an email.

The probe follows complaints made to the Corps and to several other agencies about the September grading work. Tom Paulek, the former manager of the state wildlife area, had complained to the Corps and other agencies. Paulek, of Idyllwild, is now active with a group called Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley.

The work scraped bare most of the duck club's 92-acre property, which is in the environmentally sensitive Mystic Lake area. The duck club rebuilt a system of levies and ponds, hoping to attract ducks and geese for hunters.

The Press-Enterprise documented the grading in videos and photographs.

A subsequent investigation by the newspaper found last month that the duck club received more than $500,000 in state and federal money since 2008 for conservation efforts that were supposed to protect endangered plants while also maintaining wetlands for waterfowl.

The newspaper also found that neighboring state-owned land in the wildlife preserve had been improperly farmed to grow wheat that attracted game birds to the hunting club areas. State Fish and Game officials have since stopped the farming.

The grading on the Ramona Duck Club land appeared to include areas where an endangered plant called the San Jacinto Valley crownscale had been found in earlier biological surveys, and it appeared to destroy the rare plant's habitat.

On Friday, Malcom Smith, the duck club president, said he was unaware of the probe by the Army Corps and he referred questions to California Department of Fish and Game officials, who had approved the grading work.

Fish and Game spokesman Andrew Hughan said Friday that he was wasn't aware of the Army Corps

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investigation but said he would look into the matter.

In an earlier interview, Hughan said the department took “due diligence” to avoid harming protected plants during the grading work. But he could not provide details. He said he did not know how the plants were protected. He also could not point to any places where the plants had been protected.

In 2006, the duck club obtained a permit to use 2 acres for parking, water storage, restrooms and other amenities. The rest of the land was designated as part of a regional wildlife reserve system, partly to provide a safe harbor for crownscale and other rare plants, according to regional conservation authority records.

In 2008, the club accepted $138,000 in federal grant funds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required known stands of as many as 220 crownscale plants to be flagged and avoided during work to refurbish duck ponds.

In 2011, state wildlife officials paid the club $383,000 to preserve the land for conservation, noting in a report the land supported the crownscale and other plants listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Follow David Danelski on Twitter: @DavidDanelski

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE PE.com

SAN JACINTO: Endangered plant loses to duck ponds

BY DAVID DANELSKI

STAFF WRITER

ddanelski@pe.com

Published: 14 January 2012 09:01 PM

A Text Size

Submerged in the murky water of the Ramona Duck Club's artificial ponds is a rare type of soil that harbored one of the last stands of an endangered plant, the San Jacinto Valley crownscale.

The duck club last year brought in heavy equipment to refurbish the ponds and lure game birds. The earth was scraped bare, and the alkali, clay-rich soil was covered with as much as a foot of water.

The state approved the work, although the club has received more than a half-million dollars in public money since 2008 for conservation efforts that were supposed to protect the plants while maintaining wetlands for waterfowl.

But state Department of Fish and Game officials, who have authority over the property, could produce no evidence that any of the plant's habitat was saved.

In 2008, wildlife biologists had found as many as 220 crownscale plants growing within the club's 92 acres along the southwest shore of Mystic Lake. Most were clustered near the center of the duck club land.

Conservation Controversy

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View Conservation Controversy in a larger map

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At least three times, the need to protect the plant's habitat was emphasized in public documents concerning the duck club property:

In 2006, the club obtained a permit to use 2 acres for parking, water storage, restrooms and other amenities. The rest of the land was designated as part of a regional wildlife reserve system, partly to provide a safe harbor for crownscale and other rare plants, according to regional conservation authority records.

In 2008, the club accepted $138,000 in federal grant funds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required known stands of crownscale to be flagged and avoided during work to refurbish duck ponds.

In 2011, state wildlife officials paid the club $383,000 to preserve the land for conservation, noting in a report the land supported the crownscale and other plants listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Critics say the club and the state Department of Fish and Game have little regard for the endangered plants that require the area's unique soil to survive.

Among those critics is Tom Paulek, a former manager of the state's San Jacinto Wildlife Area and a wildlife biologist. The state land borders the duck club.

The club essentially used public money to rebuild ponds to attract ducks for hunters and rode roughshod over rare plant habitat that should have been saved, he said.

"It just galls me to see this plundering," Paulek said.

Walking along a dirt road separating the duck club and the wildlife area, Paulek gestured to the ponds in frustration. He said his complaints to Fish and Game and several other agencies were fruitless.

"If you are going to pay them," he said, "for God's sake, they've got to protect the plants."

Duck club President Malcom Smith said he knows of no endangered plants on the property. He said Fish and Game officials, who oversee a conservation easement on the club property, approved the pond work.

Fish and Game spokesman Andrew Hughan said the department took "due diligence" to avoid harming protected plants, but he could not provide details.

He said he did not know how the plants were protected, nor could he point to any particular places where the plants had been growing.

Although public documents repeatedly mention the land's value as rare plant habitat, state and federal officials have said there was nothing improper about the earth-moving work.

Kimberly Nicol, a Fish and Game regional manager based in Los Alamitos, said in a Dec. 14 letter to Paulek that the duck club property has no long-term conservation value for the crownscale plant because of the land's ongoing use as duck ponds.

"Suitable habitat for rare plants was not expected," she wrote.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has found no violations related to last year's grading, agency spokeswoman Stephanie Weagley said.

In an email, she said work done in the fall involved repairing one levee and "normal maintenance."

The service has consulted with a biologist for the California Waterfowl Association, a hunting and conservation group that oversaw the grant-funded pond rehabilitation project, and has asked him to prepare a report on how

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the duck club's work affected the plants. Weagley said federal officials plan to visit the property when ponds are drawn down later this year.

Earth-clearing work described in public records and observed by The Press-Enterprise in September appears to have been far more extensive than routine maintenance.

DISAPPEARING RANGE

The crownscale has been losing ground for decades.

The spindly, silvery-green plant can live only in the moist, clay-laden, alkali soils associated with Mystic Lake, the San Jacinto River and Salt Creek, all in the area between Perris and the Badlands east of Moreno Valley.

Most of its traditional range has been eaten away by farming, development and waterworks, said Orange County biologist David Bramlet, an expert on crownscale and other rare native plants.

The plant clusters grow in the damp soil of seasonal pools that fill in winter and slowly evaporate in spring. During dry months, the plant withers, and the seeds lie dormant in the soil.

"It is our very own Riverside County plant; it doesn't grow anywhere else," said Andrew Sanders, a UC Riverside plant scientist and curator of the university's herbarium.

Letting it become extinct would be a loss to a local ecosystem and probably would harm other wildlife, he said. Scientists might have a great deal to learn from it — research on other rare plants has led to development of improved crops and better drugs, Sanders said.

The crownscale is one of 146 vulnerable plants and animals in western Riverside County protected by a habitat-preservation effort spearheaded by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, which is working to establish an interlinked reserve system covering about 500,000 acres.

The system saves "pristine open space to protect threatened and endangered species and preserve the region's natural beauty for future generations," said Tom Mullen, a former Riverside County supervisor who led the efforts to create a regional conservation plan a decade ago. Mullen later served as the authority's executive director.

Building reserves also benefits transportation projects, he said.

It "accelerates the construction of much-needed road and freeway improvements in the region by satisfying in advance federal and state habitat conservation requirements for plants and animals protected by the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws," Mullen said in an email.

Because the duck club is in a sensitive habitat area, the Conservation Authority had to be consulted in 2006 when the club sought a county permit to use 2 acres for parking, water storage, restrooms and trap and skeet shooting ranges.

When the permit was granted, the rest of the property was designated for the regional wildlife reserve system. The land would "conserve … soils supporting sensitive plants such as San Jacinto Valley crownscale," among other rare species, according to authority records.

The land also would maintain habitat for waterfowl, preserve seasonal pools and establish permanent open space allowing wildlife to pass between other reserve areas, the records say.

The Conservation Authority's goal is to set aside 6,900<TH>acres suitable for crownscale. So far 3,300 acres

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are considered conserved. That area no longer includes the duck club land.

FEDERAL GRANT

In 2008, the California Waterfowl Association, a duck- and goose-hunting advocacy organization, obtained a $1 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for waterfowl habitat enhancement in San Diego County and the Mystic Lake area, including three privately owned duck clubs. The application for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant said the crownscale and other plants listed under the Endangered Species Act could benefit.

The Ramona Duck Club received $138,000 from the grant to restore its system of hunting ponds.

According to the grant agreement between the club and the waterfowl association, 56,000 cubic yards of earth would be moved for levee construction, and 2,700 feet of water pipe would be installed.

The agreement included a 30-year habitat management plan that made no mention of crownscale but called for the ponds to be disked during dry months to promote the growth of swamp timothy and other plants that provide food and cover for ducks and geese.

Chadd Santerre, a biologist and grant project manager for the waterfowl association, said in a November interview that endangered plants were not an issue because none were found during biological surveys of the club property in 2008. He emphasized that the project benefited ducks and other waterfowl by providing space for them to forage, nest and raise their young.

When provided with Fish and Wildlife Service records showing as many as 220 crownscale plants on the property in 2008, Santerre said he had had a memory lapse. He added that he oversees several projects and that the Ramona Duck Club surveys were done more than three years ago.

The federal record showed that the Fish and Wildlife Service required several areas where crownscale was found, including a patch of 100 to 200 plants, to be flagged and avoided during construction.

Other federal requirements called for broad levees to give the endangered plants places to grow; early-season draining to provide more opportunity for the crownscale; and setting aside topsoil to re-establish seed banks, according to an Endangered Species Act consultation document released by Fish and Wildlife. The use of federal grant money triggered the consultation.

A biologist for the California Waterfowl Association was to supervise construction to ensure the conservation measures were followed.

Santerre said the measures pertained only to work done in 2008 and that the club's efforts last year to repair broken levees was no different than a homeowner doing a project in his or her yard. He also said the ponds benefit many plants and animals that depend on wetlands.

Ileene Anderson, a botanist with the Center for Biological Diversity, said the pond work most likely severely damaged the plant habitat by compacting the soil, burying seeds too deep to germinate and making the land too wet.

The Tucson, Ariz.-based environmental group is exploring legal options to compel the Fish and Wildlife Service to make up for apparent habitat losses.

STATE MONEY

The duck club received a larger influx of public money last year.

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The California Wildlife Conservation Board, which buys habitat lands for the state, in February approved the $383,000 conservation easement purchase, covering 89 acres of the club's 92-acre holding. Such easements prevent future development.

A need to preserve habitat for the crownscale and other listed plants was part of a staff pitch for the expenditure. A conservation easement would "provide for the protection of habitat, open space and special-status species that are native to the area," according to minutes of the Feb. 24 conservation board meeting.

William Gallup, a senior land agent for the board, added during the meeting: "No new buildings, structures, or improvements other than a fence are permitted." The deal gave the state Department of Fish and Game authority over the land.

The easement grant deed allows for "preservation and maintenance of managed wetlands" without defining what activities are considered maintenance.

A section of the deed concerning native plants is more specific: The easement prohibits "removal, destruction or cutting of native plants, trees or other vegetation located on the conserved property."

Shortly after escrow on the easement closed in September, two Caterpillar 623B earthmovers graded most of the club's property in what appeared to be a major project to rebuild ponds, levees and islands for duck blinds. The earthmovers, called scrapers, are 41 feet long and have tires 6 feet in diameter.

Press-Enterprise videos and photographs show that the grading occurred in the same areas where the crownscale was found during the 2008 biological surveys, including the stand of 100 to 200 plants.

Paulek managed the San Jacinto Wildlife Area for 13 years and is now a member of an environmental group called the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley. He said he complained about the grading to several agencies.

One of his complaints went to Riverside County code enforcement, because county rules require a grading permit if more than 50 cubic yards of earth is to be moved. Code enforcement officials investigated and concluded no violation had taken place because the work was being done under the authority of the state, according to Riverside County spokesman Ray Smith.

When a code enforcement officer arrived at the site Sept. 16, club member and site supervisor Elmer Lackey told her the work needed to be done so the club could comply with the terms of the federal grant, according to county records. The work was described as disking and leveling ponds, repacking dikes and rebuilding a road, according to the code enforcement officer's notes.

The code enforcement officer also spoke to Scott Sewell, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area manager who also oversees the duck club easement. He concurred with Lackey's statement, according to her notes.

The code enforcement records make no mention of endangered plants.

The absence of a grading permit effectively cut the Regional Conservation Authority out of the loop, although it had been counting on the land for its reserve system.

Under county rules, when a grading permit is sought in sensitive habitat areas, the Conservation Authority must be contacted so the property can be surveyed for protected plants and animals before the land is disturbed.

Grading applications are "the trigger," said Charlie Landry, the agency's executive director. "That is the way we

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start everything that happens."

On a sunny September afternoon, Paulek stood next to the duck club boundary and watched the scrapers clear the earth. The native plants could never survive such heavy work, he said.

The project makes "a charade" out of the region's habitat conservation effort, he said.

The Department of Fish of Game isn't doing its job, he said.

"California is mandated to manage for all the plants and animals," he said. "This is not just a place to shoot ducks."

2.6.11 Letter C4 – Responses to Comments from Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley

C4-1 CEQA Guidelines section 15021 imposes a duty on lead agencies to prevent or minimize environmental damage by making findings of overriding consideration before approving a project that would cause one or more significant effects on the environment. The Draft EIR has not deferred the CPUC's performance this duty. CEQA Guidelines section 15065 clarifies when an EIR must be prepared and, by contrast, when one is not required. As can be seen from the CPUC's election to prepare an EIR (see Draft EIR Appendix A, Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report and the Draft EIR itself), the Draft EIR has not deferred agency responsibility under section 15065. Regarding the MSHCP and the Project, see Responses B2-1 B2-4, and B2-15 regarding consistency with the MSHCP conservation strategy. See also Response A1b-180, regarding SCE participation in the MSHCP on the basis of 2011 survey results, which indicate that the Project would cause impacts to MSHCP covered species.

C4-2 See Response C4-1.

C4-3 Comment noted.

C4-4 Concerns about the implementation of the MSHCP, which is administered by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and not the CPUC, are noted.

C4-5 The Jurisdictional Delineation Report prepared for the Project area in May 2012 is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would have no impacts to jurisdictional waters, including the San Jacinto River. Concerns about the Army Corps of Engineers' exercise of its jurisdiction with respect to the San Jacinto River are noted; however, this agency's involvement would not by triggered by the Project.

C4-6 As stated on page ES-2 of the Draft EIR, the objectives for the Project are to serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area; improve the reliability and system operational flexibility within the Electrical Needs Area; and accomplish these objectives while minimizing environmental impacts. The Electrical Needs Area consists of that part of unincorporated western Riverside County now served by SCE's 33/12 kV Nuevo Substation and temporary Model Pole Top Substation, which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers. The Project is not proposed to solely serve The Villages of Lakeview Specific Plan project but rather to serve the Electrical Needs Area as a whole. See also Response A1b-6 for clarification of capacity and demand requirements within the Electrical Needs Area.

C4-7 Comment noted. Preference for the No Project Alternative also is noted.

February 27, 2012

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

This letter is to express our concerns regarding Southern California Edison's proposed Lakeview Substation Project (Project). Our main concern and opposition is to the proposed location of the Project's subtransmission source line segment 2 and its negative impact on the surrounding environment as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) January 2012. C5-1

Our family owns approximately 100 acres located between 10th and 11th Streets in the Lakeview/Nuevo area and, as proposed, subtransmission line segment 2 runs directly through the middle of our property. Our family has farmed this property for over 60 years and sees our land ideal for future real estate development.

Our primary concern is the negative environmental impact of the Project on the aesthetics (visual character and visual quality) to our property, the surrounding area and the subsequent negative economic impact. The 100-acre farm is a beautiful site—having a subtransmission line through the middle of our 100 acres would definitely detract from the visual quality of the property. Motorists driving on Lakeview Avenue would also have an adverse visual impact due to the additional wooden poles for the subtransmission line. C5-2 C5-3

Due to the visual character and visual quality adverse impacts of a subtransmission line through our property as discussed above, the value of the property would also be significantly reduced. The research study, *Valuation Guidelines for Properties with Electric Transmission Lines* by Kurt C. Kielisch, ASA, IFAS, SR/WA, R/W-AC, concluded that, "In conclusion, it can be stated with a high degree of certainty that there is a significant negative effect ranging from -10% to -30% of property value due to the presence of the high voltage electric transmission line." C5-4

Considering the rapid growth expected in Riverside County over the next two decades (DEIR 6-17), we support the construction of a substation in the Lakeview/Nuevo and recommend the approval of Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative. Alternative 2 would move subtransmission line segment 2 to the west and locate it along the future Avenue "A". Subtransmission line segment 2 would no longer bisect our property and would be moved (along with the proposed substation) further away from current residences and future developed residences. The impact on the visual character and visual quality for the entire valley would be lessened significantly. C5-5

An additional concern with the Project is the negative environmental impact on Agriculture Resources. Our property is still being used for agricultural purposes, primarily for growing potatoes and oat hay. During the construction phase of the Project, with subtransmission line segment 2 running through the C5-6

middle of our property, the farming operations would be disrupted. More importantly, the proposed service road, again through the middle of our property, would permanently take land out of agricultural production and require a modification to the way our property is farmed, both creating a negative environmental impact on the our agriculture resources. C5-6 cont.

Alternative 2, moving subtransmission line segment 2 to the west and locate it along the future Avenue "A" would align more of subtransmission line segment 2 along existing property lines and result in less of an impact on the agricultural resources of the environment. C5-7

Another issue which should be considered is electric and magnetic fields (EMF). There appears to be no conclusive agreement from scientists of health risks; the negative effects of EMF continue to be an area of debate. Since there is a potential of health risks associated with EMF, wouldn't it be prudent to place transmission lines where they would lessen potential impacts? Alternative 2, with subtransmission line 2 further away from the central part of the valley and nearer the undevelopable 100-year flood hazard zone, would lessen exposure to the potential health risks of EMF. C5-8

DEIR Table 5-2, Summary of Environmental Impact Conclusions, indicates there is a slight preference for Alternative 2. The run distance would be reduced by approximately 2,900 feet, there would be fewer wood poles needed, fewer miles of road rehabilitation, fewer road miles constructed overall and a decrease in the visual impact for motorists and residences along the western edge of Lakeview (DEIR 3.4.2). C5-9

The main disadvantage of Alternative 2 appears to be the impact of the100-year flood hazard zone. DEIR 5-4 indicates mitigating the impact of constructing the Lakeview Substation in the 100-year flood hazard zone could be less than significant. If located on the southwest corner of 10th Street and the future Avenue A, part of the proposed substation may lie in the 100-year flood hazard zone. DEIR 5.3, Environmentally Superior Alternative, indicates the impact could be mitigated to less than significant. The entrance to the substation, if located at the intersection of 10th street and the future Avenue A, remains outside the 100-year flood hazard zone. Additionally, if the proposed substation were located on the southeast corner of 10th Street and the future Avenue A, the entire site is outside the 100-year flood hazard zone. C5-10

We hope you will support our opposition to placing subtransmission line segment 2 through the middle of our property. We urge you to consider our request and the approval of Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative of Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project. C5-11

Any correspondence regarding this matter should be sent to Ethel M. Ybarrola and Thomas F. Ybarrola, 1015 Alexandria Drive, San Diego, CA 92107. Emails should be sent to tomybarrola@sbcglobal.net. Telephone calls should be directed to 619-223-2595.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Ybarrola
Trustee of the Ybarrola Living Trust

2.6.12 Letter C5 – Responses to Comments from Thomas F. Ybarrola

C5-1 Comment noted.

C5-2 Comment noted. Section 4.1, *Aesthetics*, of the Draft EIR includes a thorough discussion of the Project's impacts on aesthetics, including evaluation of the existing setting and how that setting may be affected by the Project. Impact 4.1-3 on page 4.1-27 analyzes whether the Project could substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

As described in Draft EIR Appendix A, *Scoping Report* (p. A-19): "The EIR will be used to guide decision-making by the CPUC by providing an assessment of the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Project. The weighing of project benefits (environmental, economic, or otherwise) against adverse environmental effects is outside the scope of the EIR. When the CPUC meets to decide on SCE's application for the proposed Project, the CPUC will consider the EIR (which will disclose potential environmental effects of the proposed Project and alternatives) along with other considerations." Furthermore, as discussed on page A-19, "pursuant to CEQA, the EIR will not consider comments that relate to potential economic impacts, such as property values, except to the extent such impacts could cause a physical change in the environment." See also Section 2.3, above, regarding comments received that do not address the adequacy or accuracy of the environmental analysis or identify any other significant environmental issue. Accordingly, the Draft EIR does not address issues regarding property values.

C5-3 Potential visual impacts from the proposed Project to motorists driving on Lakeview Avenue are described and found not to be significant on pages 4.1-28 and 29 of the Draft EIR. Potential impacts from Alternative 2 are described on page 4.1-32.

C5-4 See Response C5-2.

C5-5 Support for Alternative 2 is noted.

C5-6 Draft EIR Section 4.2.1 (p. 4.2-2) discloses that the proposed substation, access roads, and subtransmission source line poles all would traverse agricultural land. As shown in Draft EIR Figure 4.2-1 (p. 4.2-3), affected agricultural lands include those of the commenter.

The analysis of temporary and permanent impacts to farmland is documented in Draft EIR Section 4.2.4 (p. 4.2-6 et seq.). See, for example, Impact 4.2-1 (Draft EIR, p. 4.2-6), which concludes that construction activities would result in temporary impacts to designated Farmland. That would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.2-1a and 4.2-1b, and Impact 4.2-2 (Draft EIR, p. 4.2-8), which

concludes that the Project would cause permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, the significance of which would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.2-2.

C5-7 The analysis of the impacts of Alternative 2 to Agriculture and Forestry Resources is documented in Draft EIR Section 4.2.5 (p. 4.2-11 et seq.). That Alternative 2 would cause reduced effects on agricultural resources compared to the Project is explained on page 4.2-12 of the Draft EIR.

C5-8 As described in Section 4.2.2 of Appendix A to the Draft EIR, *Scoping Report* (p. A-18), "The EIR will not consider electric and magnetic fields (EMF) in the context of the CEQA analysis because [1] there is no agreement among scientists that EMF creates a potential health risk, and [2] there are no defined or adopted CEQA standards for defining health risk from EMF. Presently, there are no applicable federal, State or local regulations related to EMF levels from power lines or related facilities, such as substations. Nonetheless, in accordance with GO 131D, Section X and CPUC decision D.06-01-042, the CPUC requires applicants for a PTC to develop an EMF Management Plan for each project that implements "low-cost" or "no-cost" measures for managing EMF from power lines up to approximately four percent of total project cost."

Draft EIR Section 1.6 (p. 1-6 et seq.) describes the CPUC's approach to analysis of EMF, which is to consider it outside the scope of the EIR in the absence of regulations or standards that would inform significance determinations. Appendix B to the Draft EIR, *SCE's EMF Field Management Plan* (p. B-1 et seq.), both quantitatively estimates EMFs that would be generated by the Project and describes the measures SCE would implement, in compliance with CPUC requirements, to reduce EMFs from this Project.

Support for Alternative 2 is noted.

C5-9 Comment noted.

C5-10 As noted by the commenter, the Draft EIR erroneously identified the alternative substation location as being within the 100-year floodplain. For this reason, the analysis and conclusions with respect to the hydrology and water quality impacts of Alternative 2 have been revised. Beginning on the second paragraph of Draft EIR page 4.10-24, the following changes have been made:

> Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Substation site approximately 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto River corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line route compared to the Project. As such, the potential for erosion and water quality impacts during construction would decrease because the area of construction disturbance would be reduced and the relocated substation site would remain outside of the bed and banks of the San Jacinto River. Further, the disturbance area would not be sufficiently reduced to avoid having to comply with the regulatory controls

described above (i.e., SWPPP). Similar to the Project, the Alternative 2 substation site is located outside of the 100-year flood zone. Placement of TSPs along the subtransmission source line segments in the 100-year floodplain would also be the same as the Project. Alternative 2 would result in slightly less erosion and water quality impacts compared to the Project but otherwise impacts would be similar.

~~In contrast to the Project, which is outside of the 100-year FEMA flood hazard zone, half of the relocated substation site would be located within 100-year flood zone. In the event of a 100-year flood, the Lakeview Substation could be damaged, possibly resulting in the interruption of electrical service until such time the substation could be repaired. This would be a significant impact under CEQA criteria h) and j). However, implementation of Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1, which would require SCE to protect the site from a 100-year flood using earthen berms, by grading the site to above the flood elevation, or by other means, would reduce the impact to less than significant. to provide studies, calculations, plans and other information required to meet FEMA requirements, and obtain a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a LOMR prior to occupancy.~~

> ~~**Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1:** SCE and/or its contractor shall design the Lakeview Substation site to be protected against a 100-year flood along the San Jacinto River. SCE and/or its contractor shall include in its drainage plan and grading plans any combination of engineered features, such as earthen berms, elevated building pads, or other measures necessary to protect vital substation components from 100-year flood flows. Such measures shall be designed by a qualified professional engineer (P.E.), and include flood flow modeling necessary to determine the depth and extent of flooding expected in a 100-year flood. These studies, calculations, and plans shall be required to meet FEMA requirements and shall comply with Riverside County flood control ordinance (Ordinance No. 458). If necessary, SCE and/or its subcontractor shall obtain from FEMA a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) prior to occupancy.~~

~~While the decreased disturbance area results in slightly lesser impacts from construction activities and associated water quality impacts, Alternative 2 could result in a potentially significant impact with respect the FEMA 100-year flood hazard zone that does not exist under the Project. For this reason, Alternative 2 results in greater impacts than the Project.~~

In addition, because there would be no additional impact with respect to the 100-year floodplain, no mitigation would be required, the hydrology and water quality row under the Alternative 2 column in Table 5-2 on Draft EIR page 5-7 has been modified as follows:

Impacts would be the same as the Project. ~~substantially greater than the Project. The Lakeview Substation site would be placed in a 100-year flood hazard zone, resulting in a new potentially significant impact. All other impacts are the same or similar.~~

~~Not Preferred~~No Preference

C5-11 Comment noted.

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California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
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Re: Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016), SCH No. 2010121035

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Nuevo residents, John Martinez, and Andrew Arechiga, and Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local Union 1184, and its approximately 3,000 members living in Riverside County ("Commenters"). We have prepared these comments with the assistance of wildlife biologist Scott Cashen, M.S., and hydrogeologist Matthew Hagemann, P.G., C. Hg. Their comments are attached hereto as Attachments A, and B and are incorporated herein in their entirety. The experts' comments require separate response in the Final EIR.

As discussed below, the expert consultants conclude that the DEIR fails to comply with CEQA in that it fails to adequately describe the project, fails to adequately describe the environmental setting, fails to disclose numerous significant environmental impacts, fails to propose feasible mitigation measures and environmentally superior alternatives, and fails to include an adequate mitigation monitoring plan. For all of these reasons, a revised DEIR must be prepared to address these issues and the RDEIR must be recirculated for full public review and comment. C6-1

Introduction

Southern California Edison ("SCE") proposes to construct, operate and maintain an electrical substation ("Lakeview Substation" or "substation") on approximately 5.4 acres near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo, in Riverside County ("the County"), California. In addition to the construction and operation of the substation, the project includes the construction of two 115 kV sub-transmission source line segments, construction of two underground vaults (12 kV distribution getaways), the construction of new telecommunications infrastructure, and the decommissioning of two existing substations. (DEIR Executive Summary, p. ES-2 to ES-3) Additional components and equipment to be constructed include installation of approximately 90 new sub-transmission poles, at a height of approximately 61 to 84 feet above ground; new right-of-way (ROW) and easement rights for the new sub-transmission segments; and new access roads to be constructed and maintained. C6-1 cont.

There are additional undefined components of the project consisting of future distribution circuits to be connected from the substation "to areas of demand on an as-needed basis…" (DEIR, p. 2-9) (All of these components, together with any other components of the project not herein mentioned, are collectively referred to herein as "the Project.")

As shown below, the DEIR does not comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Accordingly, the CPUC may not approve the Project or grant any permits for it until it revises the EIR in a manner that adequately addresses all of the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project, and recirculates the document for public review and comment.

Detailed Comments

I. Project Description

"An accurate, stable and finite project description is the sine qua non of an informative and legally adequate EIR." (*County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal.App.3d 185, 192.) Without it, CEQA's objective of fostering public disclosure and informed environmental decision-making is stymied.

Piecemealing

A project description may not break a project into smaller components, "thereby 'segmenting' or 'piecemealing' the project in order to avoid analyzing it as a whole." (Kostka and Zischke, "Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act," 11th Edition, 2007, p. 419.) A project description is inadequate where (1) a future expansion or other action is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the initial project, and (2) the future expansion or action will change the scope of the initial project or its effects. (*Laurel Heights Improvement Ass'n. v. Regents of the Univ. of California* (1988), 47 Cal. 3d 376, 393-399.) C6-2

As noted above, future components of the project consist of future distribution circuits to be connected from the substation "to areas of demand on an as-needed basis…" (DEIR, p. 2-9)

This future activity is reasonably foreseeable given growing population trends in the state of California. This expansion would also change the scope of environmental effects by, among other things, impacting extensive areas of soil and underground habitat for mammals, other animals, and rare plants. An analysis of its effects and proposed mitigation is therefore required under CEQA.

The DEIR, however, avoids this required analysis as follows:

> The exact location, routing and timing of construction of the remaining distribution circuits have yet to be determined. Whether they would be installed aboveground or below, the sites and types of supporting infrastructure (including the soil sensitivity, mineral availability, or habitat present in the areas affected by such infrastructure), and other details essential to environmental analysis of impacts associated with these distribution circuits is unknown. Without this information, analysis of potential impacts related to these distribution circuits would be premature and speculative. Consequently, this EIR does not evaluate impacts related to construction, operation and maintenance of the remaining distribution circuits. Under CPUC General Order 131-D, the future 12 kV distribution circuits would not be subject to additional CEQA analysis or CPUC review.
>
> (DEIR, p. 2-9)

C6-2 cont.

This avoidance constitutes an impermissible piecemealing of the project into separate segments in violation of CEQA. Among other reasons why this piecemealing is impermissible is the result that the analysis fails to address cumulative impacts from the extension taken together with the initial phase of the project. This analysis is defective and must be cured. Then the public must be given an opportunity to evaluate the complete analysis in a recirculated document.

Project Features

The DEIR provides vague and imprecise information on Project features (except for the substation location). Furthermore, the DEIR indicates a final engineering plan has not been prepared for the Project. The lack of detailed information on the locations of Project features prevents thorough analysis of Project impacts and the formulation of reliable mitigation.

C6-3

Marshalling Yards

The Project would require up to four 5-acre marshalling yards. These include: (1) the Lakeview Substation site; (2) the Southern California Edison ("SCE") Menifee Service Center; (3) the Valley Substation and/or a portion of the adjacent transmission material yard; and (4) a portion of the parcel "adjacent to" the Lakeview Substation site.[1] Preparation of the marshalling yards would include the application of road base or crushed rock and installation of perimeter fencing.[2]

C6-4

[1] DEIR, p. 2-18.
[2] DEIR, p. 2-18.

The DEIR describes the existing conditions at the Lakeview Substation site. However, it does not describe the existing conditions at the other three marshalling yards other than stating each potential marshalling yard "previously has been disturbed."[3] This statement does not sufficiently describe existing conditions such that Project impacts to biological resources can be evaluated. Based on review by expert wildlife biologist Scott Cashen, M.S., of Google Earth imagery:

C6-4 cont.

1. The parcel adjacent to the Lakeview Substation site (i.e., Marshalling Yard #4) contains an agricultural field (perhaps fallow).
2. Both the SCE Menifee Service Center (i.e., Marshalling Yard #2) and the Valley Substation site (i.e., Marshalling Yard #3) contain native (or naturalized) vegetation and potentially jurisdictional drainage features (Figures 1 through 4).

These areas have the potential to support sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by Project activities. Consequently, the DEIR must: (a) identify the specific areas within each site that will be used as a marshalling yard; (b) describe the existing vegetation communities, habitat types, and habitat elements (e.g., burrows, trees) present at the proposed marshalling yards; (c) provide an assessment of the sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the marshalling yards; and (d) propose mitigation for any potentially significant Project impacts associated with the marshalling yards.

C6-5

Figure 1. Native vegetation at the Menifee Service Center in 2011.

[3] DEIR, p. 2-18.

Figure 2. Engineered drainage at the Menifee Service Center. Image taken in 2009 prior to establishment of vegetation.

Figure 3. Naturalized vegetation and ephemeral drainages (blue line) at the Valley Substation.

C6-5 cont.

Figure 4. Ephemeral drainage at the Valley Substation.

C6-5 cont.

Laydown Areas

The Project would require up to 90 laydown areas that would be cleared of existing vegetation and graded.[4] Each laydown area would disturb up to 20,000 square feet.[5] The DEIR does not map or otherwise describe the precise location of each laydown area. This precludes a thorough assessment of potentially significant impacts associated with the Project.

C6-6

Staging Areas

The Project would require one or more staging areas. Temporary storage of construction materials and equipment at staging areas creates the potential for release of hazardous materials or sediment to nearby water bodies.[6] Because the DEIR was unable to identify the location of staging areas, impacts to biological resources cannot be thoroughly evaluated.[7]

C6-7

[4] DEIR, p. 2-20.
[5] DEIR, p. 4.10-17.
[6] DEIR, p. 4.10-16.
[7] *See footnote b to* DEIR, Table 4.2-2.

II. Environmental Setting (Baseline)

Every CEQA document must start from a "baseline" assumption. The CEQA "baseline" is the set of environmental conditions against which to compare a project's anticipated impacts. Section 15125(a) of the CEQA Guidelines (14 C.C.R., § 15125(a)) states in pertinent part that a lead agency's environmental review under CEQA:

> "…must include a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time [environmental analysis] is commenced, from both a local and regional perspective. This environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a Lead Agency determines whether an impact is significant."

(See, *Save Our Peninsula Committee v. County of Monterey* (2001) 87 Cal.App.4th 99, 124-125 ("*Save Our Peninsula*.") As the court of appeal has explained, "the impacts of the project must be measured against the 'real conditions on the ground,'" and not against hypothetical permitted levels. (*Save Our Peninsula*,87 Cal.App.4th 99, 121-123.) As the court has explained, using such a skewed baseline "mislead(s) the public" and "draws a red herring across the path of public input." (*San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of Merced* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645, 656; *Woodward Park Homeowners v. City of Fresno* (2007) 150 Cal.App.4th 683, 708-711.)

The DEIR violates CEQA by failing to document and describe existing conditions pertaining to biological resources and existing soil contamination that will be affected by the Project. C6-8

Soil Contamination

Hydrogeologist and hazardous material expert Matthew Hagemann, MS, P.G., C. Hg., the former West Coast Regional Director of US EPA's Superfund Program, concludes that the Project may disturb soil contaminated with highly toxic chemicals, and that this contamination may adversely affect construction workers and nearby residents. Hazardous soil contamination is a significant impact that must be analyzed and mitigated in an EIR, if the contamination may be disturbed by the project. *Citizens for Responsible and Equitable Environmental Development v. Chula Vista* (2011), 197 Cal. App. 4th 327; *McQueen v. Board* (1988) 202 Cal. App. 3d 1136. Mr. Hagemann explains as follows: C6-9

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), included as Appendix D-1 to the DEIR, indicates that the proposed project will be built on land that has a long history agricultural use. The Phase I ESA states that the Site is being currently used to grow potatoes. According to a publication by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), fumigants such as methyl bromide, metam sodium, chloropicrin, and dichloropropene are commonly used on potatoes.[8] The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies methyl bromide as highly toxic and

[8] Hhttp://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/arei/ah722/arei4_3/AREI4_3pestmgt.pdf

warns that exposure and inhalation of the pesticide can cause severe lung injury and impair respiratory function.[9] The half-life of methyl bromide in the soil is 31 to 55 days.[10] C6-9 cont.

Alfalfa is a common crop grown in Lakeview and Riverside County and may have also been cultivated at the Site. The cultivation of alfalfa typically involves the application of pesticides, including carbamates.[11] Carbendazim, in the family of carbamates, can have a half-life of up to 6 months in soil.[12] C6-10

Because of the Site's long history of agriculture, soil sampling should be conducted for residual pesticide levels. Because potatoes are currently grown on Site, methyl bromide is most likely present in soil and may persist into the construction phase. During construction, workers may be exposed to residual pesticides when inhaling dust or when handing soil. Soil sampling should be conducted throughout the Site to ensure that the pesticides on the Site, used for the historical and ongoing agricultural processes, are not present in concentrations that could pose harmful health effects to construction workers. The results of the sampling and an analysis of potential health effects should be included in a revised DEIR. C6-11

The Phase I ESA identifies a water well on the property that was abandoned because of high selenium concentrations in groundwater. The Phase I ESA identifies a water well on the property that was abandoned because of high selenium concentrations but also states that it was 'not properly abandoned' (p. D-11). The California Water Code states that improperly abandoned water wells can be a source of groundwater contamination and a threat to public health. A Well Completion Report needs to be filled out and filed with the California Department of Water Resources. [13] The well should be properly abandoned, as the Phase I ESA itself notes, in accordance with the Riverside County Environmental Health Requirements and all other state requirements prior to any construction beginning on Site. C6-12

The DEIR states that the current Nuevo Station and Model Pole Top facilities include equipment such as transformers and circuit breakers that contain 17,500 gallons of mineral oil (DEIR, p. 4.9-3). Prior to project construction, the equipment will be decommissioned. The DEIR acknowledges that, historically, mineral oil constituents can include elements of concern such as lead, petroleum hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphyenyls (PCBs) (DEIR, p. 4.9-3). However, the DEIR does not provide any mitigation measures to address spillage of this oil during decommissioning activities. The DEIR states only that testing of mineral oil will be conducted during dismantling to see if it is contaminated with PCBs. C6-13

[9] Hhttp://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/methylbr.html
[10] National Pesticide Information Center. Methyl Bromide (Technical Fact Sheet). Hhttp://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/MBtech.pdf
[11] Hhttp://www.dtsc.ca.gov/InformationResources/Glossary_of_Environmental_Terms.cfmH
[12] Hhttp://www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc64.htm
[13] Hhttp://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/well_info_and_other/well_completion_reports.cfm

Testing should instead occur prior to decommissioning. Test results and any appropriate mitigation measures to protect worker health should be included in a revised DEIR. Additionally, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) should be prepared now and included in a revised DEIR, not following certification as proposed in the DEIR. C6-13 cont. C6-14

The Project will install approximately 73 wood poles (DEIR, p. 2-24) and remove 18 existing poles (DEIR, p. 4.9-4). The new and existing poles are likely to have been treated with pentachlorophenol which is used as a wood preservative. Pentachlorophenol on utility poles may be a source of contamination for stormwater runoff, especially in areas where new or decommissioned poles are stored. Mitigation measures should be identified in a revised DEIR to address this potential source of stormwater contamination. C6-15

Historic Data

Expert biologist Scott Cashen, MS, explains that several special-status species have previously been documented occurring in the Project area.[14] These include five narrow endemic plant species, the Riverside fairy shrimp, the Stephens' kangaroo rat, and the western spadefoot toad, among others.[15] The DEIR does not map or discuss the locations of these occurrences in relation to Project features. Because the DEIR lacks information on historic occurrences of special-status species in the Project area, it fails to provide information essential to establishing existing conditions, assessing Project impacts, and evaluating the proposed mitigation. C6-16

Project Survey Data

Adequate baseline survey data have not been collected for the project. Several special-status species were detected during surveys conducted for the Project.[16] The DEIR does not map all of these species, nor does it provide information on their distribution and abundance in the Project area. C6-17

Special-status plants have the potential to occur along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.[17] Plant surveys have not been completed along this route, and the extent of focused wildlife surveys along the route is unclear. C6-18

The lack of this information precludes an informed assessment of Project impacts and an evaluation of the adequacy the DEIR's proposed mitigation.

The study (or survey) area for mapping vegetation types at the Project site included the footprint of Project facilities, and a 50-foot buffer on either side of proposed linear sub-transmission source line segments and fiber optic cable routes.[18] For the alternatives, the study area was limited the immediate footprint of proposed facilities.[19] The DEIR does not identify the study area for wildlife surveys and habitat assessments; however, with a few exceptions, it C6-19

[14] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[15] Id. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-79.
[16] *See* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.
[17] DEIR, p. 4.4-29.
[18] DEIR, p. 4.4-3.
[19] DEIR, p. 4.4-3.

generally appears to have been the same as the study area that was investigated for vegetation. Neither study area was sufficient for adequately disclosing impacts of the Project, evaluating impacts, and formulating appropriate mitigation. C6-19 cont.

First, as the DEIR frequently acknowledges, a final engineering design plan has not been prepared for the Project.[20] As a result, the DEIR was unable to provide information on the specific locations (i.e., footprints) of several Project features, including the new roads, pole sites, laydown areas, and pull-sites. Given these circumstances, the Project would almost certainly impact areas that were not surveyed, and existing survey data strongly suggest these areas contain special-status plants (and possibly wildlife). For example, the DEIR does not accurately disclose impacts from roads. The Disturbance table (3.4) accounts for a 14' road. However, Section 2.8.1 indicates the preferred road width is 18 feet. Section 2.6.2 indicates a 30-foot ROW. Vegetation will be cleared under lines and around poles. The DEIR must account for these project impacts, but it does not; indeed, it cannot until these aspects of the project are accurately and completely described. C6-20

Second, the study area failed to consider the footprints of the Project's laydown sites. Each of the 90 proposed laydown sites would disturb an area up to 200 feet by 100 feet.[21] Given the dimensions of the laydown sites, each laydown site would extend to the edge, or up to 100 feet beyond, the study area. Moreover, because the Applicant has not yet determined the precise locations and alignments of the laydown sites in relation to the study area, it is extremely likely that some of the laydown sites would extend beyond the study area boundaries. C6-21

Third, the study area for the Project's linear facilities was inappropriate. As the DEIR acknowledges, the Project has the potential to cause significant indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources.[22] These indirect impacts may extend well beyond the 50-foot buffer areas that were surveyed for the linear facilities. Therefore, even if the final engineering plan coincides with the survey area, the Applicant lacks the field data needed to evaluate potentially significant indirect impacts to biological resources. The need to survey a relatively wide buffer area is reflected in survey guidance issued by the California Department of Fish and Game ("CDFG") and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"). For example, CDFG's burrowing owl survey guidance recommends surveys within 150 meters (approximately 500 feet) of project boundaries.[23] C6-22

Fourth, the study area did not encompass all of the areas that would be directly impacted by the Project. Specifically, surveys were not conducted at (a) the proposed marshalling yards; (b) the proposed staging areas; and (c) potential sites for distribution circuits.[24]

As a result of these defects, the DEIR lacks the required comprehensive baseline data on sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. C6-23

[20] DEIR, p. 2-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-27. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-84.
[21] DEIR, p. 2-20.
[22] PEA, p. 4.4-84.
[23] The California Burrowing Owl Consortium. 1993. Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines. Available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/species/docs/boconsortium.pdf. *See also* BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 13. Results of Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project in Riverside County, p. 3.
[24] DEIR, p. 2-9. Although the DEIR does not identify the staging areas, Table 3.4 in the PEA suggests the staging areas would not coincide with other Project features.

Deferral of Survey Data

The DEIR states the following:

> SCE has conducted an initial biological evaluation and would conduct further focused environmental surveys after project approval, but prior to the start of construction. Surveys would identify and/or address any potential sensitive biological and cultural resources in the vicinity of the Project, including the sub-transmission source line routes, telecommunications routes, wire stringing locations, access roads, and marshalling yard(s). The locations of these Project components are described below. Where feasible, the information gathered from these surveys would be used to finalize Project design in order to avoid or to minimize the potential impact to sensitive resources from Project-related activities.[25]

C6-24

This approach is inadequate and in violation of CEQA. First, the mitigation measures in the DEIR provide only vague information on the proposed pre-construction surveys, including the level of effort that will be devoted to the surveys, the methods that will be used, and the survey areas (including the Project features and buffer zones that will be surveyed). The DEIR suffers from the lack of such performance criteria. This level of deferral of analysis of impacts is impermissible because it forecloses the possibility of ensuring significant effects will be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

California courts have held that the deferral of formulation of mitigation measures pending the completion of a future study is appropriate only where it can be shown that (1) the proposed mitigation measures are feasible, and (2) practical reasons prevent formulation of the mitigation measures at the time. (*Sacramento Old City Assn. v. City Council* (1991) 229 Cal.App.3d 1011 (*SOCA*).) Neither of these conditions is present here. The applicant or the CPUC could have ascertained the precise extent and location of species through complete surveys, but chose not to do so. Moreover, the deferral of mitigation violates CEQA where it is not accompanied by "specific performance criteria articulated at the time of project approval." (*Id.*, at pp. 1028-9.) The DEIR contains no such performance criteria.

For example, the Applicant-Proposed Measure (APM) APM-BIO-3 provides as follows:

> **APM-BIO-3: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat.** A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat shall be conducted by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephens' kangaroo rat surveys along Segments 1, 2 and 3 and the Proposed Telecommunications Route. If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary.

C6-25

This measure only provides that a survey will occur, without assurance that protocols will be performed in a manner calculated to detect the species. The DEIR relies on many of these APMs without any additional mitigation measures or performance criteria, with the result that the mitigation provided is inadequate under CEQA, as discussed more fully *infra*.

Furthermore, although the DEIR indicates the Applicant will conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls, nesting birds, rare plants, Stephens' kangaroo rats, and fairy shrimp

C6-26

[25] DEIR, p. 2-15.

habitat, it lacks provisions for pre-construction surveys for wetlands (or other jurisdictional waters), the Los Angeles pocket mouse, golden eagle, American badger, and the numerous other sensitive biological resources that have the potential to be impacted by the Project.[26]

C6-26 cont.

Wetlands

A formal wetland delineation has not been conducted for the Project.[27] According to the DEIR, however, "the PEA [Proponents' Environmental Assessment], SCE, 2010) and biological reconnaissance surveys conducted on behalf of the CPUC provide sufficient detail to estimate the number and type of wetland features that would be encountered or affected by the development of the Project or alternatives."[28]

Contrary to this claim, none of the environmental documents prepared for the Project (including the PEA and DEIR) map or quantify the "multiple [wetland] features" that occur throughout the Project area.[29] This information is essential to evaluating potentially significant Project impacts and the Project's compliance with State and federal wetland regulations.

The San Jacinto River occurs in the Project area. Following sufficient rain events, the low-lying areas surrounding the river become inundated with water. These events, albeit perhaps infrequent, support wetlands throughout the San Jacinto River floodplain. The presence of wetlands in the floodplain is supported by field survey data that documented the presence of hydric soils and wetland vegetation on the Project site in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River.[30]

C6-27

The presence of wetlands in the floodplain is also supported by information presented in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("MSHCP"), the National Wetlands Inventory, and imagery available through Google Earth. Specifically,

1. The MSHCP identifies playas and vernal pools in the Project area.[31]
2. The National Wetlands Inventory indicates wetlands occur adjacent to the San Jacinto River, and along 11th and 12th Streets, within the Project area (Figure 5).
3. Imagery available from Google Earth depicts several wetland features in the Project area (Figure 5 through 10).

Based on the aforementioned information, it is clear that significantly more wetland features are present in the Project area than were disclosed in the DEIR. The failure to consider these features affects the validity of the DEIR's impact assessment, the effectiveness of the DEIR's proposed mitigation, and the Project's compliance with state and federal wetland regulations.

[26] DEIR, p. 4.4-27. *See also* Table 4.4-2.
[27] DEIR, p. 4.4-6.
[28] DEIR, p. 4.4-6.
[29] *See* PEA, p. 4.4-69 and Table 4.4-1.
[30] *See* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. n.d. Wetland Indicator Status [online database]. Available at: http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html
[31] MSHCP, Figure 3-17.

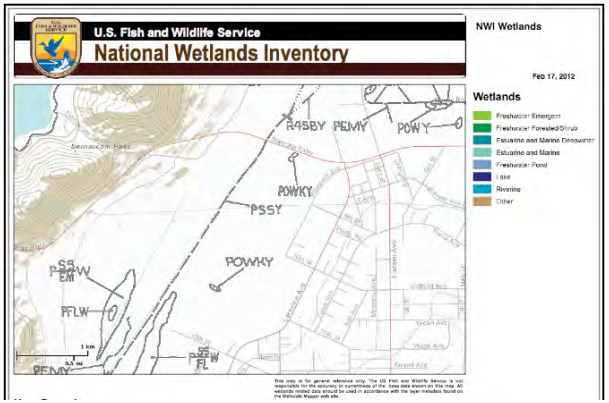

Figure 5. National Wetland Inventory map of wetlands (indicated by letter codes) in the Project area.[32]

C6-27 cont.

[32] U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory website. Accessed 2012 Feb 17. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/.

Figure 6. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands (encompassed in blue) east of the San Jacinto River. Approximate location of Sub-transmission Line Route 1 (new road and transmission line) is depicted by red line.

Figure 7. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along 11th Street east of the San Jacinto River.

C6-27 cont.

Figure 8. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along 11th Street east of the San Jacinto River.

Figure 9. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along Sub-transmission Line Route 2 (red line).

C6-27 cont.

Figure 10. Riverine wetlands along Sub-transmission Line Route 3 (red line) west of the San Jacinto River.

C6-27 cont.

Branchiopods

The Project site provides suitable habitat for two federally listed branchiopods: the Riverside fairy shrimp (federally endangered) and the vernal pool fairy shrimp (federally threatened).[33] Potential habitat for these species includes vernal pools, ephemeral ponds, and human derived depressions.[34]

The Applicant's biologist conducted a survey for branchiopod habitat on November 16, 2009. During the survey, "[a]ll areas with suitable soils were examined for evidence of suitable ponding habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp. Potential ponding areas were noted by the presence of a visible depression and/or cracked soils."[35] According to the accompanying survey report: "[o]nly one area exhibited evidence of ponding: a depression along 12th Street, east of B Avenue, along the Alternative Sub-transmission Source Line Route (Segment 3)."[36]

The biologist's conclusion conflicts with National Wetlands Inventory maps and imagery available through Google Earth. It also conflicts with the field observations made by other biologists that conducted surveys on the Project site, and with California Natural Diversity Database ("CNDDB") records that document potential fairy shrimp habitat between 11th Street

C6-28

[33] PEA, p. 4.4-17. *See also* MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[34] Id.
[35] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of a Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California.
[36] Id.

and the San Jacinto River.[37] C6-28 cont.

Golden Eagle

Golden eagles are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ("Eagle Act") and by California Fish and Game Code (FGC) § 3511(a), (b)[7]. The USFWS requires a take permit to be issued for "take" of bald or golden eagles where the taking is associated with, but not the purpose of the activity, and cannot be practicably avoided. Take includes causing a decrease in golden eagle productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.[38] Under California FGC § 3511, take of golden eagle is prohibited.

The DEIR indicates golden eagle nest sites may occur in the vicinity of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, and that the remainder of the Project site provides suitable foraging habitat for eagles.[39] The DEIR further indicates that there were "recent nearby observations" of golden eagles along the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.[40] The DEIR does not discuss these observations, nor does it provide any other information pertaining to golden eagles in the Project area. C6-29

The USFWS has concluded that survey and monitoring data on golden eagle nest sites within a 10-mile radius of a project are essential components for avoiding and minimizing disturbance and other kinds of take.[41] As a result, the USFWS has issued a survey protocol that identifies the methods that should be used to acquire the data needed for informed impact analyses and mitigation.[42] The Applicant has not conducted the recommended surveys, nor has it provided existing data acquired through protocol surveys conducted for other projects. The lack of this essential baseline information on golden eagle nest sites in the Project area prevents an assessment of the risk of eagles colliding with, or becoming electrocuted by, the Project's transmission lines, and the potential for the Project to cause take of eagles through disturbance and loss of foraging habitat.

Mischaracterization and Omission of Baseline Data

Potential for Special-Status Plant Species to Occur in the Project Area

Fifteen vegetation communities and other habitat types occur in the Project area.[43] These include four sensitive natural communities, and the unique transition zone between upland and C6-30

[37] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment C, CNDDB Forms. *See also page 3* In: SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. *See also occurrence record #5 for the western spadefoot* In: California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[38] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

[39] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[40] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[41] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
[42] Id.
[43] DEIR, p. 4.4-3.

lowland communities in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River.[44]

Four special-status plant species were detected on the Project site.[45] Incredibly, of the remaining "potentially occurring species," and despite the relative richness of vegetation communities in the Project area, the DEIR concludes the species (a) are "absent," with no suitable habitat present in the Project area; or (b) have a "low" potential of occurring. No species were considered to have a "moderate" or "high" possibility of occurring. Notwithstanding the subjectivity inherent in categorizing potential for occurrence, the DEIR clearly demonstrates bias. Indeed, many of the DEIR's conclusions contradict existing information, as evidenced below. C6-30 cont.

Moran's navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*)

Moran's navarretia (also known as spreading navarretia) is a federally threatened species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates this species has a low potential of occurring in the Project area.[46] However, several populations of Moran's navarretia have in fact been documented occurring in the Project area. Populations have been detected (a) "along the San Jacinto River flood control channel, from 0.3 mile south or Ramona Expressway, south to 11th Street;" and (b) "at ends of 12th and 13th Streets, along the San Jacinto River flood channel."[47] Both of these locations are within the Project area, and the latter population was detected as recently as 2007 (i.e., two years before the Applicant's surveys).[48] The Applicant's consultants apparently made no attempt to relocate the plants documented in the CNDDB.

The MSHCP identifies the floodplains of the San Jacinto River from the Ramona Expressway south to Railroad Canyon as a "Core Area" for the species, and the USFWS has identified the San Jacinto River corridor as critical habitat.[49] Therefore, based on the definitions applied in the DEIR, Moran's navarretia should be categorized as present in the Project area, or at a minimum, categorized as having a high potential of occurring. An impact to critical habitat is a significant impact under CEQA. C6-31

Moreover, since the PEA states the Project will impact critical habitat for Moran's navarretia, the DEIR may not ignore this finding of a previous environmental document. The DEIR may not "unring the bell." The court in the case *Stanislaus Audobon Society, Inc. v. County of Stanislaus* (1995) 33 Cal.App.4th 144, rejected a county's argument that a revised initial study prepared by the county which contradicted the findings of the first initial study had not "relegated the first initial study to oblivion." *Id.* at 154. The court stated, "We analogize such an untenable position to the unringing of a bell. The first initial study is part of the record. The fact that a revised initial study was later prepared does not make the first initial study any less a record entry nor does it diminish its significance, particularly when the revised study does not conclude that the project would not be growth inducing but instead simply proceeds on the

[44] DEIR, p. 4.4-5.
[45] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[46] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[47] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[48] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[49] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.

assumption that evaluation of future housing can be deferred until such housing is proposed." (*Id*. at 154) The City cannot conclude that a project may have significant impacts and then, when such admission is no longer convenient, simply change its conclusion to better suit its needs. The conclusions from the original Initial Study themselves create a "fair argument" that the Project may have significant impacts, despite other evidence to the contrary, including the revised Initial Study. See, *Id.; Gentry v. Murietta* (1995) 36 Cal.app.4th 1359 (petitioner may rely on statements made in initial study to establish fair argument, even in the face of contradictory evidence). EIR may not omit or ignore contradictory information. "In short, omitting or ignoring contrary information is not the way to produce an adequate informational document." *Madera Oversight Coalition v. County of Madera*, 2011 Cal. App. LEXIS 1187 (2011) C6-31 cont.

Chaparral sand verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*)

Chaparral sand verbena is a California Native Plant Society ("CNPS") List 1B species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[50] However, according to the special-status plant species survey report prepared for the Project, botanists detected chaparral sand verbena in the Project area.[51] C6-32

South Coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*) / Davidson's saltscale (*A. serenana* var. *davidsonii*)

South Coast saltscale is a CNPS List 1B species. Davidson's saltscale is a CNPS List 1B species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. Distinguishing these two species is problematic and uncertain.[52] The DEIR indicates both species are absent in some portions of the Project area, and that they have a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[53] According to the CNDDB a population of south Coast saltscale was documented 900 feet south of the end of 11th Street and 10 feet east of the existing dirt access road.[54] The MSHCP suggests the CNDDB record refers to Davidson's saltscale.[55] Regardless of the taxonomic status, the occurrence record refers to an extremely rare saltbush that was detected within the Project area. The Applicant's consultants apparently made no attempt to relocate the plant documented in the CNDDB. Based on the DEIR's own definitions, south coast saltscale and Davidson's saltscale should be categorized as either being present in the Project area, or as having a high potential of occurring. C6-33

Parish's brittlescale (*A. parishii*) C6-34

[50] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[51] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment B: Plant Compendium, p. B-4.

[52] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[53] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[54] The MSHCP suggests the CNDDB record for this species refers to Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*)
[55] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.

Parish's brittlescale is a CNPS List 1B species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[56] Parish's brittlescale occurs in alkaline habitats. In western Riverside County it is found primarily along the San Jacinto River and at Salt Creek within the Domino, Willows and Traver soils series in association with the alkali vernal pools, alkali annual grassland, alkali playa, and alkali scrub components of alkali vernal plains.[57] These conditions are present in the Project area, and Parish's brittlescale has been documented occurring less than a mile north of the Project site.[58] Therefore, based on the DEIR's own definitions, Parish's brittlescale should be categorized as having a high potential of occurring in the Project area. C6-34 cont.

Parish's brittlescale is a low annual with stems generally less than two decimeters (approximately 8 inches) long.[59] The plant's flowers, which usually are evident sometime between June and October, are obscure and small.[60] Botanists that conducted surveys for the Project did not visit a reference population for this species, and their surveys terminated in early June before the plant may have been flowering.[61] These circumstances increase the likelihood that botanists missed detection of the species.

Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*)

Wright's trichocoronis is a CNPS List 2 species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[62] Wright's trichocoronis is found in alkali vernal plains and associated alkali playa, alkali annual grassland, and alkali vernal pool habitat. The species is known only from four locations along the San Jacinto River. The MSHCP identifies the middle segment of the San Jacinto River as a "Core Area" for the species. Therefore, based on the DEIR's own definitions, Wright's trichocoronis should be considered to have at least moderate potential of occurring in the Project area. C6-35

Wright's trichocoronis is difficult to detect because it is a low, subaquatic annual, less than 30 cm tall. Botanists that conducted surveys for the Project did not visit a reference population for this species.[63] These circumstances increase the likelihood that botanists missed detection of the species.

Presence of Special-Status Bird Species C6-36

The DEIR does not report the presence of any special-status bird species in the Project

[56] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[57] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[58] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[59] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[60] Id.
[61] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Tables 1 and 2.
[62] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[63] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Tables 1 and 2.

study area.[64] This conflicts with the PEA, which reports the presence of two special-status bird species: loggerhead shrike and California horned lark.[65] In fact, neither document accurately reports the occurrence of special-status bird species. According to the species lists provided in the survey reports prepared for the Project, the following special-status bird species were detected in the Project study area:

- Cooper's hawk
- Tricolored blackbird
- Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
- Bell's sage sparrow
- Northern harrier
- California horned lark
- Loggerhead shrike[66]

In addition to failing to disclose the presence of these species, the DEIR lacks any information on their regional status; their abundance and distribution throughout the Project area; and their potential for being adversely affected by the Project. This paucity of information renders impossible an assessment of the direct and cumulative impacts of the project on these and other species.

C6-36 cont.

Value of Agricultural Lands as Species Habitat

The DEIR states: "[t]he proposed Lakeview Substation site currently supports agriculture and does not provide habitat for [MSHCP] Criteria Area Species."[67] The DEIR's statement is incorrect. Agricultural lands provide habitat for several Criteria Area species including the mountain plover, burrowing owl, California horned lark, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, merlin, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-faced ibis, and white-tailed kite.[68] The conservation of several of these species depends on the persistence of agriculture. For example, fallow fields and agricultural fields with short crop types—such as those at the Project site—are critically important to the conservation of mountain plovers and Western burrowing owls.[69]

C6-37

[64] DEIR, Table 4.4-2. *See also* p. 4.4-8.
[65] PEA, p. 4.4-82.
[66] *See* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.
[67] DEIR, p. 4.4-34.
[68] MSHCP, Table 5-2.
[69] Wunder MB, FL Knopf. 2003. The Imperial Valley of California is critical to wintering Mountain Plovers. J. Field Ornithol. 74:74-80. *See also* DeSante DF, ED Ruhlen, DK Rosenberg. 2004. Density and abundance of burrowing owls in the agricultural matrix of the Imperial Valley, California. Studies in Avian Biology No. 27: 116-119.

III. Identification of Significant Impacts

CEQA requires that an agency analyze the potential environmental impacts of its proposed actions in an environmental impact report ("EIR") (except in certain limited circumstances). (See, e.g., Pub. Res. Code § 21100.) The EIR is the very heart of CEQA. (*Dunn-Edwards v. BAAQMD* (1992) 9 Cal.App.4th 644, 652.) "The 'foremost principle' in interpreting CEQA is that the Legislature intended the act to be read so as to afford the fullest possible protection to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language." (*Communities for a Better Environment v. Calif. Resources Agency* (2002) 103 Cal. App. 4th 98, 109.)

CEQA has two primary purposes. First, CEQA is designed to inform decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of a project. (14 Cal. Code Regs. ("CEQA Guidelines") § 15002(a)(1).) "Its purpose is to inform the public and its responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. Thus, the EIR 'protects not only the environment but also informed self-government.'" (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal. 3d 553, 564) The EIR has been described as "an environmental 'alarm bell' whose purpose it is to alert the public and its responsible officials to environmental changes before they have reached ecological points of no return." (*Berkeley Keep Jets Over the Bay v. Bd. of Port Comm'rs*. (2001) 91 Cal. App. 4th 1344, 1354 ("Berkeley Jets"); *County of Inyo v. Yorty* (1973) 32 Cal.App.3d 795, 810)

C6-38

Second, CEQA requires public agencies to avoid or reduce environmental damage when "feasible" by requiring "environmentally superior" alternatives and all feasible mitigation measures. (CEQA Guidelines § 15002(a)(2) and (3); See also, *Berkeley Jets*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 1344, 1354; *Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 564) The EIR serves to provide agencies and the public with information about the environmental impacts of a proposed project and to "identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced." (Guidelines §15002(a)(2)) If the project will have a significant effect on the environment, the agency may approve the project only if it finds that it has "eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects on the environment where feasible" and that any unavoidable significant effects on the environment are "acceptable due to overriding concerns." (Pub.Res.Code § 21081; 14 Cal.Code Regs. § 15092(b)(2)(A) & (B))

While the courts review an EIR using an "abuse of discretion" standard, "the reviewing court is not to 'uncritically rely on every study or analysis presented by a project proponent in support of its position. A 'clearly inadequate or unsupported study is entitled to no judicial deference.'" (*Berkeley Jets*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 1344, 1355 (emphasis added), quoting, *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California*, 47 Cal. 3d 376, 391 409, fn. 12 (1988)) As the court stated in *Berkeley Jets*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at 1355:

> A prejudicial abuse of discretion occurs "if the failure to include relevant information precludes informed decisionmaking and informed public participation, thereby thwarting the statutory goals of the EIR process." (*San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal. App. 4th 713, 722]; *Galante Vineyards v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management Dist*. (1997) 60 Cal. App. 4th 1109, 1117; *County of Amador v. El Dorado County Water Agency* (1999) 76 Cal. App. 4th 931, 946)

Flawed Project Description Forecloses Proper Analysis of Impacts

As noted above, the Project Description is incomplete. Thus, a comprehensive analysis of the environmental effects of the project cannot be completed. Without this analysis of impacts, of course, it is impossible to devise adequate mitigation measures. Without knowing the extent of impacts, the scope and extent of mitigation measures cannot be determined.

As the PEA acknowledges, a complete Project impact analysis is not possible until the impact footprint has been established.[70] Specifically,

1. the DEIR's inability to provide specific information on the location(s) of Project features precludes adequate analyses of potentially significant Project impacts; and,
2. even slight shifts in Project features (particularly the roads, sub-transmission lines, and associated construction facilities) would dramatically alter the types and levels of Project impacts to sensitive biological resources.

As a result, the DEIR does not provide adequate and reliable information on the scope of potentially significant impacts that may be caused by the Project. The DEIR must be revised once (a) the final engineering plan has been developed; and/or (b) all potentially significant impacts have been thoroughly analyzed (i.e., through additional field surveys and analysis that consider all potential footprints).

Moreover, as noted above, the DEIR improperly defers acquisition of data needed to disclose existing conditions, evaluate project impacts, and formulate appropriate mitigation measures.

C6-38 cont.

The DEIR and PEA Provide Inadequate and Inconsistent Information on Project Impacts and Features

The DEIR and PEA provide inadequate and inconsistent information on Project impacts, features, and mitigation. The following issues require clarification to support informed analyses and decisions:

1. Section 2.8.1 of the DEIR states: "[n]ew roads (up to 3.5 miles) would be needed to access the new sub-transmission source line segments, resulting in a disturbance of approximately 8.0 acres." However, Table 2-2 of the DEIR indicates 5.1 acres will be disturbed by the new access roads. C6-39
2. Impacts from Project roads are based on a 14-foot road width.[71] However, the DEIR states new and rehabilitated roads would be constructed to provide a minimum width of 14 feet, preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side.[72] In addition, the C6-40

[70] PEA, p. 4.4-80. *See also* DEIR, p. ES-5. *See also* Id, p. ES-6. *See also* Id, ES-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-4. *See also* Id, p. 2-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-16. *See also* Id, p. 2-27.
[71] DEIR, Table 2-2.
[72] DEIR, p. 2-17.

PEA indicates roads may be wider (than 18 feet) depending on final engineering.[73] Given this information,

a. What is the maximum number of acres that will be impacted by Project roads?
b. Under what circumstances will roads be limited to 14 feet even if it is feasible to construct 18-foot or wider roads?

C6-40 cont.

3. The footnote to Table 3-4 of the PEA indicates a portion of the ROW within 25 feet of the TSPs and within 10 feet of the wood poles will remain cleared of vegetation. Although perpetual vegetation removal should be considered a permanent impact, it does not appear that it was accounted for as one in the DEIR. Furthermore, assuming the TSPs are located at the edge of the road (i.e., to allow vehicle passage), wouldn't new roads associated with the sub-transmission line routes entail up to 39 feet (or more) of vegetation removal (i.e., 14-foot road plus an additional 25 feet clearance for the TSP)? C6-41
4. Table 4.4-4 of the DEIR indicates the sub-transmission source line routes (Segments One and Two) would impact 26.6 acres of agriculture. However, Table 4.2-3 indicates impacts to farmland from the sub-transmission line routes (including roads and poles) would be limited to 2.6 acres, whereas Table 4.2-2 indicates impacts would be 21.2 acres. C6-42
5. Please clarify the apparent discrepancy between Table 4.4-4 in the PEA, which indicates 36.44 acres of impacts from sub-transmission line segments, and Table 3.4 of the PEA, which indicates up to 45.1 acres. Similarly, please clarify the apparent discrepancies between data presented in Tables 2-2 and 2-8 in the DEIR, and data presented in Table 4.4-4 in the PEA. C6-43
6. Table 4.4-9 in the PEA indicates sub-transmission source line segment 3 would not impact any native vegetation communities. This appears to conflict with Figure 4.4-4N in the PEA. C6-44
7. The DEIR indicates activities related to road rehabilitation could include: grading and repair, vegetation clearance and grubbing, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, re-compaction of the surface, and ensuring a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, depending upon field construction).[74] The existing road along the New Cable to Moval telecommunications route will apparently require road rehabilitation; however, Table 4.4-5 in the PEA indicates there will not be impacts to vegetation along the New Cable to Moval route. Please clarify the extent of vegetation removal and roadwork required along the New Cable to Moval route. If the existing road will be widened, please justify the PEA's conclusion that rehabilitation will not impact vegetation given the information provided in Figures 4.4A through N in the PEA, and with the images provided in the small mammal trapping reports prepared for the Project. C6-45
8. Please clarify the type, extent, and locations of all other ground disturbance activities that will occur along the New Cable to Moval telecommunications route. C6-46

[73] PEA, p. 3-22.
[74] DEIR, p. 2-17.

9. Please clarify the number and size of staging areas that would be used for the Project and identify where staging areas would be located in relation to the San Jacinto River and its floodplain. C6-47
10. Please identify the status of special-status plant surveys along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. In addition, please identify the focused wildlife surveys that have been conducted for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and Sub-transmission Source Line Segment 3. C6-48
11. Please identify the status of any protocol level fairy shrimp surveys that have been initiated for the Project. C6-49
12. Please clarify whether chemical dust suppressants will be used for the Project. If dust suppressants will be used please identify they type that will be applied, the locations of potential application, and an assessment of the environmental impacts from using them.[75] C6-50
13. Please clarify whether pull and tension sites, TSPs, and wood poles would be located immediately adjacent to the San Jacinto River as depicted in Figure 2-2 in the DEIR. C6-51
14. The Project would require roads to support the two sub-transmission line routes. Please identify the proximity of roadwork (either new construction and rehabilitation) and other ground disturbance activities in relation to the San Jacinto River. C6-52

The DEIR Mischaracterizes Impacts to Wetlands

First, the DEIR's conclusion conflicts with the PEA, which indicates wetlands occur throughout the Project area, and that "the Proposed Project may impact…alkali wetland."[76]

Second, a formal wetland delineation has not been conducted for the Project, and until a formal wetland delineation has been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps"), the DEIR has no basis to conclude the Project will not impact wetlands (or other jurisdictional waters). C6-53

Third, biologists that conducted surveys for the Project reported detecting hydrologically-dependent, special-status plant species in "depressions" (i.e., vernal or seasonal pools).[77] These observations compliment existing CNDDB records of "pools" in the Project area.[78] C6-54

Fourth, a branch of the San Jacinto River occurs west of the main river channel.[79] The Applicant has proposed building a new access road across this branch of the river.[80] C6-55

Fifth, as previously discussed, Google Earth imagery clearly depicts wetland features in

[75] *See* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2004 Mar. Potential Environmental Impacts of Dust Suppressants: Avoiding another Times Beach. In: An Expert Panel Summary, May 30-31, 2002, Las Vegas, Nevada. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/cmb/pdf/dust.pdf.
[76] PEA, Table 4.4-1. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-81.
[77] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment C, CNDDB Forms.

[78] *See occurrence record #5 for the western spadefoot* In: California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[79] *See* PEA, Figure 3.6 (river channels depicted with light blue lines).
[80] Id.

the Project area, including within the footprints of roads and pull-sites proposed for the Project (Figures 5 through 10). The Project, as currently proposed, would impact these wetlands. Moreover, given the dimensions of the proposed pull-sites, and the configuration of roads proposed for the Project, the Applicant may not be able to avoid potentially jurisdictional wetlands (Figure 11). Because the DEIR does not require the Applicant to obtain authorization from the Corps, State Water Resources Control Board, and CDFG, the Project would have an unmitigated, significant impact on wetland resources. C6-55 cont.

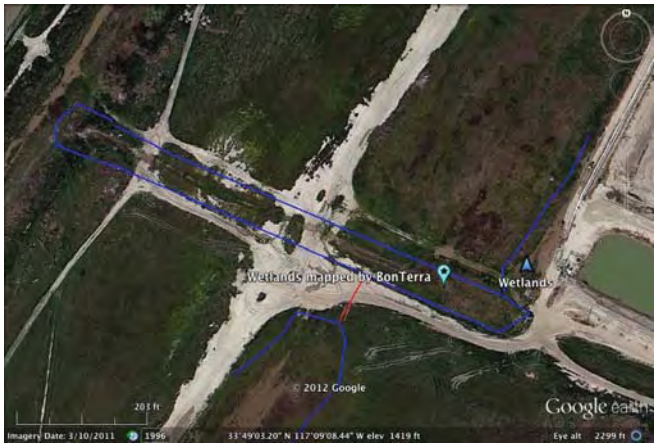

Figure 11. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands (encompassed in blue) at the end of 12th Street, east of the San Jacinto River. Area of ponding reported by BonTerra Consulting is marked by star. Maximum distance between wetland features (red line) is approximately 75 feet.

The DEIR Fails to Analyze Potentially Significant Impacts to All Sensitive Wildlife Species

The DEIR states: "[n]on-listed special-status wildlife species, species determined to have a low potential to occur in the study area, and birds that may forage (but not nest) in the area are identified, but related impacts are not analyzed under CEQA."[81] This approach omits analysis of the project's effects on foraging habitat in violation of CEQA. CEQA provides protection not only for State-listed or federally-listed species, but also for any species that can be shown to meet the criteria for listing.[82] Species that meet these criteria are often considered species of special concern by the CDFG.[83] C6-56

[81] DEIR, p. 4.4-8. *See also* PEA, p. 3-22.
[82] California Department of Fish and Game. n.d. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)[online]. Available at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/ceqa/intrmlproced/eir.html.
[83] Id.

Several species of special concern occur, or potentially occur, in the Project area.[84] The DEIR must analyze potentially significant Project impacts to these species. In some cases the DEIR's analysis must extend beyond analysis of impacts to nesting habitat. For example, the ferruginous hawk is a federal and State listed species of special concern that is known to occur in the Project area.[85] This special-status listing applies to birds on their wintering grounds. In addition, golden eagles are protected from take by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and by California Fish and Game Code § 3511. Take includes causing a decrease in golden eagle productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, *feeding*, or *sheltering* behavior.[86] C6-56 cont.

Golden Eagle and Other Raptors

The DEIR acknowledges that the USFWS has prepared guidelines for compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ("Eagle Act"), and that the guidelines "suggest using the best available information and risk analysis tools to assess project impacts; at the earliest opportunity collecting data on home ranges, nesting locations, and foraging and migration behavior; full disclosure of risks to eagles; full disclosure of data and analysis limitations; and maximum consideration of impact-reduction measures and mitigation to reduce take."[87] The DEIR accomplishes none of these tasks. Indeed, the DEIR does not provide an assessment of the Project's compliance with the Eagle Act, nor does it analyze potentially significant Project impacts on the golden eagle and other raptor species.

It is important to note also that under California FGC § 3511, take of golden eagle is prohibited and take authorization by the Department of Fish and Game cannot occur. Therefore, the project will have to avoid take of golden eagle entirely. Any take of golden eagle would constitute a significant impact under CEQA. C6-57

The Project includes two new transmission lines that would span the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River serves as a corridor for birds. The DEIR lacks an assessment of the collision and electrocution risk that the Project poses to birds flying along the river corridor, or to the high concentration of raptors that occur in the Project area.[88] The DEIR also lacks an assessment of impacts related to the Project's fiber optic lines. The CPUC has previously concluded that fiber optic cables proposed for telecommunication facilities present a collision risk to listed birds.[89]

[84] *See* DEIR, Table 4.4-2. *See also* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.
[85] PEA, p. 4.4-84. *See also* eBird. 2011. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: http://www.ebird.org. (Accessed: 2012 Feb 25).
[86] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

[87] DEIR, p. 4.4-20.
[88] PEA, p. 3-7.
[89] CPUC. 2011. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project Colorado River Substation Expansion Project. p. ES-20.

Stephen's Kangaroo Rat and Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

The DEIR acknowledges the Project may have significant impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[90] However, it fails to quantify the impacts or put them into context. Moreover, it fails to disclose important information pertaining to impacts reported by the Applicant's consultant and the MSHCP.

In his survey report, the Applicant's small mammal expert concluded "[v]ehicular travel and power line installation activities in the South Section of the project alignment [i.e., south of the Ramona Expressway] would very likely negatively affect any Los Angeles pocket mice or SKR [Stephens' kangaroo rat] inhabiting the particular locations disturbed during project activities. The soils in the westerly portions of this section are soft and vulnerable to collapsing from vehicular or even human weight."[91] The Applicant's expert further concluded "[s]uch disturbances will *definitely or potentially result in the "take"* of resident SKR or LAPM [Los Angeles pocket mouse] at these locations.[92] C6-58

The Stephens' kangaroo rat has a relatively small geographic range (about 1,108 sq miles) for a mammal species and it is restricted to Riverside County and adjacent northern-central San Diego County.[93] The northern portion of the Project site is within a Core Area for the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[94] Although the southern portion of the Project site is not within a designated Core Area for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, the small population that occurs there may provide important habitat linkages between Core Areas.[95] Because long distance movements of Stephen's kangaroo rats may play an important role in maintaining genetic variability, any activities that diminish the viability of a habitat linkage would constitute a significant impact.

The DEIR does not specifically address Project impacts to the Los Angeles pocket mouse even though it was one of the MSHCP Group 3 species documented occurring on the Project site.[96] Some biologists believe the Los Angeles pocket mouse is in serious decline in the region because it is seldom trapped and much of its suitable habitat has been lost to agriculture and urban development.[97] The Project site is within a designated Core Area for the species.[98] Like the Stephens' kangaroo rat, maintaining connections between core habitat areas is important for the long-term conservation of the species.[99] Any activities that diminish the viability of Core Areas or linkages between them would constitute a significant impact. C6-59

Based on the information provided above, and because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation, the Project would threaten the viability of the Stephen's kangaroo rat and Los C6-60

[90] DEIR, p. 4.4-30.
[91] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[92] Id. [emphasis added].
[93] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[94] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[95] Id.
[96] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[97] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[98] Id.
[99] Id.

Angeles pocket mouse populations that occur in the southern portion of the Project area. Hence, incidental take of these species cannot be authorized under California FGC § 2081. C6-60 cont.

Western Spadefoot (Toad)

The western spadefoot is a California species of special concern and a MHSCP Group 2 species. The DEIR lacks any discussion of the species other than stating portions of the Project site provide suitable habitat.[100] Similarly, the DEIR lacks an assessment of, or mitigation for, potentially significant impacts to the western spadefoot.

Western spadefoots have been documented occurring in a series of shallow, man-made ponds approximately 150 feet north of the end of 11th Street, east of the San Jacinto River.[101] Approximately 700 "toadlets" (i.e., juveniles) were observed at the ponds, indicating the ponds serve as breeding sites.[102] The Applicant proposes to construct a road directly through this location.[103] This would result in a significant impact to the western spadefoot population.

Western spadefoots spend most of the year below ground (i.e., in aestivation). During that time they typically occupy burrows constructed in loose soil.[104] The burrows are generally located in close proximity to breeding pools.[105] Even if pools are avoided during construction, site grading and soil compaction associated with the proposed road and pull-sites would likely crush aestivating toads and degrade (or eliminate) the site's function as habitat. Once the road is constructed, dispersing toads would be perpetually threatened by road traffic. C6-61

The MSHCP assumes that the western spadefoot "will respond to a landscape level of management with site-specific requirements (e.g., vernal pools) if management addresses the threats of increased roads (limit roads or provide toad walls and culverts for safe dispersal), exotic species (e.g., bass, sunfish, and bullfrogs), and destruction of habitat."[106] In addition, the MSHCP states: "[c]onnectivity between the reserve blocks is dependent on the availability of suitable breeding habitat. Habitat linkages with appropriate breeding habitat will function as ranges for spadefoot toads."[107] In addition to its known capacity to provide breeding habitat, the Project site is within a Core Area and linkage corridor for the western spadefoot.[108] Therefore, because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation for the western spadefoot, the Project would conflict with the strategy of the MSHCP.

The MSHCP provides conservation objectives for the western spadefoot. These include:

[100] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[101] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[102] Id.
[103] PEA, Figure 3.6.
[104] Stebbins RC. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA.

[105] California Natural Diversity Database. 2009. Rarefind [computer program]. Version 3.1.0. Aug 9, 2011. Sacramento (CA): Wildlife & Habitat Data Analysis Branch. California Department of Fish and Game.
[106] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[107] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[108] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-68.

1. "[i]nclude within the MSHCP Conservation Area at least six Core Areas at the Santa Rosa Plateau (8,360 acres), *San Jacinto River* (7,680 acres)…"[109]
2. "[w]ithin the MSHCP Conservation Area, maintain successful reproduction at a minimum of 75 percent of the conserved breeding locations as measured by the presence/absence of tadpoles, egg masses, or juvenile toads once every 8 years."[110] C6-61 cont.

The Project is not consistent with these conservation objectives. As a result, to obtain coverage under the MSHCP, the Project must be redesigned to protect breeding and aestivation habitat for the western spadefoot on the Project site. Similarly, if the Applicant does not solicit coverage under the MSHCP, the DEIR must be revised such that the Project would avoid, minimize, and mitigate significant impacts to the species.

Special-Status Bats

The western yellow bat and the western mastiff bat are listed as California species of special concern. Both species have been documented occurring in the Project region.[111] Although the DEIR acknowledges that the Project site (including substation and linear facilities) provides suitable habitat for theses species, no bat surveys were conducted for the Project.[112]

The western yellow bat is a "tree-roosting" species commonly found roosting in the skirt of dead fronds in both native and non-native palm trees.[113] It is believed to form small maternity groups in trees and palms.[114] One of the primary threats to the species in the U.S. is the cosmetic trimming of palm fronds.[115] Palms occur in the Project area and presumably may be impacted by the Project.[116] C6-62

The western mastiff bat is a "cave-roosting" bat species that occurs where there are significant rock features offering suitable roosting habitat.[117] Rock outcroppings and terrace escarpments occur immediately adjacent to the New Cable to Moval line route.[118]

Bats are very vulnerable to disturbance.[119] Road widening and other construction activities associated with the Project have the potential to cause bats to abandon roosts and

[109] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts. [emphasis added].
[110] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[111] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[112] PEA, p. 4.4-85, 88, 91, 97, 100.
[113] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[114] California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. 2005. California Department of Fish and Game. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. CWHR version 8.1 personal computer program. Sacramento (CA).
[115] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[116] PEA, p. 4.4-6.
[117] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[118] *See* PEA Figures 4.4-3F through K.
[119] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.

maternity colonies. The DEIR does not disclose, assess, or provide mitigation for this potentially significant impact. C6-62 cont.

The DEIR Lacks an Assessment of Impacts to Critical Habitat

Thread-leaved Brodiaea

Designated critical habitat for the federally threatened and State-listed endangered thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on the Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2. The DEIR's discussion of Project impacts to critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea is limited to the following: "SCE would avoid known special-status plant populations through general plant protection measure (APM-BIO-6), and avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations (APM-BIO-7); therefore, impacts to critical habitat to [*sic*] less than significant."[120]

The DEIR's conclusion is unfounded and misdirected. Critical habitat is defined as "a specific geographic area(s) that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may include an area that is not currently occupied by the species but that will be needed for its recovery."[121] Within designated critical habitat, the USFWS protects areas that provide the primary constituent elements ("PCEs") for the survival and conservation of the listed species.[122] The DEIR acknowledges that portions of the San Jacinto River corridor "may" provide PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea.[123] C6-63

PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea include areas that contain the appropriate soils and associated vegetation at suitable elevations, and adjacent areas necessary to maintain associated physical processes such as a suitable hydrological regime.[124] Also required are suitable habitat, water, minerals, and other physiological needs for reproduction and growth of thread-leaved brodiaea, as well as habitat that supports pollinators of thread-leaved brodiaea.[125] Finally, the USFWS has specifically identified "[h]abitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historical, geographical, and ecological distributions of a species" as a PCE for thread-leaved brodiaea.[126]

The DEIR lacks any discussion of Project impacts on PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea.

However, considering the aforementioned information, and given the Project involves the construction of roads through the San Jacinto River corridor, it's clear that the Project would impact PCEs for the thread-leaved brodiaea and that the DEIR's "less than significant" determination is not warranted.

[120] DEIR, p. 4.4-30.
[121] USFWS. 2002. Critical Habitat: What is it? Publication 703/358 2105. Available at: http://endangered.fws.gov.
[122] DEIR, p. 4.4-19.
[123] DEIR, p. 4.4-19.
[124] DEIR, p. 4.4-19.
[125] DEIR, p. 4.4-19.
[126] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final

Revised Critical Habitat for *Brodiaea filifolia* (Thread-Leaved Brodiaea); Final Rule

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Moran's (=Spreading) Navarretia

The PEA indicates that portions of the Project site are within critical habitat for Moran's navarretia (also known as spreading navarretia).[127] The DEIR, however, omits this information. In addition, neither the DEIR nor the PEA provides any discussion of the PCEs for Moran's navarretia, and they do not provide analysis of Project impacts to critical habitat for the species. Because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation, the Project may have an unmitigated, significant impact on critical habitat for Moran's navarretia. C6-64

The DEIR Lacks Valid Analysis of the Project's Indirect Impacts

Lighting and Noise

The PEA discusses two types of indirect impacts that may be caused by the Project: (1) night lighting and (2) noise.[128]

With respect to night lighting, the PEA states:

> Night lighting of the Proposed Project during and after construction is expected; this lighting could inadvertently affect the behavior patterns of nocturnal and crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk) wildlife adjacent to the selected site. Of greatest concern is the impact on small ground-dwelling animals that use the darkness to hide from predators, and on owls that are specialized night foragers. In addition, night lighting could inhibit wildlife from using the habitat adjacent to lighted areas.

For noise, the PEA states:

> Noise levels on the selected site are expected to increase over present levels during construction of the proposed project. During construction, temporary noise impacts have the potential to disrupt foraging, nesting, roosting, and/or denning activities for wildlife species. In addition, noise impacts would also increase over present levels due to normal operation of the project. Wildlife species stressed by noise may disperse from the habitat located in the vicinity of the selected site.

The PEA concludes both impacts are "considered adverse but not significant; therefore, no APMs are required."[129] The PEA lacks the basis for this conclusion. First, the PEA's conclusion that the impacts would not be significant lacks justification and is not substantiated by scientific analysis. To the contrary, the PEA's aforementioned discussion of the impacts suggests they may be significant. Second, the PEA explicitly states that "[i]ndirect impact analysis is subject to final Project Design."[130] Thus, how can one conclude indirect impacts would be less than significant if the analysis has yet to be completed? C6-65

The Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, and potentially other special-status small mammals occur in the Project area.[131] C6-66

[127] PEA, p. 4.4-71.
[128] PEA, p. 4.4-84.
[129] Id.
[130] Id.
[131] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.

Heightened predation pressure due to night lighting could have significant consequences on these species, particularly because their populations are relatively small and vulnerable. In addition, research on the Stephens' kangaroo rat concluded anthropogenic noise may not only mask signaling among individuals, but that it may also function as a deceptive signal.[132] The researchers concluded the combined effects of communication disruption and signal deception may further tax already endangered populations of Stephens' kangaroo rats.[133] C6-66 cont.

Because the DEIR does not address the indirect impacts from lighting and noise, the Project could have unmitigated, significant indirect impacts on sensitive biological resources.

Other Indirect Impacts

Neither the PEA nor DEIR address the numerous other indirect impacts that are likely to be caused by the Project. Vernal pool (or seasonal wetland) species are exceptionally vulnerable to indirect impacts. Indirect impacts to vernal pool species include dumping, trampling, vehicular activity, runoff, intrusion of nonnative species, hydrological changes, erosion, sedimentation, and fuel and chemical spills.[134] These impacts are discussed thoroughly in the USFWS' Recovery Plan for vernal pools of Southern California. C6-67

Avian predators, particularly raptors, are attracted to overhead utility lines because they provide perches for various activities, including hunting.[135] Transmission lines, towers, and poles increase hunting efficiency (i.e., greater chance of prey detection and attack success) of avian predators because the elevated perches provide increased visibility of the surrounding area.[136] This is especially true when transmission lines traverse areas with few elevated, natural perches.[137]

The Project would involve the installation of approximately 3.3 miles of new transmission lines supported by up to 90 new poles. These features would be located in a "raptor concentration area" that currently has few perches.[138] The creation of perch sites is likely to have adverse effects on the Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, and other special-status prey species. This conclusion is supported by the Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, which states constant predation pressure can push small populations of native mammals past the point of recovery and result in local extirpation.[139] C6-68

[132] Shier DM, AJ Lea, MA Owen. 2011. Endangered Stephen's kangaroo rats respond to road noise with footdrumming. J. Acoust. Soc. Am., Vol. 130, No. 4, Pt. 2.

[133] Id.
[134] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Vernal Pools of Southern California Recovery Plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 113+ pp.

[135] Lammers WM, MW Collopy. 2007. Effectiveness of Avian Predator Perch Deterrents on Electric Transmission Lines. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(8):2752-2758.
[136] Id.
[137] Id.
[138] PEA, p. 3-7.
[139] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. Available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A08Q#recovery

The DEIR Lacks Valid Analysis of the Project's Contribution to Cumulative Impacts

Recognizing that several projects may together have a considerable impact, CEQA requires an agency to consider the "cumulative impacts" of a project along with other projects in the area. (Pub. Resources Code §21083(b); CEQA Guidelines §15355(b)) If a project may have cumulative impacts, the agency must prepare an EIR, since "a project may have a significant effect on the environment if '[t]he possible effects of a project are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.'" (*Comm. Better Env. v. Calif. Res. Agency*, 103 Cal.App.4th at 98, 114; *Kings County Farm Bur. v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692, 721 ("*Kings Co.*") It is vital that an agency assess "'the environmental damage [that] often occurs incrementally from a variety of small sources . . .'" (*Bakersfield Citizens For Local Control v. City of Bakersfield* (2004) 124 Cal.App.4th 1184, 1214 ("*Bakersfield Citizens*")) C6-69

The following comments pertain to the cumulative impacts analysis presented in the DEIR:

1. The DEIR indicates that its cumulative impacts analysis considered regional projects within a 10-mile radius of the Project site.[140] However, all of the projects listed in the DEIR are within three miles of the Project site.[141] It seems unlikely that numerous projects occur within 3 miles of the Project, but that no projects occur between 3 and 10 miles away.
2. The DEIR reports the Applicant is not planning any other projects over 50-kV within one mile of any of the Project components.[142] This suggests the cumulative impacts analysis was limited to projects within a one-mile radius of the Project site. Analysis limited to projects within a one-mile (or even three-mile) radius would not be sufficient for many of the special-status species that occur in the Project area. For example, golden eagles often rely on foraging sites located several miles from their nest. C6-70
3. The list of projects considered in the cumulative analysis appears to have been generated sometime in 2011. It's unclear whether the DEIR's list of projects is current. C6-71
4. The list of projects considered in the DEIR does not appear to match the list provided in the PEA. C6-72
5. The list of projects considered in the DEIR does not appear to include existing (i.e., past and present) projects that may contribute to cumulative impacts. C6-73
6. The DEIR suggests the Project's relatively small footprint in relation to other potential projects justifies the conclusion that the Project would not cause a cumulatively considerable impact.[143] This suggestion lacks scientific merit because the DEIR does not consider the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts in relation to the known distribution and population status of each sensitive biological resource. Even "small" projects may have cumulatively considerable impacts on sensitive resources. For example, Coulter's goldfields is limited to primarily four locations in western Riverside C6-74

[140] DEIR, p. 6-10.
[141] DEIR, Table 6-1.
[142] DEIR, p. 6-1.
[143] DEIR, p. 6-11.

County.[144] Although the Project might be considered "small," it likely would compromise the viability of one of these populations. C6-74 cont.

7. The DEIR further justifies its less than cumulatively considerable impact conclusion by stating: "the Project's incremental contribution to impacts on special-status plant and animal species would not be cumulatively considerable because the number and size of projects in the region are (1) few and small relative to the overall amount of remaining undeveloped land; and (2) western Riverside County is subject to the comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Western Riverside MSHCP that focuses on the conservation of species and their habitats."[145] This too is indefensible because (a) the DEIR does not substantiate the amount of "remaining undeveloped land" in the region or demonstrate that such land is adequately protected; (b) the Applicant has not committed to participating in the MSHCP; and (c) the DEIR's rationale fails to consider the Project's effects on fragmentation, patch dynamics, and species-area requirements.[146] C6-75

The Project is not Consistent with the MSHCP

Where a local or regional policy of general applicability, such as an ordinance, is adopted in order to avoid or mitigate environmental effects, a conflict with that policy in itself indicates a potentially significant impact on the environment. (*Pocket Protectors v. Sacramento* (2005) 124 Cal.App.4th 903.) Indeed, any inconsistencies between a proposed project and applicable plans must be discussed in an EIR. (14 CCR § 15125(d); *City of Long Beach v. Los Angeles Unif. School Dist.* (2009) 176 Cal. App. 4th 889, 918; *Friends of the Eel River v. Sonoma County Water Agency* (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 859, 874 (EIR inadequate when Lead Agency failed to identify relationship of project to relevant local plans).) A Project's inconsistencies with local plans and policies constitute significant impacts under CEQA. (*Endangered Habitats League, Inc. v. County of Orange* (2005) 131 Cal.App.4th 777, 783-4, 32 Cal.Rptr.3d 177; see also, *County of El Dorado v. Dept. of Transp.* (2005) 133 Cal.App.4th 1376 (fact that a project may be consistent with a plan, such as an air plan, does not necessarily mean that it does not have significant impacts).) C6-76

The DEIR indicates "[a] consistency analysis to determine the Project's consistency with the MSHCP criteria has not yet been prepared because SCE has not yet determined whether it would participate in the MSHCP for this Project."[147] This consistency analysis, however, is a precondition for correct determinations about what the MSHCP requires of this DEIR in terms of adequate baseline analysis, impacts analysis, and mitigation measures. Thus, this deferral is in violation of CEQA because, among other reasons, it postpones the development of adequate mitigation measures without providing adequate, specific performance criteria to assure that future mitigation measures will suffice to reduce effects to a level that is less than significant.

[144] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[145] DEIR, p. 6-12.
[146] Patch dynamics is a conceptual approach to ecosystem and habitat analysis that emphasizes dynamics of heterogeneity within a system. Species-area requirements refers to the knowledge that some species (e.g., golden eagle) are limited to large blocks of intact habitat.
[147] DEIR, p. 4.4-35

CEQA disallows deferring the formulation of mitigation measures to post-approval studies. (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4(a)(1)(B); *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296, 308-309.) An agency may only defer the formulation of mitigation measures when it possesses "'meaningful information' reasonably justifying an expectation of compliance." (*Sundstrom* at 308; see also *Sacramento Old City Association v. City Council of Sacramento* (1991) 229 Cal.App.3d 1011, 1028-29 (mitigation measures may be deferred only "for kinds of impacts for which mitigation is known to be feasible").) A lead agency is precluded from making the required CEQA findings unless the record shows that all uncertainties regarding the mitigation of impacts have been resolved; an agency may not rely on mitigation measures of uncertain efficacy or feasibility (*Kings County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692, 727 (finding groundwater purchase agreement inadequate mitigation because there was no evidence that replacement water was available).) This approach helps "insure the integrity of the process of decisionmaking by precluding stubborn problems or serious criticism from being swept under the rug." (*Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Inc. v. 32nd Dist. Agricultural Assn.* (1986) 42 Cal.3d 929, 935.) C6-76 cont.

The Applicant's acceptance into the MSHCP (or not) is fundamental to the adequacy of the DEIR. Because the Applicant has not committed to participating in the MSHCP the DEIR must provide comprehensive information on the environmental setting, and the Project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. For any potentially significant impacts, the DEIR must provide mitigation that includes performance standards and a monitoring and reporting program. The DEIR is inadequate in each of these respects.

Although the DEIR acknowledges consistency analysis has not been conducted, it somehow concludes the Project would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP.[148] This is wrong; the Project would clearly conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP in numerous respects, including without limitation as follows.[149]

Planning Species

The Applicant's consultants detected several MSHCP "Group 3" species on the Project site. These include Los Angeles pocket mouse, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, Coulter's goldfield, and smooth tarplant. The MSHCP explicitly states that when Group 3 species are located on a project site as a result of survey efforts they shall be conserved in accordance with procedures described in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.[150] Section 6.3.2 states: "[f]or locations with positive survey results, 90% of those portions of the property that provide for long-term conservation value for the identified species shall be avoided until it is demonstrated that conservation goals for the particular species are met."[151] C6-77

The conservation goals have not yet been met for any of the Group 3 species.[152] Consequently, to meet the provisions of the MSHCP, the Applicant first must provide a rigorous and scientifically defensible assessment of the constituent elements needed for the long-term

[148] DEIR, p. 4.4-34.
[149] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012.
[150] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[151] MSHCP, Vol I, Section 6.3.2.
[152] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012.

conservation of the identified species.[153] The Applicant then must avoid impacts to 90 percent of the Project site containing the constituent elements.

C6-77 cont.

If a Group 3 species is detected on a project site, the requirements of Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP are not limited to analysis and avoidance of occupied sites. For example, if a Group 3 plant species is limited to a particular soil type, 90 percent of that soil type within the project site must be avoided irrespective of the plant's distribution.

Core Areas and Species-Specific Conservation Objectives

The Project area has been identified as a "Core Area" for many of the MSHCP Planning Species.[154] These include, but are not limited to (with MSHCP designation):

- San Jacinto Valley crownscale - (Group 3)
- Coulter's goldfields - (Group 3)
- Davidson's saltscale - (Group 3)
- Spreading navarretia - (Group 3)
- Smooth tarplant - (Group 3)
- Wright's trichocoronis - (Group 3)
- Parish's brittlescale[155] - (Group 3)
- Los Angeles pocket mouse – (Group 3)
- Mountain plover - (Group 3)
- Tricolored blackbird - (Group 3)
- Vernal barley - (Group 2)
- Western spadefoot - (Group 2)

C6-78

Species-specific conservation objectives identified in the MSHCP include protecting the Core Area(s) that coincides with the Project site.[156] For some species, especially those that exhibit limited population size and distribution, protecting the Core Area is critical to the overall conservation strategy.[157]

Fragmentation and Wildlife Movement Corridors

The MSHCP identifies the Project site as being located within Noncontiguous Habitat Block 5.[158] The MSHCP reports:

> As such, this Noncontiguous Habitat Block [Block 5] supports the species listed in the table below, including a *key population* of Bell's sage sparrow. Since surrounding land uses include a substantial amount of city and agriculture, and one alternative for the Highway 79 Realignment Corridor would impact the habitat block, treatment and management of edge conditions in these affected areas will be necessary to ensure that it

C6-79

[153] Id.
[154] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[155] The MSHCP does not identify Core Areas for this species. However, it identifies the lower and middle segments of the San Jacinto River as a "Criteria Area" that may be key to the survival of the species. *See* MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[156] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[157] Id.
[158] DEIR, p. 4.4-7.

> maintains high quality sage scrub Habitat, particularly for the Bell's sage sparrow.[159]

The DEIR does not disclose the existence of this key population of Bell's sage sparrow, nor does it provide any analysis of the Project's contribution to fragmentation and edge effects.

A key objective of the Riverside County General Plan for the Lakeview/Nuevo area is to maintain and enhance linkage values of the San Jacinto River for wildlife movement and resident wildlife habitat.[160] Although the DEIR acknowledges the proposed Project is within an area that has features conducive to wildlife movement (i.e., a corridor), it lacks any dedicated analysis of the Project's impacts on corridor functions. Instead, it simply states that biological monitors would be on-site to aid crews in implementing avoidance measures during Project construction, and thus, any construction-related impacts to corridors would be short-term and less than significant.[161] The DEIR's justification is misdirected. Avoiding impacts to wildlife during construction has little relevance on the Project's long-term impacts to corridors.

C6-79 cont.

The Project involves construction of two roads that would bisect the San Jacinto River corridor. These roads, and associated disturbance (e.g., vegetation removal, soil compaction), would have long-term effects on corridor function as well as on waters of the United States, but these effects have not been identified or analyzed. Organisms exhibit species-specific responses to roads depending on their habitat requirements. However, it is well established that many species exhibit substantial negative responses to roads (including dirt roads); that roads inhibit wildlife movement; and that roads isolate populations causing them to be at greater of extirpation.[162]

IV. Mitigation of Impacts

CEQA requires public agencies to avoid or reduce environmental damage when "feasible" by requiring "environmentally superior" alternatives and mitigation measures. (CEQA Guidelines § 15002(a)(2) and (3); See also, *Berkeley Jets*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 1344, 1354; *Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 564) The EIR serves to provide agencies and the public with information about the environmental impacts of a proposed project and to "identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced." (Guidelines §15002(a)(2)) If the project will have a significant effect on the environment, the agency may approve the project only if it finds that it has "eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects on the environment where feasible" and that any unavoidable significant effects on the environment are "acceptable due to overriding concerns." (Pub.Res.Code § 21081; 14 Cal.Code Regs. § 15092(b)(2)(A) & (B))

C6-80

In general, mitigation measures must be designed to minimize, reduce or avoid an identified environmental impact or to rectify or compensate for that impact. (CEQA Guidelines

[159] MSHCP, Vol I, Section 3. [emphasis added].
[160] DEIR, p. 4.4-7.
[161] DEIR, p. 4.4-34.
[162] Sauvajot, R.M., M. Buechner, D. Kamradt, and C. Schonewald. 1998. Patterns of human disturbance and response by small mammals and birds in chaparral near urban development. Urban Ecosystems 2: 279-297. *See also* Clark BK, BS Clark, LA Johnson, MT Haynie. 2001. Influence of Roads on Movements of Small Mammals. The Southwestern Naturalist 46(3):338-344.

§ 15370.) Where several mitigation measures are available to mitigate an impact, each should be discussed and the basis for selecting a particular measure should be identified. (Id. at § 15126.4(a)(1)(B).) A lead agency may not make the required CEQA findings unless the administrative record clearly shows that all uncertainties regarding the mitigation of significant environmental impacts have been resolved.

CEQA requires the lead agency to adopt feasible mitigation measures that will substantially lessen or avoid the Project's potentially significant environmental impacts (Pub. Res. Code §§ 21002, 21081(a)), and describe those mitigation measures in the CEQA document. (Pub. Res. Code § 21100(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4.) A public agency may not rely on mitigation measures of uncertain efficacy or feasibility. (*Kings County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692, 727 (finding groundwater purchase agreement inadequate mitigation measure because no record evidence existed that replacement water was available).) "Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors. (CEQA Guidelines § 15364.) Mitigation measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements or other legally binding instruments. (Id. at § 15126.4(a)(2).) A lead agency may not conclude that an impact is significant and unavoidable without requiring the implementation of all feasible mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of a project to less than significant levels. (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15126.4, 15091.) C6-80 cont.

The DEIR Lacks Adequate Mitigation for Air Quality Impacts

Construction activities will generate emissions of NOx and PM10 that exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds (p. 4.3-15) and are acknowledged to be "cumulatively considerable" (Table ES-1, p. ES-13). The Air Quality Analysis section in the DEIR states that even with mitigation measures 4.3-1a, Exhaust Emissions Control Plan, and 4.3-1b, Fugitive Dust Control Plan, NOx emissions will still be significant during construction (p. 4.3-18). The DEIR also states that during construction the Project would emit PM10 emissions at significant and harmful concentrations (p. 4.3-19). According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), PM10 is among the most harmful of pollutants. Exposure to PM10 can worsen lung conditions, including asthma and bronchitis.[163] C6-81

Mr. Hagemann concludes that the DEIR fails to evaluate all feasible mitigation measures that are known to reduce construction emissions to levels below thresholds. Measures that are routinely considered in CEQA projects are listed below.[164]

- Any equipment emissions found to exceed 40 percent opacity shall be repaired immediately, and the lead agency notified within 48 hours of identification of non-compliant equipment.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that active grading and parking areas are watered at least twice daily.

[163] Hhttp://www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm
[164] See for example, Hhttp://www.sacrt.com/dna/pdfs/MOS-1FEIR/Section%203_Revised%20DEIR%20Pages/5.1%20Air%20Quality.doc.pdfH

- The construction contractor shall ensure that exposed stockpiles are enclosed, covered, watered twice daily.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that all trucks hauling dirt, sand, silt, or other loose materials are covered or maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- The construction contractor shall utilize ultra-low sulfur fuel (< 15 parts per million).
- The construction contractor shall establish an idling limit (e.g., 5 minutes per hour).
- Equipment shall be tuned to manufacturers' specifications at the manufacturers' recommended frequency.
- Any tampering with engines shall be prohibited and continuing adherence to manufacturer's recommendations will be required.
- Receipts of ultra-low sulfur fuel purchase and equipment tuning/repair shall be kept and made available upon request. C6-81 cont.

These measures were not contemplated in Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a, Exhaust Emissions Control Plan or 4.3-1b, Fugitive Dust Control Plan. Mitigation, to the maximum extent possible, is critical because sensitive receptors are located close to the project as follow (p. 4.3-5):

- The proposed Lakeview Substation site is also approximately 0.25 mile south-southwest of Mountain Shadows Middle School and Nuview Bridge Early College High School.
- The proposed Lakeview Substation and Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two would be as close as approximately 0.25 mile north-northwest, and 1,000 feet west of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively.
- One residence along 11th Street would be approximately 50 feet east of Segment Two and there are also residential properties along Lakeview Avenue that would be as close as 1,000 feet from Segment Two. C6-82

A revised must be prepared that identifies additional mitigation measures as outlined and all other feasible mitigation measures to provide for a greater degree of emissions reductions.

The DEIR Lacks Adequate Mitigation for Project Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife

Nesting Birds

Biologist Scott Cashing concludes that birds likely nest in the Project area. Nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA"), and in some cases the State and federal government. The DEIR provides the following mitigation for nesting birds:

> If vegetation clearing must take place during nesting season (February 1–August 31), a biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys prior to clearing for the sites that have potential to support nesting birds/raptors. If the biologist finds an active nest within or adjacent to the construction area and determines that there may be impacts to the nest, s/he will delineate an appropriate buffer zone around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the type of construction activity. Only construction activities (if any) approved by the biologist will take place within the buffer zone until the nest is vacated. If nests are found and cannot be avoided by the project activities, or if work is scheduled to take place near an active nest, SCE shall coordinate with the CDFG C6-83

and USFWS and obtain written concurrence prior to moving the nest.[165]

The pre-construction bird surveys and buffer zone proposed in the DEIR do not adequately avoid and minimize potentially significant impacts to nesting birds protected by law. Specifically, C6-83 cont.

1. The DEIR needs to establish the timing of pre-construction breeding bird surveys in relation to ground disturbance activities. Some birds can build a nest and initiate egg-laying within a short period of time. The DEIR must establish the timing of pre-construction surveys such that birds will not be able to build a nest during the time that elapses between the pre-construction survey(s) and Project activities.
2. The DEIR needs to establish the survey area, specifically the buffer zone around Project activities requiring surveys. The survey area should correspond with buffer sizes recommended by State and federal resource agencies, and/or research biologists. For example, to avoid nest abandonment of golden eagles and prairie falcons, Suter and Joness (1981) recommended a buffer of at least 1 km for construction and similar, noisy extended activities.[166] C6-84
3. Even if vegetation clearing does not occur during the nesting season, bird nests in the vicinity of other construction activities may be adversely affected by the Project (e.g., due to noise disturbance).[167] As a result, pre-construction bird surveys should be required at all construction sites that are active during the breeding season. C6-85
4. The DEIR must establish minimum standards for locating nests and minimizing human-induced disturbance. Research indicates nest finding is labor intensive and extremely difficult due to the tendency of many species to construct well-concealed or camouflaged nests.[168] In general, bird nests are located when a variety of search techniques are used and considerable time (e.g., multiple surveys) is devoted to the effort.[169] C6-86
5. Biologists frequently are pressured into making decisions that are based on the needs of the construction contractor rather than the biological needs of the potentially afflicted organism. As a result, the DEIR needs to establish a minimum buffer size that is supported by scientific information. Prior to reducing the buffer, the appointed biologist must present credible scientific information to the USFWS and CDFG substantiating that a reduced buffer is "appropriate." C6-87
6. The mitigation measure lacks monitoring, reporting, and compliance mechanisms that ensure the mitigation is effective and impacts to nesting birds are effectively avoided. C6-88

[165] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[166] Suter GW III, JL Joness. 1981. Criteria for Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon Nest Site Protection. Raptor Research 15(1):12-18.
[167] Kaseloo PA. 2006. Synthesis of noise effects on wildlife populations. IN: Proceedings of the 2005 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, Eds. Irwin CL, Garrett P, McDermott KP. Center for Transportation and the Environment, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC: pp. 33-35.
[168] DeSante DF, GR Geupel 1987. Landbird productivity in central coastal California: the relationship to annual rainfall and a reproductive failure in 1986. Condor. 89:636-653. *See also* Baicich PJ, CJ Harrison. 1997. A guide to the nests, eggs, and nestlings of North American Birds. 2nd ed. London: Academic Press.
[169] Martin TE, C Paine, CJ Conway, WM Hochacka 1996. BBIRD field protocol. Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Missoula (MT).

Until these defects are corrected, the DEIR cannot conclude that impacts to nesting birds resulting from the project are less than significant. C6-88 cont.

Preconstruction Clearance Surveys

The Applicant proposes to conduct preconstruction biological clearance surveys at the Project site. If special-status species are present, biological monitors would be on-site, as needed during project implementation in suitable habitat areas to aid crews in implementing avoidance measures during Project construction. If adequate avoidance cannot be established, the Applicant would consider enrollment in the MSHCP as a Participating Special Entity or would coordinate with the USFWS and the CDFG for further guidance as appropriate. With these measures, the DEIR concludes any construction-related impacts would be short-term and less than significant.[170]

The proposed measures offer little assurance that they will adequately mitigate Project impacts and constitute deferral of mitigation without adequate performance criteria, in violation of CEQA. C6-89

First, the measures are entirely too vague to be effectively evaluated:

1. For which species will pre-construction surveys be conducted? Numerous special-status species are known to, or have the potential to, occur in the Project area.
2. What methods will be used to conduct the surveys? Some species are very difficult to detect and/or require specialized survey techniques. What measures will the biologist implement to detect and capture subterranean and less motile organisms (i.e., slow moving) that are incapable of fleeing the Project area?
3. What level of effort will be devoted to the surveys and what are the minimum qualifications required of the biologists that conduct the surveys?
4. What is the timing of pre-construction surveys in relation to Project activities?
5. What "avoidance measures" will be employed?
6. Will animals be translocated out of work areas? If animals are translocated, where will they be taken and what will prevent them from reentering the work area where they would be subject to direct impacts?

Second, the proposed measures defer the formulation of important survey data and mitigation strategies until after the environmental review process terminates. For example, mitigation imposed by the DEIR states "[a]ny significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the WEAP [Worker Environmental Awareness Plan] training."[171] The intent of a DEIR is to disclose, analyze, and mitigate all potentially significant impacts such that there are not any *significant findings* after a project has commenced. Furthermore, the proposed mitigation measure lacks a mechanism for vetting what should (or shouldn't) be considered a "significant finding," and I contend that simply adding a "new finding" to the WEAP does not absolve the Project from having significant impacts. C6-90

[170] DEIR, p. 4.4-34. *See also* Id, p. 4.4-27.
[171] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.

Third, the proposal to enroll in the MSHCP or to coordinate with the USFWS and CDFG if avoidance cannot be established is not feasible. Both the MSHCP and regulatory agencies have provisions that mandate avoidance under certain circumstances.[172] If this occurs, the Project would need to be redesigned or abandoned midstream, wasting environmental resources and those of the Applicant. C6-91

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

The DEIR proposes a habitat assessment as mitigation for potentially significant impacts to the Stephens' kangaroo rat. If the habitat assessment reveals potentially occupied habitat, trapping surveys would be conducted and the Applicant would pay a fee for the portion of the Project within the Telecommunications Route.[173] These provisions are wholly inadequate. At the very least, this is a clear case of deferred mitigation, since both the analysis of the impact and the development of mitigation measures will be deferred until after project approval, in violation of CEQA.

The proposed mitigation does not address the Project's significant impacts on the Stephen's kangaroo rat ("SKR"). Trapping surveys have confirmed that the Stephen's kangaroo rat occurs throughout much of the Project area, and that disturbance activities associated with the Project *"will definitely or potentially result in the "take"* of resident SKR."[174] Consequently, the Project cannot proceed until the Applicant obtains incidental take permit coverage from both the USFWS and CDFG. This is further enforced through Riverside County Ordinance 663.10, which states *occupied habitat* for Stephen's kangaroo rat cannot be altered without a Section 10(a) Permit from the USFWS. Unfortunately, incidental take authorization will likely not be allowable under California FGC § 2081. C6-92

The Applicant's small mammal expert recommended several measures to minimize take and habitat disturbance to the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[175] Incredibly, the DEIR omits all of the expert's recommendations. This omission is quite significant. The EIR may not omit or ignore contradictory information. *Madera Oversight Coalition v. County of Madera*, 2011 Cal. App. LEXIS 1187 (2011). As noted above, incidental take likely cannot be authorized for Stephen's kangaroo rat or Los Angeles pocket mouse. Their occurrence is so rare in the region that any population decline would likely result in local extirpation of the species. Under these circumstances, incidental take cannot be authorized under California FGC § 2081. In order to avoid take of these species, the project may have to be significantly redesigned or relocated. This will of course require recirculation of a new EIR demonstrating that take of these species will be avoided.

Riverside Fairy Shrimp

[172] *See* MSHCP, Section 6.3.2.
[173] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[174] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. *See also* SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[175] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. p. 9.

The following comments pertain to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for the Riverside fairy shrimp:

1. The DEIR indicates: "[i]f significant impacts to [fairy shrimp] habitat are unavoidable, focused [protocol] surveys will need to be conducted prior to construction activities."[176] The proposed mitigation does not appear to be feasible. As the DEIR acknowledges, Riverside fairy shrimp surveys require either a wet season survey, followed by a consecutive dry season survey, or two wet season surveys done within a five-year period.[177] Although the DEIR does not provide the Project's timeline, it indicates the objective of the Project is to begin service by mid-2013, and that construction is anticipated to take 12 months.[178] This suggests construction would begin in mid-2012, before the Applicant could conduct the two surveys required by federal protocol. C6-93
2. As previously discussed, the Applicant's consultant failed to identify all potentially suitable habitat for fairy shrimp in the Project area. Consequently, the DEIR must identify a reliable means for having all potentially affected fairy shrimp habitat surveyed prior to construction. C6-94
3. The proposed measure inappropriately defers establishing the environmental setting for a federally endangered species until after Project approval. C6-95
4. The measure identifies the actions the Applicant "shall consider" if Riverside fairy shrimp are found.[179] The DEIR needs to specify the actions the Applicant *will* implement if Riverside fairy shrimp are detected, or if other special-status wildlife (e.g., the federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp) are detected during the surveys. Failure to identify feasible mitigation measures or specific performance criteria for deferred mitigation violates CEQA. C6-96
5. The DEIR indicates: "[i]mpacts to Riverside fairy shrimp habitat will be avoided to the extent feasible in the final Project Design."[180] The DEIR needs to define what is considered "feasible." C6-97
6. The DEIR further indicates that "[h]abitat areas will be marked as "off limits" in construction plans and specifications." Fairy shrimp can be adversely affected by water pollution, hydrological changes, erosion, and other indirect impacts.[181] Consequently, the DEIR needs to specify the minimum buffer size needed to protect "habitat areas" from indirect impacts. C6-98
7. Because the Riverside fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp have the potential to occur in the Project area, and because the Applicant has not conducted surveys supporting their absence, Endangered Species Act consultation with the USFWS is warranted. Failure to survey for fairy shrimp impairs the analysis of the environmental baseline; it also constitutes deferral of impact analysis in violation of CEQA. C6-99

[176] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[177] Id.
[178] DEIR, p. ES-2. *See also* Id, p. 1-2.
[179] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[180] Id.
[181] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Vernal Pools of Southern California Recovery Plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 113+ pp.

Burrowing Owl

The following comments pertain to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for the burrowing owl:

1. The DEIR identifies mitigation that will be implemented if any active burrowing owl burrows are "found during survey efforts."[182] However, the mitigation measure does not identify the surveys that will be required or whether surveyors will be required to adhere to CDFG survey guidelines for the burrowing owl. Because the surveys previously conducted for the Project did not adhere to the standards identified in the CDFG guidelines, they do not provide the data needed to minimize impacts to burrowing owl.[183] Consequently, the DEIR needs to identify the survey methods and effort required as mitigation. Construction of poles will require disturbance up to 200' but the company biologist only surveyed a 100-foot-wide area. Survey guidelines for golden eagle, burrowing owl, and others recommend much larger survey areas (e.g., 500' for burrowing owl). This is inadequate deferred mitigation. C6-100
2. The proposed mitigation measure indicates biologists may actively relocate owls out of the Project area. Historically the CDFG has not allowed burrowing owls to be actively relocated (although passive relocation is permitted). Thus, the mitigation measure is inadequate and possibly unlawful. C6-101
3. The proposed measure does not incorporate mitigation strategies recommended by the CDFG. These strategies include (a) the enhancement or creation of surrogate burrows; (b) the provision of compensation habitat; and (c) implementation of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that incorporates success criteria. These mitigation measures are plainly feasible and must be incorporated. C6-102
4. The current strategy for surveys and the eviction of owls out of the Project area does not mitigate potentially significant impacts to the species. As with many other species in the project area, deferral of mitigation without adequate specific performance criteria violates CEQA. C6-103
5. The burrowing owl is a "Group 3" species in the MSHCP. Therefore, if burrowing owls are detected in the Project area, and if the Applicant elects to participate in MSHCP, the Applicant will be required to adhere to the procedures described within Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.[184] If the Applicant does not participate in the MSHCP, habitat compensation should be required as mitigation. C6-104

Raptor Electrocution and Collision

The DEIR requires the Applicant to follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee C6-105

[182] DEIR, p. 4.4-28.
[183] Burrowing owl surveys were limited to 50-foot buffers and select portions of the Project area. CDFG guidelines recommended a 500-foot buffer. Additionally, it appears the surveys did not encompass all potentially suitable habitat in the Project area, although the survey reports lack the information needed to make this determination.
[184] *See* MSHCP, Vol I, Section 6.3.2.

("APLIC") guidelines for avian protection on powerlines. The DEIR concludes this mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. This conclusion is unjustified for three reasons:

First, as the DEIR acknowledges, "[i]n spite of the best efforts to minimize avian electrocutions, some degree of mortality may always occur due to influences that cannot be controlled, e.g. weather."[185] The Eagle Act and MBTA are strict liability statutes; the killing of any eagle or other protected migratory bird is not technically allowed under law unless a permit is obtained, and the Service does not issue "incidental or accidental take" permits. Therefore, any mortality without a permit would violate federal law and would constitute a significant impact. And under state law, take of golden eagles and any other fully protected bird species is prohibited. CEQA disallows approval of a project that fails to comply with other laws. A lead agency may not approve a project with significant unavoidable imposed unless it is "otherwise permissible under applicable laws and regulations." (CEQA §21002.1(c).) C6-105 cont.

Second, the DEIR lacks any mitigation for avian *collisions* with the Project's powerlines or poles. Marker balls, bird diverters, and paint on transmission lines have been shown to reduce collisions, sometimes significantly.[186] These measures are feasible, and they should be required mitigation for the Project. C6-106

Third, if avian mortality is likely to occur, the DEIR needs to put anticipated mortality into context before concluding impacts would be less than significant. This entails species-specific analyses that examine regional population status and susceptibility to threats. For example, some species in the Project area (e.g., golden eagle) may be so imperiled that even a few Project-induced mortalities could lead to extirpation in the region. The DEIR does not conduct these analyses, nor does it provide the data needed for an independent assessment. C6-107

The DEIR Lacks Adequate Mitigation for Impacts to Special-Status Plants

San Jacinto Valley Crownscale

The following comments pertain to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for Project impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale: C6-108

1. San Jacinto Valley crownscale is a MSHCP Group 3 species. If the Applicant solicits coverage under the MSHCP it will need to conform to the procedures listed in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. The Applicant has not met the requirements of these procedures.
2. San Jacinto Valley crownscale is a federally endangered species. Consequently, if the Applicant does not solicit coverage under the MSHCP it will need to obtain an incidental take permit from the USFWS. C6-109
3. The proposed mitigation measure defers establishing the extent of Project impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale. C6-110

[185] DEIR, p. 4.4-32.
[186] Manville AM II. 2005. Bird Strikes and Electrocutions at Power Lines, Communication Towers, and Wind Turbines: State of the Art and State of the Science –Next Steps Toward Mitigation. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-191.

4. The DEIR needs to define the minimum buffer size (i.e., "ESA") afforded to San Jacinto Valley crownscale plants. Although appropriate buffer size may be species-specific, the California Energy Commission has recommended buffers of at least 250 feet to avoid indirect impacts to rare plant populations.[187] C6-111
5. The distribution and abundance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale varies considerably from year to year in response hydrology and weather conditions.[188] In addition, a viable seed bank may exist in the soil even if San Jacinto Valley crownscale fails to germinate.[189] As a result, (a) the Applicant cannot rely on survey data that is three years old to avoid impacts to the species; (b) future surveys conducted during low rainfall years (e.g., 2012) would likely provide insufficient data on the distribution and abundance of the species; and (c) direct and indirect impacts to the species and its habitat are likely to occur regardless of avoidance efforts. C6-112
6. The DEIR lacks fundamental information on the proposed mitigation plan. This includes performance standards for mitigation sites, the duration of monitoring efforts, whether compensation will be provided, actions that will be taken to ensure the long-term conservation of the species (e.g., conservation easement), and remedial actions that will be taken if performance standards are not met. C6-113

Other Special-Status Plants

Mitigation that has been proposed for Project impacts to other special-status plant species suffers from many of the same problems as those described *supra* for the San Jacinto Valley crownscale. Specifically,

1. The Applicant's consultant detected smooth tarplant and Coulter's goldfields on the Project site, and several other MSHCP Group 3 species have been documented occurring in the Project area.[190] If the Applicant solicits coverage under the MSHCP it will need to conform to the procedures listed in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. The Applicant has not met the requirements of these procedures. C6-114
2. Coulter's goldfields in known primarily from four areas in western Riverside County.[191] Of these, the San Jacinto River population is the largest remaining population representing 70 percent to 90 percent of all Coulter's goldfields known.[192] Similarly, smooth tarplant is primarily restricted to the alkali floodplains of the San Jacinto River.[193] Consequently, any Project impacts to these species, their habitat, or the ecological processes on which they depend, would be relatively severe. C6-115
3. The distribution and abundance of the special-status species that occur (or may occur) in the Project area are known to vary annually, and the species may be difficult to detect during dry years. As a result, it's indefensible for the DEIR to conclude that a single year C6-116

[187] California Energy Commission. 2010 Jul. Supplemental Staff Assessment for the Calico Solar Project. p. C.2-53.
[188] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[189] Id.
[190] California Natural Diversity Database. 2009. Rarefind [computer program]. Version 3.1.0. Aug 9, 2011. Sacramento (CA): Wildlife & Habitat Data Analysis Branch. California Department of Fish and Game.
[191] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[192] Id.
[193] Id.

of survey data (from 2009) can be used to avoid impacts. C6-116 cont.

4. The MSHCP reports many of the special-status plants that occur along the floodplains of the San Jacinto River likely require significantly more habitat than is occupied during any one season to maintain population dynamics within the watershed and the microhabitat diversity upon which the taxa depend.[194] As a result, the DEIR must provide additional mitigation measures to reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level. C6-117
5. The DEIR needs to provide a scientifically defensible buffer size for special-status plant populations. C6-118
6. The DEIR must identify the performance standards and other components of the special-status plant mitigation plan. C6-119

Rare Plant Surveys

Special-status plant surveys have not been completed for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. The DEIR proposes completion of the surveys as mitigation. The DEIR suggests the Applicant would coordinate with the CDFG and/or USFWS if any listed species are detected during the surveys. The DEIR concludes the proposed mitigation would reduce impacts to less than significant. This conclusion is not supported by substantial evidence. C6-120

First, without information on the species that occur—and as a result, the level and types of Project impacts on those species—the DEIR cannot conclude coordinating with the resource agencies would reduce Project impacts to less than significant levels. A conclusion of this nature would rely on the unrealistic presumption that all impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Second, the DEIR offers no mitigation for "non-listed" special-status species, which may be as imperiled as listed ones. As CEQA contains no express exemption for non-listed species, this deficiency must be cured. C6-121

Third, CDFG survey guidelines indicate surveys over a number of years may be necessary if the species is (a) an annual plant having a persistent, long-lived seed bank; and (b) known not to germinate every year. Many of the special-status species that have the potential to occur along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 exhibit these characteristics (e.g., Munz's onion, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, and thread-leaved brodiaea).[195] The DEIR does not require multi-year surveys, nor does it provide a remedial plan in the event there is inadequate rainfall to stimulate germination (and thus, detection). C6-122

The DEIR Lacks Adequate or Enforceable Mitigation for Impacts to Habitat

The DEIR indicates the Applicant would restore all areas that are temporarily disturbed by Project activities once construction is complete.[196] Activities associated with restoration of these areas would include restoring original contours and "reseeding with an appropriate seed C6-123

[194] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[195] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[196] DEIR, p. 2-28.

mix, to the extent feasible."[197] The DEIR lacks information vital to evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed restoration activities. Specifically, the DEIR fails to identify: (a) performance standards; (b) whether the proposed mitigation will be accompanied by monitoring and reporting (and if so, how frequently and for what duration); (c) the timeline for the proposed restoration activities; (d) the seed species and their source (to avoid genetic contamination); (e) what is considered "feasible;" and (f) remedial actions that will be taken if restoration efforts are unsuccessful. This issue is confounded by the DEIR's failure to require restoration as an enforceable mitigation measure. C6-123 cont.

Natural resource restoration is challenging under any circumstances and it can be extremely difficult in arid environments.[198] Until the aforementioned issues have been resolved, all temporary Project impacts should be considered permanent.

Weed Management

It is well established that construction and other ground disturbance activities promote the establishment and spread of non-native plants (i.e., weeds). The potential for the introduction and spread of weeds as a result of the Project extends well beyond the construction phase. For example, weed seeds that are spread by Project activities may not germinate for several years (e.g., until environmental conditions such as rainfall are appropriate). Because the Project will entail periodic disturbance (e.g., from maintenance activities), it has the potential to spread and introduce weeds throughout its lifespan. C6-124

The introduction and spread of non-native plants as a result of the Project has the potential to result in numerous adverse environmental effects. For example, non-native plants can displace native (and perhaps sensitive) plant species, and they can degrade wildlife habitat by eliminating food sources, cover, and breeding sites. The DEIR does not discuss or provide mitigation for these potentially significant impacts, in violation of CEQA.

Significance of Project Impacts After Mitigation

The majority of the mitigation measures proposed in the DEIR are limited to (1) pre-construction surveys; and (2) avoidance and protection measures. The DEIR concludes these actions would make Project impacts less than significant.[199] This conclusion is unfounded.

First, pre-construction surveys do not mitigate potentially significant impacts. Many of the plant and animal species that are present on the Project site are very difficult to detect. It is well established that there is imperfect detection (<100% of individuals are detected) of these species, and that any effort to achieve perfect detection would—in itself—result in impacts (e.g., due to vegetation trampling). Consequently, it is entirely unreasonable for the DEIR to suggest that surveys and subsequent avoidance measures would, by themselves, reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level. The DEIR must explain with greater specificity and under what performance criteria the surveys will be conducted and measures designed. At the very least, pre-consturction surveys are unlawful deferred mitigation. C6-125

[197] DEIR, p. 2-29.
[198] Lovich, J. E., and D. Bainbridge. 1999. Anthropogenic Degradation of the Southern California Desert Ecosystem and Prospects for Natural Recovery and Restoration. Environmental Management Vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 309–326.
[199] DEIR, p. 4.4-31.

Second, language in the DEIR suggests the Applicant would do everything feasible possible to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. This suggestion lacks credibility. For example, the Applicant already has indicated it intends to use a backhoe instead of an auger "to expedite" installation of transmission poles, even though auger use is feasible, and almost certainly would reduce impacts.[200] The auger has reduced environmental impacts compared to a backhoe, thus, it is a feasible and environmentally superior alternative that must be required. C6-126

Third, all of the special-status species that occur (or potentially occur) on the Project site are threatened by habitat loss. Although the Project undeniably would have direct impacts on habitat for several special-status species, the DEIR does not provide any mitigation for impacts to habitat.[201] C6-127

As a result of these, and the other issues discussed herein, the currently proposed Project would result in significant, unmitigated impacts to sensitive biological resources.

V. Cumulative Impacts

The Cumulative impacts analysis is wholly inadequate. The DEIR must consider Project impacts in relation to the known distribution and population status of each sensitive resource, as well as current threats and Project's contribution to those threats. For example, one of the rare plants on the Project site is known from only four main population centers. If the Project wipes out one of the four, that loss would be very significant even if the Project is "small." Moreover, for biological resources, the DEIR considers only projects within a ten-mile radius of the Project. This ten-mile limitation is arbitrary and likely discounts the incremental effects of the Project with other projects outside the ten-mile radius, in violation of CEQA. This deficiency is especially serious given the dire condition of the Los Angeles pocket mouse and Stephen's kangaroo rat. C6-128

VI. Alternatives

An EIR must describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the Project, or to the location of the Project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. "An EIR's discussion of alternatives must contain analysis sufficient to allow informed decision making." (*Laurel Heights* I, 47 Cal.3d at 404.) An EIR must also include "detail sufficient to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues raised by the proposed project." (Id. at 405.) C6-129

One of CEQA's fundamental requirements is that the DEIR must identify the "environmentally superior alternative," and require implementation of that alternative unless it is infeasible. (14 Cal.Code Regs. §1526.6(e)(2); Kostka & Zischke, *Practice Under the California Environmental Quality Act* §15.37 (Cont. Educ. Of the Bar, 2008).) Typically, a DEIR identifies

[200] DEIR, p. 2-24.
[201] DEIR, p. 4.4-29.

the environmentally superior alternative, which is analyzed in detail, while other project alternatives receive more cursory review.

The analysis of project alternatives must contain an accurate quantitative assessment of the impacts of the alternatives. In Kings *County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692, 733-735, the court found the EIR's discussion of a natural gas alternative to a coal-fired power plant project to be inadequate because it lacked necessary "quantitative, comparative analysis" of air emissions and water use.

A "feasible" alternative is one that is capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors. (Pub. Res. Code § 21061.1; 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15364.) California courts provide guidance on how to apply these factors in determining whether an alternative or mitigation measure is economically feasible.

The lead agency is required to select the environmentally preferable alternative unless it is infeasible. As explained by the Supreme Court, an environmentally superior alternative may not be rejected simply because it is more expensive or less profitable: C6-129 cont.

> The fact that an alternative may be more expensive or less profitable is not sufficient to show that the alternative is financially infeasible. What is required is evidence that the additional costs or lost profitability are sufficiently severe as to render it impractical to proceed with the project.

(*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Bd. of Supervisors* (1988) 197 Cal.App.3d 1167, 1180-81; see also, Burger v. County of Mendocino (1975) 45 Cal.App.3d 322 (county's approval of 80 unit hotel over smaller 64 unit alternative was not supported by substantial evidence).)

The DEIR does not present a reasonable range of Alternatives. Because listed species occur on the project site, the DEIR should have presented an alternative location or design for the Project that avoids or minimizes impacts to listed species in compliance with state and federal laws that protect wildlife and plant species. It does not do that.

VII. Monitoring

CEQA requires not only adequate mitigation measures, but also a mitigation monitoring plan to ensure that those measures are implemented and effective. The DEIR's MMRP is inadequate. For example, the DEIR lacks measures to monitor the nests of birds to ensure mitigation measures are successful. C6-130

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the DEIR must be revised and recirculated to comply with the law.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/
Samuel B. Johnston
Associate Attorney
Lozeau Drury LLP

ATTACHMENT A

February 29, 2012

Mr. Richard Drury

Lozeau Drury

410 12th Street, Suite 250

Oakland, CA. 94607

Subject: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report Prepared for Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project

Dear Mr. Drury:

This letter contains my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") prepared for Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project ("Project"). Southern California Edison ("Applicant") has proposed the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new substation and associated subtransmission source line segments, distribution getaways, and telecommunications facilities near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The Project also involves the decommissioning of the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations.

C6-131

I am an environmental biologist with 20 years of professional experience in wildlife ecology, forestry, and natural resource management. To date, I have served as a biological resources expert for over 35 projects, the majority of which have been renewable energy facilities. My experience in this regard includes testifying before the California Energy Commission and assisting various clients with evaluations of biological resource issues. My educational background includes a B.S. in Resource Management from the University of California at Berkeley, and a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Pennsylvania State University. In addition, I am on Riverside County's list of Authorized Biological Consultants.

I have gained particular knowledge of the biological resource issues associated with the Project through studies I have conducted in Riverside County, and through my work on numerous energy projects. The subsequent comments are based on my review of the environmental documents prepared for the Project, a review of scientific literature pertaining to biological resources known to occur in the Project area, consultations with biological resource experts, and the knowledge and experience I have acquired during more than 20 years of working in the field of natural resources management. C6-131 cont.

The DEIR Lacks a Concrete Project Description

The DEIR provides vague and imprecise information on Project features (except for the substation location). Furthermore, the DEIR indicates a final engineering plan has not been prepared for the Project. The lack of detailed information on the locations of Project features prevents thorough analysis of Project impacts and the formulation of reliable mitigation. C6-132

Marshalling Yards

The Project would require up to four 5-acre marshalling yards. These include: (1) the Lakeview Substation site; (2) the Southern California Edison ("SCE") Menifee Service Center; (3) the Valley Substation and/or a portion of the adjacent transmission material yard; and (4) a portion of the parcel "adjacent to" the Lakeview Substation site.[202] Preparation of the marshalling yards would include the application of road base or crushed rock and installation of perimeter fencing.[203]

The DEIR describes the existing conditions at the Lakeview Substation site. However, it does not describe the existing conditions at the other three marshalling yards other than stating each potential marshalling yard "previously has been disturbed."[204] This statement does not sufficiently describe existing conditions such that Project impacts to biological resources can be evaluated. Based on my review of Google Earth imagery: C6-133

3. The parcel adjacent to the Lakeview Substation site (i.e., Marshalling Yard #4) contains an agricultural field (perhaps fallow).

[202] DEIR, p. 2-18.
[203] Id.
[204] Id.

4. Both the SCE Menifee Service Center (i.e., Marshalling Yard #2) and the Valley Substation site (i.e., Marshalling Yard #3) contain native (or naturalized) vegetation and potentially jurisdictional drainage features (Figures 1 through 4).

These areas have the potential to support sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by Project activities. Consequently, the DEIR must: (a) identify the specific areas within each site that will be used as a marshalling yard; (b) describe the existing vegetation communities, habitat types, and habitat elements (e.g., burrows, trees) present at the proposed marshalling yards; (c) provide an assessment of the sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the marshalling yards; and (d) propose mitigation for any potentially significant Project impacts associated with the marshalling yards. C6-134

Figure 1. Native vegetation at the Menifee Service Center in 2011.

Figure 2. Engineered drainage at the Menifee Service Center. Image taken in 2009 prior to establishment of vegetation.

Figure 3. Naturalized vegetation and ephemeral drainages (blue line) at the Valley Substation.

C6-134 cont.

Figure 4. Ephemeral drainage at the Valley Substation.

C6-134 cont.

Laydown Areas

The Project would require up to 90 laydown areas that would be cleared of existing vegetation and graded.[205] Each laydown area would disturb up to 20,000 square feet.[206] The DEIR does not map or otherwise describe the precise location of each laydown area. This precludes a thorough assessment of potentially significant impacts associated with the Project. C6-135

Staging Areas

The Project would require one or more staging areas. Temporary storage of construction materials and equipment at staging areas creates the potential for release of hazardous materials or sediment to nearby water bodies.[207] Because the DEIR was unable to identify the location of staging areas, impacts to biological resources cannot be thoroughly evaluated.[208] C6-136

The DEIR Fails to Document and Describe Existing Conditions Pertaining to Biological Resources

Historic Data

Several special-status species have previously been documented occurring in the Project area.[209] These include five narrow endemic plant species, the Riverside fairy shrimp, the Stephens' kangaroo rat, and the western spadefoot, among others.[210] The DEIR does not map or discuss the locations of these occurrences in relation to Project features. Because the DEIR lacks information on historic occurrences of special-status species in the Project area, it fails to provide information essential to establishing existing conditions, assessing Project impacts, and evaluating the proposed mitigation. C6-137

Project Survey Data

Several special-status species were detected during surveys conducted for the Project.[211] The DEIR does not map all of these species, nor does it provide information on their distribution and abundance in the Project area. C6-138

[205] Id, p. 2-20.
[206] Id, p. 4.10-17.
[207] Id, p. 4.10-16.
[208] *See footnote b to* Id, Table 4.2-2.
[209] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[210] Id. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-79.
[211] *See* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.

Special-status plants have the potential to occur along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.[212] Plant surveys have not been completed along this route, and the extent of focused wildlife surveys along the route is unclear. C6-139

The lack of this information precludes an informed assessment of Project impacts and an evaluation of the adequacy the DEIR's proposed mitigation.

Adequate Baseline Survey Data Have Not Been Collected for the Project

Biological Resources Study Area

The study (or survey) area for mapping vegetation types at the Project site included the footprint of Project facilities, and a 50-foot buffer on either side of proposed linear subtransmission source line segments and fiber optic cable routes.[213] For the alternatives, the study area was limited the immediate footprint of proposed facilities.[214] The DEIR does not identify the study area for wildlife surveys and habitat assessments; however, with a few exceptions, it generally appears to have been the same as the study area that was investigated for vegetation. Neither study area was sufficient for adequately disclosing impacts of the Project, evaluating impacts, and formulating appropriate mitigation. C6-140

First, as the DEIR frequently acknowledges, a final engineering design plan has not been prepared for the Project.[215] As a result, the DEIR was unable to provide information on the specific locations (i.e., footprints) of several Project features, including the new roads, pole sites, laydown areas, and pull-sites. Given these circumstances, the Project would almost certainly impact areas that were not surveyed, and existing survey data strongly suggest these areas contain special-status plants (and possibly wildlife). C6-141

Second, the study area failed to consider the footprints of the Project's laydown sites. Each of the 90 proposed laydown sites would disturb an area up to 200 feet by 100 feet.[216] Given the dimensions of the laydown sites, each laydown site would extend to the edge, or up to 100 feet C6-142

[212] DEIR, p. 4.4-29.
[213] Id, p. 4.4-3.
[214] Id.
[215] Id, p. 2-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-27. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-84.
[216] Id, p. 2-20.

beyond, the study area. Moreover, because the Applicant has not yet determined the precise locations and alignments of the laydown sites in relation to the study area, it is extremely likely that some of the laydown sites would extend beyond the study area boundaries. C6-142 cont.

Third, the study area for the Project's linear facilities was inappropriate. As the DEIR acknowledges, the Project has the potential to cause significant indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources.[217] These indirect impacts may extend well beyond the 50-foot buffer areas that were surveyed for the linear facilities. Therefore, even if the final engineering plan coincides with the survey area, the Applicant lacks the field data needed to evaluate potentially significant indirect impacts to biological resources. The need to survey a relatively wide buffer area is reflected in survey guidance issued by the California Department of Fish and Game ("CDFG") and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"). For example, CDFG's burrowing owl survey guidance recommends surveys within 150 meters (approximately 500 feet) of project boundaries.[218] C6-143

Fourth, the study area did not encompass all of the areas that would be directly impacted by the Project. Specifically, surveys were not conducted at (a) the proposed marshalling yards; (b) the proposed staging areas; and (c) potential sites for distribution circuits.[219] C6-144

As a result of the issues described above, the DEIR lacks comprehensive baseline data on sensitive biological resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project.

The DEIR Improperly Defers Acquisition of Data Needed to Disclose Existing Conditions, Evaluate Project Impacts, and Formulate Appropriate Mitigation

The DEIR states the following: C6-145

> SCE has conducted an initial biological evaluation and would conduct further focused environmental surveys after project approval, but prior to the start of construction. Surveys would identify and/or address any potential sensitive biological and cultural resources in the vicinity of the Project, including the subtransmission source line routes, telecommunications routes, wire stringing locations, access roads, and marshalling yard(s). The locations of these Project components are described below. Where feasible,

[217] PEA, p. 4.4-84.
[218] The California Burrowing Owl Consortium. 1993. Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines. Available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/species/docs/boconsortium.pdf. *See also* BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 13. Results of Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project in Riverside County, p. 3.
[219] DEIR, p. 2-9. Although the DEIR does not identify the staging areas, Table 3.4 in the PEA suggests the staging areas would not coincide with other Project features.

> the information gathered from these surveys would be used to finalize Project design in order to avoid or to minimize the potential impact to sensitive resources from Project-related activities.[220]

The aforementioned approach is wholly inadequate. First, the DEIR acknowledges that the Applicant has deferred gathering of baseline data needed for impact analyses and mitigation. Second, the DEIR does not define what is considered "feasible," including the circumstances under which impacts to sensitive resources would not be avoided or minimized. CEQA guidelines specifically dictate the need to avoid mitigation measures that are conditioned on feasibility (i.e., required "where feasible"). Third, the mitigation measures in the DEIR provide only vague information on the proposed pre-construction surveys, including the level of effort that will be devoted to the surveys, the methods that will be used, and the survey areas (including the Project features and buffer zones that will be surveyed). Fourth, although the DEIR indicates the Applicant will conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls, nesting birds, rare plants, Stephens' kangaroo rats, and fairy shrimp habitat, it lacks provisions for pre-construction surveys for wetlands (or other jurisdictional waters), the Los Angeles pocket mouse, golden eagle, American badger, and the numerous other sensitive biological resources that have the potential to be impacted by the Project.[221] C6-145 cont. C6-146

Wetlands

A formal wetland delineation has not been conducted for the Project.[222] According to the DEIR, however, "the PEA (SCE, 2010) and biological reconnaissance surveys conducted on behalf of the CPUC provide sufficient detail to estimate the number and type of wetland features that would be encountered or affected by the development of the Project or alternatives."[223] Contrary to this claim, none of the environmental documents prepared for the Project (including the PEA and DEIR) map or quantify the "multiple [wetland] features" that occur throughout the Project area.[224] This information is essential to evaluating potentially significant Project impacts and the Project's compliance with State and federal wetland regulations. C6-147

The San Jacinto River occurs in the Project area. Following sufficient rain events, the low-lying areas surrounding the river become inundated with water. These events, albeit perhaps infrequent, support wetlands throughout the San Jacinto River floodplain. The presence of wetlands in the floodplain is supported by field survey data that documented the presence of

[220] Id, p. 2-15.
[221] Id, p. 4.4-27. *See also* Table 4.4-2.
[222] Id, p. 4.4-6.
[223] Id.
[224] *See* PEA, p. 4.4-69 and Table 4.4-1.

hydric soils and wetland vegetation on the Project site in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River.[225]

The presence of wetlands in the floodplain is also supported by information presented in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("MSHCP"), the National Wetlands Inventory, and imagery available through Google Earth. Specifically,

4. The MSHCP identifies playas and vernal pools in the Project area.[226]
5. The National Wetlands Inventory indicates wetlands occur adjacent to the San Jacinto River, and along 11th and 12th Streets, within the Project area (Figure 5).
6. Imagery available from Google Earth depicts several wetland features in the Project area (Figure 5 through 10).

Based on the aforementioned information, it is clear that significantly more wetland features are present in the Project area than were disclosed in the DEIR. The failure to consider these features affects the validity of the DEIR's impact assessment, the effectiveness of the DEIR's proposed mitigation, and the Project's compliance with state and federal wetland regulations.

C6-147 cont.

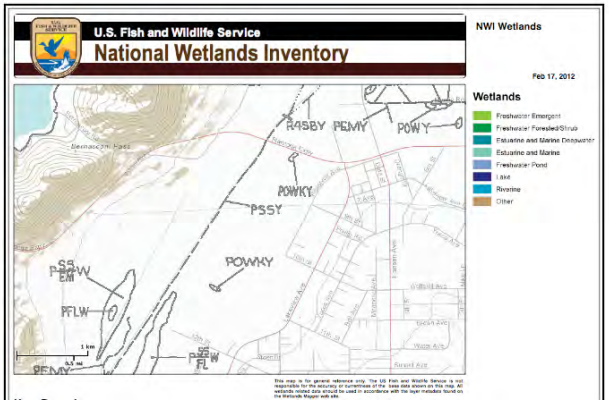

Figure 5. National Wetland Inventory map of wetlands (indicated by letter codes) in the Project area.[227]

[225] *See* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. n.d. Wetland Indicator Status [online database]. Available at: http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html
[226] MSHCP, Figure 3-17.
[227] U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory website. Accessed 2012 Feb 17. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/.

Figure 6. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands (encompassed in blue) east of the San Jacinto River. Approximate location of Subtransmission Line Route 1 (new road and transmission line) is depicted by red line.

Figure 7. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along 11th Street east of the San Jacinto River.

C6-147 cont.

Figure 8. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along 11th Street east of the San Jacinto River.

C6-147 cont.

Figure 9. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands along Subtransmission Line Route 2 (red line).

Figure 10. Riverine wetlands along Subtransmission Line Route 3 (red line) west of the San Jacinto River.

C6-147 cont.

Branchiopods

The Project site provides suitable habitat for two federally listed branchiopods: the Riverside fairy shrimp (federally endangered) and the vernal pool fairy shrimp (federally threatened).[228] Potential habitat for these species includes vernal pools, ephemeral ponds, and human derived depressions.[229]

The Applicant's biologist conducted a survey for branchiopod habitat on November 16, 2009. During the survey, "[a]ll areas with suitable soils were examined for evidence of suitable ponding habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp. Potential ponding areas were noted by the presence of a visible depression and/or cracked soils."[230] According to the accompanying survey report: "[o]nly one area exhibited evidence of ponding: a depression along 12th Street, east of B Avenue, along the Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route (Segment 3)."[231] The biologist's conclusion conflicts with National Wetlands Inventory maps and imagery available through Google Earth. It also conflicts with the field observations made by other biologists that conducted surveys on the Project site, and with California Natural Diversity Database ("CNDDB") records that document potential fairy shrimp habitat between 11th Street and the San

C6-148

[228] PEA, p. 4.4-17. *See also* MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[229] Id.
[230] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of a Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California.
[231] Id.

Jacinto River.[232] C6-148 cont.

Golden Eagle

Golden eagles are protected under Fish and Game Code Section 3511and the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ("Eagle Act"). California law prohibits take of golden eagles, and the USFWS requires a permit to be issued for take of bald or golden eagles where the taking is associated with, but not the purpose of the activity, and cannot be practicably avoided. Take includes causing a decrease in golden eagle productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior. [233]

The DEIR indicates golden eagle nest sites may occur in the vicinity of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, and that the remainder of the Project site provides suitable foraging habitat for eagles.[234] The DEIR further indicates that there were "recent nearby observations" of golden eagles along the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.[235] The DEIR does not discuss these observations, nor does it provide any other information pertaining to golden eagles in the Project area. C6-149

The USFWS has concluded that survey and monitoring data on golden eagle nest sites within a 10-mile radius of a project are essential components for avoiding and minimizing disturbance and other kinds of take.[236] As a result, the USFWS has issued a survey protocol that identifies the methods that should be used to acquire the data needed for informed impact analyses and mitigation.[237] The Applicant has not conducted the recommended surveys, nor has it provided existing data acquired through protocol surveys conducted for other projects. The lack of this essential baseline information on golden eagle nest sites in the Project area prevents an assessment of the risk of eagles colliding with, or becoming electrocuted by, the Project's transmission lines, and the potential for the Project to cause take of eagles through disturbance and loss of foraging habitat.

The DEIR Mischaracterizes, and Omits Data Pertaining to, the Environmental Setting

[232] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment C, CNDDB Forms. *See also page 3* In: SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. *See also occurrence record #5 for the western spadefoot* In: California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[233] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

[234] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[235] Id.
[236] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
[237] Id.

Potential for Special-Status Plant Species to Occur in the Project Area

Fifteen vegetation communities and other habitat types occur in the Project area.[238] These include four sensitive natural communities, and the unique transition zone between upland and lowland communities in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River.[239]

Four special-status plant species were detected on the Project site.[240] Incredibly, of the remaining "potentially occurring species," and despite the relative richness of vegetation communities in the Project area, the DEIR concludes the species (a) are "absent," with no suitable habitat present in the Project area; or (b) have a "low" potential of occurring. No species were considered to have a "moderate" or "high" possibility of occurring. Whereas I recognize the subjectivity inherent in categorizing potential for occurrence, the DEIR clearly demonstrates bias. Indeed, many of the DEIR's conclusions contradict existing information, as evidenced below C6-150

Moran's navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*)

Moran's navarretia (also known as spreading navarretia) is a federally threatened species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates this species has a low potential of occurring in the Project area.[241] Several populations of Moran's navarretia have been documented occurring in the Project area. Populations have been detected (a) "along the San Jacinto River flood control channel, from 0.3 mile south or Ramona Expressway, south to 11th Street;" and (b) "at ends of 12th and 13th Streets, along the San Jacinto River flood channel."[242] Both of these locations are within the Project area, and the latter population was detected as recently as 2007 (i.e., two years before the Applicant's surveys).[243] The Applicant's consultants apparently made no attempt to relocate the plants documented in the CNDDB. C6-151

The MSHCP identifies the floodplains of the San Jacinto River from the Ramona Expressway south to Railroad Canyon as a "Core Area" for the species, and the USFWS has identified the San Jacinto River corridor as critical habitat.[244] Therefore, based on the definitions applied in the DEIR, Moran's navarretia should be categorized as present in the Project area, or at a minimum, categorized as having a high potential of occurring.

Chaparral sand verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*)

Chaparral sand verbena is a California Native Plant Society ("CNPS") List 1B species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a C6-152

[238] DEIR, p. 4.4-3.
[239] Id, p. 4.4-5.
[240] Id, Table 4.4-2.
[241] Id.
[242] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[243] Id.
[244] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.

low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[245] However, according to the special-status plant species survey report prepared for the Project, botanists detected chaparral sand verbena in the Project area.[246] C6-152 cont.

South Coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*) / Davidson's saltscale (*A. serenana* var. *davidsonii*)

South Coast saltscale is a CNPS List 1B species. Davidson's saltscale is a CNPS List 1B species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. Distinguishing these two species is problematic and uncertain.[247] The DEIR indicates both species are absent in some portions of the Project area, and that they have a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[248] According to the CNDDB a population of south Coast saltscale was documented 900 feet south of the end of 11th Street and 10 feet east of the existing dirt access road.[249] The MSHCP suggests the CNDDB record refers to Davidson's saltscale.[250] Regardless of the taxonomic status, the occurrence record refers to an extremely rare saltbush that was detected within the Project area. The Applicant's consultants apparently made no attempt to relocate the plant documented in the CNDDB. Based on the DEIR's own definitions, south coast saltscale and Davidson's saltscale should be categorized as either being present in the Project area, or as having a high potential of occurring. C6-153

Parish's brittlescale (*A. parishii*)

Parish's brittlescale is a CNPS List 1B species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[251] Parish's brittlescale occurs in alkaline habitats. In western Riverside County it is found primarily along the San Jacinto River and at Salt Creek within the Domino, Willows and Traver soils series in association with the alkali vernal pools, alkali annual grassland, alkali playa, and alkali scrub components of alkali vernal plains.[252] These conditions are present in the Project area, and Parish's brittlescale has been documented occurring less than a mile north of the Project site.[253] Therefore, based on the DEIR's own definitions, Parish's brittlescale should be categorized as having a high potential of occurring in the Project area. C6-154

Parish's brittlescale is a low annual with stems generally less than two decimeters (approximately 8 inches) long.[254] The plant's flowers, which usually are evident sometime between June and October, are obscure and small.[255] Botanists that conducted surveys for the Project did not visit

[245] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[246] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment B: Plant Compendium, p. B-4.

[247] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[248] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[249] The MSHCP suggests the CNDDB record for this species refers to Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*)
[250] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[251] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[252] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[253] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[254] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[255] Id.

a reference population for this species, and their surveys terminated in early June before the plant may have been flowering.[256] These circumstances increase the likelihood that botanists missed detection of the species. C6-154 cont.

Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*)

Wright's trichocoronis is a CNPS List 2 species and a MSHCP Group 3 species. The DEIR indicates that this species is absent in some portions of the Project area, and that it has a low potential of occurring in other portions of the Project area.[257] Wright's trichocoronis is found in alkali vernal plains and associated alkali playa, alkali annual grassland, and alkali vernal pool habitat. The species is known only from four locations along the San Jacinto River. The MSHCP identifies the middle segment of the San Jacinto River as a "Core Area" for the species. Therefore, based on the DEIR's own definitions, Wright's trichocoronis should be considered to have at least moderate potential of occurring in the Project area. C6-155

Wright's trichocoronis is difficult to detect because it is a low, subaquatic annual, less than 30 cm tall. Botanists that conducted surveys for the Project did not visit a reference population for this species.[258] These circumstances increase the likelihood that botanists missed detection of the species.

Presence of Special-Status Bird Species

The DEIR does not report the presence of any special-status bird species in the Project study area.[259] This conflicts with the PEA, which reports the presence of two special-status bird species: loggerhead shrike and California horned lark.[260] Neither document accurately reports the occurrence of special-status bird species. According to the species lists provided in the survey reports prepared for the Project, the following special-status bird species were detected in the Project study area: C6-156

- Cooper's hawk
- Tricolored blackbird
- Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
- Bell's sage sparrow
- Northern harrier
- California horned lark

[256] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Tables 1 and 2.
[257] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.
[258] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Tables 1 and 2.
[259] DEIR, Table 4.4-2. *See also* p. 4.4-8.
[260] PEA, p. 4.4-82.

- Loggerhead shrike[261]

In addition to failing to disclose the presence of these species, the DEIR lacks any information on their regional status; their abundance and distribution throughout the Project area; and their potential for being adversely affected by the Project. C6-156 cont.

The DEIR Mischaracterizes the Value of Agricultural Lands Impacted by the Project

The DEIR states: "[t]he proposed Lakeview Substation site currently supports agriculture and does not provide habitat for [MSHCP] Criteria Area Species."[262] The DEIR's statement is incorrect. Agricultural lands provide habitat for several Criteria Area species including the mountain plover, burrowing owl, California horned lark, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, merlin, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-faced ibis, and white-tailed kite.[263] The conservation of several of these species depends on the persistence of agriculture. For example, fallow fields and agricultural fields with short crop types—such as those at the Project site—are critically important to the conservation of mountain plovers and Western burrowing owls.[264] C6-157

The DEIR's Failure to Provide a Concrete Project Description Prevents Adequate and Reliable Impact Analyses

As the PEA acknowledges, a complete Project impact analysis is not possible until the impact footprint has been established.[265] I concur with the PEA in this regard. Specifically,

3. the DEIR's inability to provide specific information on the location(s) of Project features precludes adequate analyses of potentially significant Project impacts; and,
4. even slight shifts in Project features (particularly the roads, subtransmission lines, and associated construction facilities) would dramatically alter the types and levels of Project impacts to sensitive biological resources.

As a result, the DEIR does not provide adequate and reliable information on the scope of potentially significant impacts that may be caused by the Project. The DEIR must be revised once (a) the final engineering plan has been developed; and/or (b) all potentially significant C6-158

[261] *See* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.
[262] DEIR, p. 4.4-34.
[263] MSHCP, Table 5-2.
[264] Wunder MB, FL Knopf. 2003. The Imperial Valley of California is critical to wintering Mountain Plovers. J. Field Ornithol. 74:74-80. *See also* DeSante DF, ED Ruhlen, DK Rosenberg. 2004. Density and abundance of burrowing owls in the agricultural matrix of the Imperial Valley, California. Studies in Avian Biology No. 27: 116-119.
[265] PEA, p. 4.4-80. *See also* DEIR, p. ES-5. *See also* Id, p. ES-6. *See also* Id, ES-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-4. *See also* Id, p. 2-15. *See also* Id, p. 2-16. *See also* Id, p. 2-27.

impacts have been thoroughly analyzed (i.e., through additional field surveys and analysis that consider all potential footprints). C6-158 cont.

The DEIR and PEA Provide Inadequate and Inconsistent Information on Project Impacts and Features

The DEIR and PEA provide inadequate and inconsistent information on Project impacts, features, and mitigation. The following issues require clarification to support informed analyses and decisions:

15. Section 2.8.1 of the DEIR states: "[n]ew roads (up to 3.5 miles) would be needed to access the new subtransmission source line segments, resulting in a disturbance of approximately 8.0 acres." However, Table 2-2 of the DEIR indicates 5.1 acres will be disturbed by the new access roads. C6-159
16. Impacts from Project roads are based on a 14-foot road width.[266] However, the DEIR states new and rehabilitated roads would be constructed to provide a minimum width of 14 feet, preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side.[267] In addition, the PEA indicates roads may be wider (than 18 feet) depending on final engineering.[268] Given this information, C6-160
    a. What is the maximum number of acres that will be impacted by Project roads?
    b. Under what circumstances will roads be limited to 14 feet even if it is feasible to construct 18-foot or wider roads?
17. The footnote to Table 3-4 of the PEA indicates a portion of the ROW within 25 feet of the TSPs and within 10 feet of the wood poles will remain cleared of vegetation. Although perpetual vegetation removal should be considered a permanent impact, it does not appear that it was accounted for as one in the DEIR. Furthermore, assuming the TSPs are located at the edge of the road (i.e., to allow vehicle passage), wouldn't new roads associated with the subtransmission line routes entail up to 39 feet (or more) of vegetation removal (i.e., 14-foot road plus an additional 25 feet clearance for the TSP)? C6-161
18. Table 4.4-4 of the DEIR indicates the subtransmission source line routes (Segments One and Two) would impact 26.6 acres of agriculture. However, Table 4.2-3 indicates impacts to farmland from the subtransmission line routes (including roads and poles) would be limited to 2.6 acres, whereas Table 4.2-2 indicates impacts would be 21.2 acres. C6-162
19. Please clarify the apparent discrepancy between Table 4.4-4 in the PEA, which indicates 36.44 acres of impacts from subtransmission line segments, and Table 3.4 of the PEA, which indicates up to 45.1 acres. Similarly, please clarify the apparent discrepancies between data presented in Tables 2-2 and 2-8 in the DEIR, and data presented in Table 4.4-4 in the PEA. C6-163

[266] DEIR, Table 2-2.
[267] Id, p. 2-17.
[268] PEA, p. 3-22.

20. Table 4.4-9 in the PEA indicates subtransmission source line segment 3 would not impact any native vegetation communities. This appears to conflict with Figure 4.4-4N in the PEA. C6-164
21. The DEIR indicates activities related to road rehabilitation could include: grading and repair, vegetation clearance and grubbing, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, re-compaction of the surface, and ensuring a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, depending upon field construction).[269] The existing road along the New Cable to Moval telecommunications route will apparently require road rehabilitation; however, Table 4.4-5 in the PEA indicates there will not be impacts to vegetation along the New Cable to Moval route. Please clarify the extent of vegetation removal and roadwork required along the New Cable to Moval route. If the existing road will be widened, please justify the PEA's conclusion that rehabilitation will not impact vegetation given the information provided in Figures 4.4A through N in the PEA, and with the images provided in the small mammal trapping reports prepared for the Project. C6-165
22. Please clarify the type, extent, and locations of all other ground disturbance activities that will occur along the New Cable to Moval telecommunications route. C6-166
23. Please clarify the number and size of staging areas that would be used for the Project and identify where staging areas would be located in relation to the San Jacinto River and its floodplain. C6-167
24. Please identify the status of special-status plant surveys along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. In addition, please identify the focused wildlife surveys that have been conducted for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and Subtransmission Source Line Segment 3. C6-168
25. Please identify the status of any protocol level fairy shrimp surveys that have been initiated for the Project. C6-169
26. Please clarify whether chemical dust suppressants will be used for the Project. If dust suppressants will be used please identify they type that will be applied, the locations of potential application, and an assessment of the environmental impacts from using them.[270] C6-170
27. Please clarify whether pull and tension sites, TSPs, and wood poles would be located immediately adjacent to the San Jacinto River as depicted in Figure 2-2 in the DEIR. C6-171
28. The Project would require roads to support the two subtransmission line routes. Please identify the proximity of roadwork (either new construction and rehabilitation) and other ground disturbance activities in relation to the San Jacinto River. C6-172

The DEIR Mischaracterizes Impacts to Wetlands

The DEIR states: "[p]roject activities would not affect jurisdictional waters of the United States or waters of the state, including drainages and seasonal wetlands, because these features do not C6-173

[269] DEIR, p. 2-17.
[270] *See* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2004 Mar. Potential Environmental Impacts of Dust Suppressants: Avoiding another Times Beach. In: An Expert Panel Summary, May 30-31, 2002, Las Vegas, Nevada. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/cmb/pdf/dust.pdf.

occur in the Project area."[271] There is substantial evidence that the DEIR's statement is incorrect. C6-173 cont.

First, the DEIR's conclusion conflicts with the PEA, which indicates wetlands occur throughout the Project area, and that "the Proposed Project may impact…alkali wetland."[272]

Second, a formal wetland delineation has not been conducted for the Project, and until a formal wetland delineation has been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps"), the DEIR has no basis to conclude the Project will not impact wetlands (or other jurisdictional waters). C6-174

Third, biologists that conducted surveys for the Project reported detecting hydrologically-dependent, special-status plant species in "depressions" (i.e., vernal or seasonal pools).[273] These observations compliment existing CNDDB records of "pools" in the Project area.[274] C6-175

Fourth, a branch of the San Jacinto River occurs west of the main river channel.[275] The Applicant has proposed building a new access road across this branch of the river.[276] C6-176

Fifth, as previously discussed, Google Earth imagery clearly depicts wetland features in the Project area, including within the footprints of roads and pull-sites proposed for the Project (Figures 5 through 10). The Project, as currently proposed, would impact these wetlands. Moreover, given the dimensions of the proposed pull-sites, and the configuration of roads proposed for the Project, the Applicant may not be able to avoid potentially jurisdictional wetlands (Figure 11). Because the DEIR does not require the Applicant to obtain authorization from the Corps, State Water Resources Control Board, and CDFG, the Project would have an unmitigated, significant impact on wetland resources. C6-177

[271] DEIR, p. 4.4-33.
[272] PEA, Table 4.4-1. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-81.
[273] BonTerra Consulting. 2010 Oct 14. Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California. Attachment C, CNDDB Forms.

[274] *See occurrence record #5 for the western spadefoot* In: California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[275] *See* PEA, Figure 3.6 (river channels depicted with light blue lines).
[276] Id.

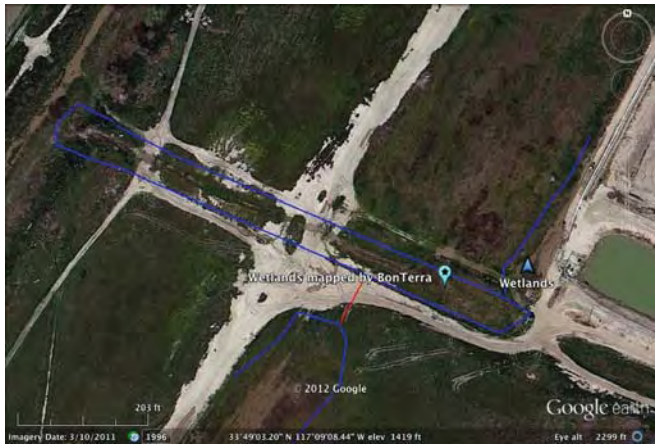

Figure 11. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands (encompassed in blue) at the end of 12th Street, east of the San Jacinto River. Area of ponding reported by BonTerra Consulting is marked by star. Maximum distance between wetland features (red line) is approximately 75 feet.

C6-177 cont.

The DEIR Fails to Analyze Potentially Significant Impacts to All Sensitive Wildlife Species

The DEIR states: "[n]on-listed special-status wildlife species, species determined to have a low potential to occur in the study area, and birds that may forage (but not nest) in the area are identified, but related impacts are not analyzed under CEQA."[277] The DEIR's statement is not justified. CEQA provides protection not only for State-listed or federally-listed species, but also for any species that can be shown to meet the criteria for listing.[278] Species that meet these criteria are often considered species of special concern by the CDFG.[279]

Several species of special concern occur, or potentially occur, in the Project area.[280] The DEIR must analyze potentially significant Project impacts to these species. In some cases the DEIR's analysis must extend beyond analysis of impacts to nesting habitat. For example, the ferruginous hawk is a federal and State listed species of special concern that is known to occur in the Project area.[281] This special-status listing applies to birds on their wintering grounds. In addition, golden eagles are protected from take by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Take includes causing a decrease in golden eagle productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, *feeding*, or *sheltering* behavior.[282]

C6-178

[277] DEIR, p. 4.4-8. *See also* PEA, p. 3-22.
[278] California Department of Fish and Game. n.d. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)[online]. Available at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/ceqa/intrmlproced/eir.html.
[279] Id.
[280] *See* DEIR, Table 4.4-2. *See also* Wildlife compendiums provided in BonTerra Consulting survey reports.
[281] PEA, p. 4.4-84. *See also* eBird. 2011. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: http://www.ebird.org. (Accessed: 2012 Feb 25).
[282] Pagel JE, DM Whittington, GT Allen. 2010 Feb. Interim Golden Eagle inventory and monitoring protocols; and other recommendations. Division of Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Golden Eagle and Other Raptors

The DEIR acknowledges that the USFWS has prepared guidelines for compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ("Eagle Act"), and that the guidelines "suggest using the best available information and risk analysis tools to assess project impacts; at the earliest opportunity collecting data on home ranges, nesting locations, and foraging and migration behavior; full disclosure of risks to eagles; full disclosure of data and analysis limitations; and maximum consideration of impact-reduction measures and mitigation to reduce take."[283] The DEIR accomplishes none of these tasks. Indeed, the DEIR does not provide an assessment of the Project's compliance with the Eagle Act, nor does it analyze potentially significant Project impacts on the golden eagle and other raptor species.

The Project includes two new transmission lines that would span the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River serves as a corridor for birds. The DEIR lacks an assessment of the collision and electrocution risk that the Project poses to birds flying along the river corridor, or to the high concentration of raptors that occur in the Project area.[284] The DEIR also lacks an assessment of impacts related to the Project's fiber optic lines. The CPUC has previously concluded that fiber optic cables proposed for telecommunication facilities present a collision risk to listed birds.[285]

C6-179

Stephen's Kangaroo Rat and Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

The DEIR acknowledges the Project may have significant impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[286] However, it fails to quantify the impacts or put them into context. Moreover, it fails to disclose important information pertaining to impacts reported by the Applicant's consultant and the MSHCP.

In his survey report, the Applicant's small mammal expert concluded "[v]ehicular travel and power line installation activities in the South Section of the project alignment [i.e., south of the Ramona Expressway] would very likely negatively affect any Los Angeles pocket mice or SKR [Stephens' kangaroo rat] inhabiting the particular locations disturbed during project activities. The soils in the westerly portions of this section are soft and vulnerable to collapsing from vehicular or even human weight."[287] The Applicant's expert further concluded "[s]uch disturbances will *definitely or potentially result in the "take"* of resident SKR or LAPM [Los

C6-180

[283] DEIR, p. 4.4-20.
[284] PEA, p. 3-7.
[285] CPUC. 2011. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project Colorado River Substation Expansion Project. p. ES-20.

[286] DEIR, p. 4.4-30.
[287] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.

Angeles pocket mouse] at these locations.[288]

The Stephens' kangaroo rat has a relatively small geographic range (about 1,108 sq miles) for a mammal species and it is restricted to Riverside County and adjacent northern-central San Diego County.[289] The northern portion of the Project site is within a Core Area for the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[290] Although the southern portion of the Project site is not within a designated Core Area for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, the small population that occurs there may provide important habitat linkages between Core Areas.[291] Because long distance movements of Stephen's kangaroo rats may play an important role in maintaining genetic variability, any activities that diminish the viability of a habitat linkage would constitute a significant impact. C6-180 cont.

The DEIR does not specifically address Project impacts to the Los Angeles pocket mouse even though it was one of the MSHCP Group 3 species documented occurring on the Project site.[292] Some biologists believe the Los Angeles pocket mouse is in serious decline in the region because it is seldom trapped and much of its suitable habitat has been lost to agriculture and urban development.[293] The Project site is within a designated Core Area for the species.[294] Like the Stephens' kangaroo rat, maintaining connections between core habitat areas is important for the long-term conservation of the species.[295] Any activities that diminish the viability of Core Areas or linkages between them would constitute a significant impact. C6-181

Based on the information provided above, and because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation, it is my professional opinion that the Project would threaten the viability of the Stephen's kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse populations that occur in the southern portion of the Project area. C6-182

Western Spadefoot

The western spadefoot is a California species of special concern and a MHSCP Group 2 species. The DEIR lacks any discussion of the species other than stating portions of the Project site provide suitable habitat.[296] Similarly, the DEIR lacks an assessment of, or mitigation for, potentially significant impacts to the western spadefoot. C6-183

[288] Id. [emphasis added].
[289] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[290] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[291] Id.
[292] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[293] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[294] Id.
[295] Id.
[296] DEIR, Table 4.4-2.

Western spadefoots have been documented occurring in a series of shallow, man-made ponds approximately 150 feet north of the end of 11th Street, east of the San Jacinto River.[297] Approximately 700 "toadlets" (i.e., juveniles) were observed at the ponds, indicating the ponds serve as breeding sites.[298] The Applicant proposes to construct a road directly through this location.[299] This would result in a significant impact to the western spadefoot population.

Western spadefoots spend most of the year below ground (i.e., in aestivation). During that time they typically occupy burrows constructed in loose soil.[300] The burrows are generally located in close proximity to breeding pools.[301] Even if pools are avoided during construction, site grading and soil compaction associated with the proposed road and pull-sites would likely crush aestivating toads and degrade (or eliminate) the site's function as habitat. Once the road is constructed, dispersing toads would be perpetually threatened by road traffic.

The MSHCP assumes that the western spadefoot "will respond to a landscape level of management with site-specific requirements (e.g., vernal pools) if management addresses the threats of increased roads (limit roads or provide toad walls and culverts for safe dispersal), exotic species (e.g., bass, sunfish, and bullfrogs), and destruction of habitat."[302] In addition, the MSHCP states: "[c]onnectivity between the reserve blocks is dependent on the availability of suitable breeding habitat. Habitat linkages with appropriate breeding habitat will function as ranges for spadefoot toads."[303] In addition to its known capacity to provide breeding habitat, the Project site is within a Core Area and linkage corridor for the western spadefoot.[304] Therefore, because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation for the western spadefoot, the Project would conflict with the strategy of the MSHCP. C6-183 cont.

The MSHCP provides conservation objectives for the western spadefoot. These include:

3. "[i]nclude within the MSHCP Conservation Area at least six Core Areas at the Santa Rosa Plateau (8,360 acres), *San Jacinto River* (7,680 acres)…"[305]

[297] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[298] Id.
[299] PEA, Figure 3.6.
[300] Stebbins RC. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA.

[301] California Natural Diversity Database. 2009. Rarefind [computer program]. Version 3.1.0. Aug 9, 2011. Sacramento (CA): Wildlife & Habitat Data Analysis Branch. California Department of Fish and Game.
[302] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[303] Id.
[304] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012. *See also* PEA, p. 4.4-68.
[305] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts. [emphasis added].

4. "[w]ithin the MSHCP Conservation Area, maintain successful reproduction at a minimum of 75 percent of the conserved breeding locations as measured by the presence/absence of tadpoles, egg masses, or juvenile toads once every 8 years."[306]

C6-183 cont.

The Project is not consistent with these conservation objectives. As a result, to obtain coverage under the MSHCP, the Project must be redesigned to protect breeding and aestivation habitat for the western spadefoot on the Project site. Similarly, if the Applicant does not solicit coverage under the MSHCP, the DEIR must be revised such that the Project would avoid, minimize, and mitigate significant impacts to the species.

Special-Status Bats

C6-184

The western yellow bat and the western mastiff bat are listed as California species of special concern. Both species have been documented occurring in the Project region.[307] Although the DEIR acknowledges that the Project site (including substation and linear facilities) provides suitable habitat for theses species, no bat surveys were conducted for the Project.[308]

The western yellow bat is a "tree-roosting" species commonly found roosting in the skirt of dead fronds in both native and non-native palm trees.[309] It is believed to form small maternity groups in trees and palms.[310] One of the primary threats to the species in the U.S. is the cosmetic trimming of palm fronds.[311] Palms occur in the Project area and presumably may be impacted by the Project.[312]

The western mastiff bat is a "cave-roosting" bat species that occurs where there are significant rock features offering suitable roosting habitat.[313] Rock outcroppings and terrace escarpments occur immediately adjacent to the New Cable to Moval line route.[314]

[306] Id.
[307] California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeograhic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. 2012 Feb 7 (Version 3.1.0).
[308] PEA, p. 4.4-85, 88, 91, 97, 100.
[309] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[310] California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. 2005. California Department of Fish and Game. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. CWHR version 8.1 personal computer program. Sacramento (CA).
[311] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[312] PEA, p. 4.4-6.
[313] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[314] *See* PEA Figures 4.4-3F through K.

C6-184 cont.

Bats are very vulnerable to disturbance.[315] Road widening and other construction activities associated with the Project have the potential to cause bats to abandon roosts and maternity colonies. The DEIR does not disclose, assess, or provide mitigation for this potentially significant impact.

The DEIR Lacks an Assessment of Impacts to Critical Habitat

Thread-leaved Brodiaea

C6-185

Designated critical habitat for the federally threatened and State-listed endangered thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on the Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2. The DEIR's discussion of Project impacts to critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea is limited to the following: "SCE would avoid known special-status plant populations through general plant protection measure (APM-BIO-6), and avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations (APM-BIO-7); therefore, impacts to critical habitat to [*sic*] less than significant."[316]

The DEIR's conclusion is unfounded and misdirected. Critical habitat is defined as "a specific geographic area(s) that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may include an area that is not currently occupied by the species but that will be needed for its recovery."[317] Within designated critical habitat, the USFWS protects areas that provide the primary constituent elements ("PCEs") for the survival and conservation of the listed species.[318] The DEIR acknowledges that portions of the San Jacinto River corridor "may" provide PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea.[319]

PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea include areas that contain the appropriate soils and associated vegetation at suitable elevations, and adjacent areas necessary to maintain associated physical processes such as a suitable hydrological regime.[320] Also required are suitable habitat, water, minerals, and other physiological needs for reproduction and growth of thread-leaved brodiaea, as well as habitat that supports pollinators of thread-leaved brodiaea.[321] Finally, the USFWS has specifically identified "[h]abitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historical, geographical, and ecological distributions of a species" as a PCE for thread-leaved

[315] Western Bat Working Group. 2005 [updated]. Species accounts. Available at: http://www.wbwg.org/species_accounts.
[316] DEIR, p. 4.4-30.
[317] USFWS. 2002. Critical Habitat: What is it? Publication 703/358 2105. Available at: http://endangered.fws.gov.
[318] DEIR, p. 4.4-19.
[319] Id.
[320] Id.
[321] Id.

brodiaea.[322]

The DEIR lacks any discussion of Project impacts on PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea.

However, considering the aforementioned information, and given the Project involves the construction of roads through the San Jacinto River corridor, it's clear that the Project would impact PCEs for the thread-leaved brodiaea and that the DEIR's "less than significant" determination is not warranted.

C6-185 cont.

Moran's (=Spreading) Navarretia

The PEA indicates that portions of the Project site are within critical habitat for Moran's navarretia (also known as spreading navarretia).[323] The DEIR, however, omits this information. In addition, neither the DEIR nor the PEA provides any discussion of the PCEs for Moran's navarretia, and they do not provide analysis of Project impacts to critical habitat for the species. Because the DEIR lacks appropriate mitigation, the Project may have an unmitigated, significant impact on critical habitat for Moran's navarretia.

C6-186

The DEIR Lacks Valid Analysis of the Project's Indirect Impacts

Lighting and Noise

The PEA discusses two types of indirect impacts that may be caused by the Project: (1) night lighting and (2) noise.[324]

With respect to night lighting, the PEA states:

> Night lighting of the Proposed Project during and after construction is expected; this lighting could inadvertently affect the behavior patterns of nocturnal and crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk) wildlife adjacent to the selected site. Of greatest concern is the impact on small ground-dwelling animals that use the darkness to hide from predators, and on owls that are specialized night foragers. In addition, night lighting could inhibit wildlife from using the habitat adjacent to lighted areas.

C6-187

[322] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Revised Critical Habitat for *Brodiaea filifolia* (Thread-Leaved Brodiaea); Final Rule Federal Register / Vol. 76, No. 26 / Tuesday, February 8, 2011
[323] PEA, p. 4.4-71.
[324] Id, p. 4.4-84.

For noise, the PEA states:

> Noise levels on the selected site are expected to increase over present levels during construction of the proposed project. During construction, temporary noise impacts have the potential to disrupt foraging, nesting, roosting, and/or denning activities for wildlife species. In addition, noise impacts would also increase over present levels due to normal operation of the project. Wildlife species stressed by noise may disperse from the habitat located in the vicinity of the selected site.

C6-187 cont.

The PEA concludes both impacts are "considered adverse but not significant; therefore, no APMs are required."[325] The PEA lacks the basis for this conclusion. First, the PEA's conclusion that the impacts would not be significant lacks justification and is not substantiated by scientific analysis. To the contrary, the PEA's aforementioned discussion of the impacts suggests they may be significant. Second, the PEA explicitly states that "[i]ndirect impact analysis is subject to final Project Design."[326] Thus, how can one conclude indirect impacts would be less than significant if the analysis has yet to be completed?

The Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, and potentially other special-status small mammals occur in the Project area.[327] Heightened predation pressure due to night lighting could have significant consequences on these species, particularly because their populations are relatively small and vulnerable. In addition, research on the Stephens' kangaroo rat concluded anthropogenic noise may not only mask signaling among individuals, but that it may also function as a deceptive signal.[328] The researchers concluded the combined effects of communication disruption and signal deception may further tax already endangered populations of Stephens' kangaroo rats.[329]

Because the DEIR does not address the indirect impacts from lighting and noise, the Project could have unmitigated, significant indirect impacts on sensitive biological resources.

C6-188

[325] Id.
[326] Id.
[327] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[328] Shier DM, AJ Lea, MA Owen. 2011. Endangered Stephen's kangaroo rats respond to road noise with footdrumming. J. Acoust. Soc. Am., Vol. 130, No. 4, Pt. 2.
[329] Id.

Other Indirect Impacts

Neither the PEA nor DEIR address the numerous other indirect impacts that are likely to be caused by the Project. Vernal pool (or seasonal wetland) species are exceptionally vulnerable to indirect impacts. Indirect impacts to vernal pool species include dumping, trampling, vehicular activity, runoff, intrusion of nonnative species, hydrological changes, erosion, sedimentation, and fuel and chemical spills.[330] These impacts are discussed thoroughly in the USFWS' Recovery Plan for vernal pools of Southern California. C6-189

Avian predators, particularly raptors, are attracted to overhead utility lines because they provide perches for various activities, including hunting.[331] Transmission lines, towers, and poles increase hunting efficiency (i.e., greater chance of prey detection and attack success) of avian predators because the elevated perches provide increased visibility of the surrounding area.[332] This is especially true when transmission lines traverse areas with few elevated, natural perches.[333]

The Project would involve the installation of approximately 3.3 miles of new transmission lines supported by up to 90 new poles. These features would be located in a "raptor concentration area" that currently has few perches.[334] The creation of perch sites is likely to have adverse effects on the Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, and other special-status prey species. This conclusion is supported by the Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, which states constant predation pressure can push small populations of native mammals past the point of recovery and result in local extirpation.[335] C6-190

The DEIR Lacks Valid Analysis of the Project's Contribution to Cumulative Impacts C6-191

I have the following comments pertaining to the cumulative impacts analysis presented in the DEIR:

[330] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Vernal Pools of Southern California Recovery Plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 113+ pp.

[331] Lammers WM, MW Collopy. 2007. Effectiveness of Avian Predator Perch Deterrents on Electric Transmission Lines. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(8):2752-2758.
[332] Id.
[333] Id.
[334] PEA, p. 3-7.
[335] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. Available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A08Q#recovery

8. The DEIR indicates that its cumulative impacts analysis considered regional projects within a 10-mile radius of the Project site.[336] However, all of the projects listed in the DEIR are within three miles of the Project site.[337] I suspect it's unlikely that numerous projects occur within 3 miles of the Project, but that no projects occur between 3 and 10 miles away. C6-191 cont.
9. The DEIR reports the Applicant is not planning any other projects over 50-kV within one mile of any of the Project components.[338] This suggests the cumulative impacts analysis was limited to projects within a one-mile radius of the Project site. Analysis limited to projects within a one-mile (or even three-mile) radius would not be sufficient for many of the special-status species that occur in the Project area. For example, golden eagles often rely on foraging sites located several miles from their nest. C6-192
10. The list of projects considered in the cumulative analysis appears to have been generated sometime in 2011. It's unclear whether the DEIR's list of projects is current. C6-193
11. The list of projects considered in the DEIR does not appear to match the list provided in the PEA. C6-194
12. The list of projects considered in the DEIR does not appear to include existing (i.e., past and present) projects that may contribute to cumulative impacts. C6-195
13. The DEIR suggests the Project's relatively small footprint in relation to other potential projects justifies the conclusion that the Project would not cause a cumulatively considerable impact.[339] This suggestion lacks scientific merit because the DEIR does not consider the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts in relation to the known distribution and population status of each sensitive biological resource. Even "small" projects may have cumulatively considerable impacts on sensitive resources. For example, Coulter's goldfields is limited to primarily four locations in western Riverside County.[340] Although the Project might be considered "small," it likely would compromise the viability of one of these populations. C6-196
14. The DEIR further justifies its less than cumulatively considerable impact conclusion by stating: "the Project's incremental contribution to impacts on special-status plant and animal species would not be cumulatively considerable because the number and size of projects in the region are (1) few and small relative to the overall amount of remaining undeveloped land; and (2) western Riverside County is subject to the comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Western Riverside MSHCP that focuses on the conservation of species and their habitats."[341] This too is indefensible because (a) the DEIR does not substantiate the amount of "remaining undeveloped land" in the region or demonstrate that such land is adequately protected; (b) the Applicant has not committed to participating in the MSHCP; and (c) the DEIR's rationale fails to consider the Project's effects on fragmentation, patch dynamics, and species-area requirements.[342] C6-197

[336] DEIR, p. 6-10.
[337] Id, Table 6-1.
[338] Id, p. 6-1.
[339] Id, p. 6-11.
[340] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[341] DEIR, p. 6-12.
[342] Patch dynamics is a conceptual approach to ecosystem and habitat analysis that emphasizes dynamics of heterogeneity within a system. Species-area requirements refers to the knowledge that some species (e.g., golden eagle) are limited to large blocks of intact habitat.

The Project is not Consistent with the MSHCP

The DEIR indicates "[a] consistency analysis to determine the Project's consistency with the MSHCP criteria has not yet been prepared because SCE has not yet determined whether it would participate in the MSHCP for this Project."[343] The Applicant's acceptance into the MSHCP (or not) is fundamental to the adequacy of the DEIR. Because the Applicant has not committed to participating in the MSHCP the DEIR must provide comprehensive information on the environmental setting, and the Project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. For any potentially significant impacts, the DEIR must provide mitigation that includes performance standards and a monitoring and reporting program. The DEIR is inadequate in this regard.

Although the DEIR acknowledges consistency analysis has not been conducted, it somehow concludes the Project would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP.[344] Based on my review of the MSHCP and discussion with the County representative responsible for coordinating it, it's clear the currently proposed Project would conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP.[345]

C6-198

Planning Species

The Applicant's consultants detected several MSHCP "Group 3" species on the Project site. These include Los Angeles pocket mouse, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, Coulter's goldfield, and smooth tarplant. The MSHCP explicitly states that when Group 3 species are located on a project site as a result of survey efforts they shall be conserved in accordance with procedures described in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.[346] Section 6.3.2 states: "[f]or locations with positive survey results, 90% of those portions of the property that provide for long-term conservation value for the identified species shall be avoided until it is demonstrated that conservation goals for the particular species are met."[347]

The conservation goals have not yet been met for any of the Group 3 species.[348] Consequently, to meet the provisions of the MSHCP, the Applicant first must provide a rigorous and scientifically defensible assessment of the constituent elements needed for the long-term conservation of the identified species.[349] The Applicant then must avoid impacts to 90 percent of the Project site containing the constituent elements.

If a Group 3 species is detected on a project site, the requirements of Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP are not limited to analysis and avoidance of occupied sites. For example, if a Group 3 plant species is limited to a particular soil type, 90 percent of that soil type within the project site must be avoided irrespective of the plant's distribution.

C6-199

Core Areas and Species-Specific Conservation Objectives

[343] DEIR, p. 4.4-35
[344] Id, p. 4.4-34.
[345] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012.
[346] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[347] Id, Vol I, Section 6.3.2.
[348] Stephanie Standerfer, Dudek and Associates, Inc., personal communication with Scott Cashen on 24 Feb 2012.
[349] Id.

The Project area has been identified as a "Core Area" for many of the MSHCP Planning Species.[350] These include, but are not limited to (with MSHCP designation):

- San Jacinto Valley crownscale - (Group 3)
- Coulter's goldfields - (Group 3)
- Davidson's saltscale - (Group 3)
- Spreading navarretia - (Group 3)
- Smooth tarplant - (Group 3)
- Wright's trichocoronis - (Group 3)
- Parish's brittlescale[351] - (Group 3)
- Los Angeles pocket mouse – (Group 3)
- Mountain plover - (Group 3)
- Tricolored blackbird - (Group 3)
- Vernal barley - (Group 2)
- Western spadefoot - (Group 2)

Species-specific conservation objectives identified in the MSHCP include protecting the Core Area(s) that coincides with the Project site.[352] For some species, especially those that exhibit limited population size and distribution, protecting the Core Area is critical to the overall conservation strategy.[353]

C6-200

Fragmentation and Wildlife Movement Corridors

The MSHCP identifies the Project site as being located within Noncontiguous Habitat Block 5.[354] The MSHCP reports:

> As such, this Noncontiguous Habitat Block [Block 5] supports the species listed in the table below, including a *key population* of Bell's sage sparrow. Since surrounding land uses include a substantial amount of city and agriculture, and one alternative for the Highway 79 Realignment Corridor would impact the habitat block, treatment and management of edge conditions in these affected areas will be necessary to ensure that it maintains high quality sage scrub Habitat, particularly for the Bell's sage sparrow.[355]

The DEIR does not disclose the existence of this key population of Bell's sage sparrow, nor does it provide any analysis of the Project's contribution to fragmentation and edge effects.

A key objective of the Riverside County General Plan for the Lakeview/Nuevo area is to maintain and enhance linkage values of the San Jacinto River for wildlife movement and resident wildlife habitat.[356] Although the DEIR acknowledges the proposed Project is within an area that has features conducive to wildlife movement (i.e., a corridor), it lacks any dedicated analysis of

C6-201

[350] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[351] The MSHCP does not identify Core Areas for this species. However, it identifies the lower and middle segments of the San Jacinto River as a "Criteria Area" that may be key to the survival of the species. *See* MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[352] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[353] Id.
[354] DEIR, p. 4.4-7.
[355] MSHCP, Vol I, Section 3. [emphasis added].
[356] DEIR, p. 4.4-7.

the Project's impacts on corridor functions. Instead, it simply states that biological monitors would be on-site to aid crews in implementing avoidance measures during Project construction, and thus, any construction-related impacts to corridors would be short-term and less than significant.[357] The DEIR's justification is misdirected. Avoiding impacts to wildlife during construction has little relevance on the Project's long-term impacts to corridors.

C6-201 cont.

The Project involves construction of two roads that would bisect the San Jacinto River corridor. These roads, and associated disturbance (e.g., vegetation removal, soil compaction), would have long-term effects on corridor function. Organisms exhibit species-specific responses to roads depending on their habitat requirements. However, it is well established that many species exhibit substantial negative responses to roads (including dirt roads); that roads inhibit wildlife movement; and that roads isolate populations causing them to be at greater of extirpation.[358]

The DEIR Lacks Adequate Mitigation for Project Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife

Nesting Birds

Birds likely nest in the Project area. Nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA"), and in some cases the State and federal government. The DEIR provides the following mitigation for nesting birds:

> If vegetation clearing must take place during nesting season (February 1–August 31), a biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys prior to clearing for the sites that have potential to support nesting birds/raptors. If the biologist finds an active nest within or adjacent to the construction area and determines that there may be impacts to the nest, s/he will delineate an appropriate buffer zone around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the type of construction activity. Only construction activities (if any) approved by the biologist will take place within the buffer zone until the nest is vacated. If nests are found and cannot be avoided by the project activities, or if work is scheduled to take place near an active nest, SCE shall coordinate with the CDFG and USFWS and obtain written concurrence prior to moving the nest.[359]

C6-202

The pre-construction bird surveys and buffer zone proposed in the DEIR do not adequately avoid and minimize potentially significant impacts to nesting birds protected by the MBTA. Specifically,

[357] Id, p. 4.4-34.
[358] Sauvajot, R.M., M. Buechner, D. Kamradt, and C. Schonewald. 1998. Patterns of human disturbance and response by small mammals and birds in chaparral near urban development. Urban Ecosystems 2: 279-297. *See also* Clark BK, BS Clark, LA Johnson, MT Haynie. 2001. Influence of Roads on Movements of Small Mammals. The Southwestern Naturalist 46(3):338-344.
[359] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.

7. The DEIR needs to establish the timing of pre-construction breeding bird surveys in relation to ground disturbance activities. Some birds can build a nest and initiate egg-laying within a short period of time. The DEIR must establish the timing of pre-construction surveys such that birds will not be able to build a nest during the time that elapses between the pre-construction survey(s) and Project activities.

C6-202 cont.

8. The DEIR needs to establish the survey area, specifically the buffer zone around Project activities requiring surveys. The survey area should correspond with buffer sizes recommended by State and federal resource agencies, and/or research biologists. For example, to avoid nest abandonment of golden eagles and prairie falcons, Suter and Joness (1981) recommended a buffer of at least 1 km for construction and similar, noisy extended activities.[360]

C6-203

9. Even if vegetation clearing does not occur during the nesting season, bird nests in the vicinity of other construction activities may be adversely affected by the Project (e.g., due to noise disturbance).[361] As a result, pre-construction bird surveys should be required at all construction sites that are active during the breeding season.

C6-204

10. The DEIR must establish minimum standards for locating nests and minimizing human-induced disturbance. Research indicates nest finding is labor intensive and extremely difficult due to the tendency of many species to construct well-concealed or camouflaged nests.[362] In general, bird nests are located when a variety of search techniques are used and considerable time (e.g., multiple surveys) is devoted to the effort.[363]

C6-205

11. Biologists frequently are pressured into making decisions that are based on the needs of the construction contractor rather than the biological needs of the potentially afflicted organism. As a result, the DEIR needs to establish a minimum buffer size that is supported by scientific information. Prior to reducing the buffer, the appointed biologist must present credible scientific information to the USFWS and CDFG substantiating that a reduced buffer is "appropriate."

C6-206

12. The mitigation measure lacks monitoring, reporting, and compliance mechanisms that ensure the mitigation is effective and impacts to nesting birds are effectively avoided.

C6-207

These issues need to be resolved before the DEIR has the basis to conclude impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant.

Preconstruction Clearance Surveys

The Applicant proposes to conduct preconstruction biological clearance surveys at the Project site. If special-status species are present, biological monitors would be on-site, as needed during project implementation in suitable habitat areas to aid crews in implementing avoidance

C6-208

[360] Suter GW III, JL Joness. 1981. Criteria for Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon Nest Site Protection. Raptor Research 15(1):12-18.
[361] Kaseloo PA. 2006. Synthesis of noise effects on wildlife populations. IN: Proceedings of the 2005 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, Eds. Irwin CL, Garrett P, McDermott KP. Center for Transportation and the Environment, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC: pp. 33-35.
[362] DeSante DF, GR Geupel 1987. Landbird productivity in central coastal California: the relationship to annual rainfall and a reproductive failure in 1986. Condor. 89:636-653. *See also* Baicich PJ, CJ Harrison. 1997. A guide to the nests, eggs, and nestlings of North American Birds. 2nd ed. London: Academic Press.
[363] Martin TE, C Paine, CJ Conway, WM Hochacka 1996. BBIRD field protocol. Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Missoula (MT).

measures during Project construction. If adequate avoidance cannot be established, the Applicant would consider enrollment in the MSHCP as a Participating Special Entity or would coordinate with the USFWS and the CDFG for further guidance as appropriate. With these measures, the DEIR concludes any construction-related impacts would be short-term and less than significant.[364]

The proposed measures offer little assurance that they will adequately mitigate Project impacts.

First, the measures are entirely too vague to be effectively evaluated:

7. For which species will pre-construction surveys be conducted? Numerous special-status species are known to, or have the potential to, occur in the Project area.
8. What methods will be used to conduct the surveys? Some species are very difficult to detect and/or require specialized survey techniques. What measures will the biologist implement to detect and capture subterranean and less motile organisms (i.e., slow moving) that are incapable of fleeing the Project area?
9. What level of effort will be devoted to the surveys and what are the minimum qualifications required of the biologists that conduct the surveys?
10. What is the timing of pre-construction surveys in relation to Project activities?
11. What "avoidance measures" will be employed?
12. Will animals be translocated out of work areas? If animals are translocated, where will they be taken and what will prevent them from reentering the work area where they would be subject to direct impacts?

C6-208 cont.

Second, the proposed measures defer the formulation of important survey data and mitigation strategies until after the environmental review process terminates. For example, mitigation imposed by the DEIR states "[a]ny significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the WEAP [Worker Environmental Awareness Plan] training."[365] The intent of a DEIR is to disclose, analyze, and mitigate all potentially significant impacts such that there are not any *significant findings* after a project has commenced. Furthermore, the proposed mitigation measure lacks a mechanism for vetting what should (or shouldn't) be considered a "significant finding," and I contend that simply adding a "new finding" to the WEAP does not absolve the Project from having significant impacts.

C6-209

Third, the proposal to enroll in the MSHCP or to coordinate with the USFWS and CDFG if avoidance cannot be established may not be feasible. Both the MSHCP and regulatory agencies have provisions that mandate avoidance under certain circumstances.[366] If this occurs, the Project would need to be redesigned or abandoned midstream, wasting environmental resources and those of the Applicant.

C6-210

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

The DEIR proposes a habitat assessment as mitigation for potentially significant impacts to the Stephens' kangaroo rat. If the habitat assessment reveals potentially occupied habitat, trapping

C6-211

[364] DEIR, p. 4.4-34. *See also* Id, p. 4.4-27.
[365] Id, p. 4.4-27.
[366] *See* MSHCP, Section 6.3.2.

surveys would be conducted and the Applicant would pay a fee for the portion of the Project within the Telecommunications Route.[367]

C6-211 cont.

The proposed mitigation does not address the Project's significant impacts on the Stephen's kangaroo rat ("SKR"). Trapping surveys have confirmed that the Stephen's kangaroo rat occurs throughout much of the Project area, and that disturbance activities associated with the Project "*will definitely or potentially result in the "take"* of resident SKR."[368] Consequently, the Project cannot proceed until the Applicant obtains incidental take permit coverage from the USFWS and CDFG. This is further enforced through Riverside County Ordinance 663.10, which states *occupied habitat* for Stephen's kangaroo rat cannot be altered without a Section 10(a) Permit from the USFWS.

The Applicant's small mammal expert recommended several measures to minimize take and habitat disturbance to the Stephens' kangaroo rat.[369] Incredibly, the DEIR omits all of the expert's recommendations. The expert's recommendations are feasible, and they should be incorporated into the Project's mitigation.

C6-212

Riverside Fairy Shrimp

I have the following comments pertaining to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for the Riverside fairy shrimp:

8. The DEIR indicates: "[i]f significant impacts to [fairy shrimp] habitat are unavoidable, focused [protocol] surveys will need to be conducted prior to construction activities."[370] The proposed mitigation does not appear to be feasible. As the DEIR acknowledges, Riverside fairy shrimp surveys require either a wet season survey, followed by a consecutive dry season survey, or two wet season surveys done within a five-year period.[371] Although the DEIR does not provide the Project's timeline, it indicates the objective of the Project is to begin service by mid-2013, and that construction is anticipated to take 12 months.[372] This suggests construction would begin in mid-2012, before the Applicant could conduct the two surveys required by federal protocol.

C6-213

9. As previously discussed, the Applicant's consultant failed to identify all potentially suitable habitat for fairy shrimp in the Project area. Consequently, the DEIR must identify a reliable means for having all potentially affected fairy shrimp habitat surveyed prior to construction.

C6-214

[367] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[368] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jul 8. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. *See also* SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site.
[369] SJM Consultants. 2011 Jan 12. Results of habitat assessment and trapping survey for sensitive small mammals at the Lakeview Substation and Transmission Line Project site. p. 9.
[370] DEIR, p. 4.4-27.
[371] Id.
[372] Id, p. ES-2. *See also* Id, p. 1-2.

10. The proposed measure inappropriately defers establishing the environmental setting for a federally endangered species until after Project approval. C6-215
11. The measure identifies the actions the Applicant "shall consider" if Riverside fairy shrimp are found.[373] The DEIR needs to specify the actions the Applicant *will* implement if Riverside fairy shrimp are detected, or if other special-status wildlife (e.g., the federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp) are detected during the surveys. C6-216
12. The DEIR indicates: "[i]mpacts to Riverside fairy shrimp habitat will be avoided to the extent feasible in the final Project Design."[374] The DEIR needs to define what is considered "feasible." C6-217
13. The DEIR further indicates that "[h]abitat areas will be marked as "off limits" in construction plans and specifications." Fairy shrimp can be adversely affected by water pollution, hydrological changes, erosion, and other indirect impacts.[375] Consequently, the DEIR needs to specify the minimum buffer size needed to protect "habitat areas" from indirect impacts. C6-218
14. Because the Riverside fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp have the potential to occur in the Project area, and because the Applicant has not conducted surveys supporting their absence, I believe Endangered Species Act consultation with the USFWS is warranted. C6-219

[373] Id, p. 4.4-27.
[374] Id.
[375] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Vernal Pools of Southern California Recovery Plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 113+ pp.

Burrowing Owl

I have the following comments pertaining to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for the burrowing owl:

6. The DEIR identifies mitigation that will be implemented if any active burrowing owl burrows are "found during survey efforts."[376] However, the mitigation measure does not identify the surveys that will be required or whether surveyors will be required to adhere to CDFG survey guidelines for the burrowing owl. Because the surveys previously conducted for the Project did not adhere to the standards identified in the CDFG guidelines, they do not provide the data needed to minimize impacts to burrowing owl.[377] Consequently, the DEIR needs to identify the survey methods and effort required as mitigation. C6-220
7. The proposed mitigation measure indicates biologists may actively relocate owls out of the Project area. Historically the CDFG has not allowed burrowing owls to be actively relocated (although passive relocation is permitted) C6-221
8. The proposed measure does not incorporate mitigation strategies recommended by the CDFG. These strategies include (a) the enhancement or creation of surrogate burrows; (b) the provision of compensation habitat; and (c) implementation of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that incorporates success criteria. C6-222
9. The current strategy for surveys and the eviction of owls out of the Project area does not mitigate potentially significant impacts to the species. C6-223
10. The burrowing owl is a "Group 3" species in the MSHCP. Therefore, if burrowing owls are detected in the Project area, and if the Applicant elects to participate in MSHCP, the Applicant will be required to adhere to the procedures described within Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.[378] If the Applicant does not participate in the MSHCP, habitat compensation should be required as mitigation. C6-224

Raptor Electrocution and Collision

The DEIR requires the Applicant to follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee ("APLIC") guidelines for avian protection on powerlines. The DEIR concludes this mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. This conclusion is unjustified for three reasons: C6-225

First, as the DEIR acknowledges, "[i]n spite of the best efforts to minimize avian electrocutions, some degree of mortality may always occur due to influences that cannot be controlled, e.g.

[376] DEIR, p. 4.4-28.
[377] Burrowing owl surveys were limited to 50-foot buffers and select portions of the Project area. CDFG guidelines recommended a 500-foot buffer. Additionally, it appears the surveys did not encompass all potentially suitable habitat in the Project area, although the survey reports lack the information needed to make this determination.
[378] *See* MSHCP, Vol I, Section 6.3.2.

weather."[379] The Eagle Act and MBTA are strict liability statutes; the killing of any eagle or other protected migratory bird is not technically allowed under law unless a permit is obtained, and the Service does not issue "incidental or accidental take" permits. Therefore, any mortality without a permit would violate federal law and would constitute a significant impact. C6-225 cont.

Second, the DEIR lacks any mitigation for avian *collisions* with the Project's powerlines or poles. Marker balls, bird diverters, and paint on transmission lines have been shown to reduce collisions, sometimes significantly.[380] These measures are feasible, and they should be required mitigation for the Project. C6-226

Third, if avian mortality is likely to occur, the DEIR needs to put anticipated mortality into context before concluding impacts would be less-than-significant. This entails species-specific analyses that examine regional population status and susceptibility to threats. For example, some species in the Project area (e.g., golden eagle) may be so imperiled that even a few Project-induced mortalities could lead to extirpation in the region. The DEIR does not conduct these analyses, nor does it provide the data needed for an independent assessment. C6-227

The DEIR Lacks Adequate Mitigation for Impacts to Special-Status Plants

San Jacinto Valley Crownscale

I have the following comments pertaining to the mitigation measures that have been proposed for Project impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale: C6-228

7. San Jacinto Valley crownscale is a MSHCP Group 3 species. If the Applicant solicits coverage under the MSHCP it will need to conform to the procedures listed in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. The Applicant has not met the requirements of these procedures.
8. San Jacinto Valley crownscale is a federally endangered species. Consequently, if the Applicant does not solicit coverage under the MSHCP it will need to obtain an incidental take permit from the USFWS. C6-229
9. The proposed mitigation measure defers establishing the extent of Project impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale. C6-230
10. The DEIR needs to define the minimum buffer size (i.e., "ESA") afforded to San Jacinto Valley crownscale plants. Although appropriate buffer size may be species-specific, the California Energy Commission has recommended buffers of at least 250 feet to avoid indirect impacts to rare plant populations.[381] C6-231

[379] DEIR, p. 4.4-32.
[380] Manville AM II. 2005. Bird Strikes and Electrocutions at Power Lines, Communication Towers, and Wind Turbines: State of the Art and State of the Science –Next Steps Toward Mitigation. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-191.

[381] California Energy Commission. 2010 Jul. Supplemental Staff Assessment for the Calico Solar Project. p. C.2-53.

11. The distribution and abundance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale varies considerably from year to year in response hydrology and weather conditions.[382] In addition, a viable seed bank may exist in the soil even if San Jacinto Valley crownscale fails to germinate.[383] As a result, (a) the Applicant cannot rely on survey data that is three years old to avoid impacts to the species; (b) future surveys conducted during low rainfall years (e.g., 2012) would likely provide insufficient data on the distribution and abundance of the species; and (c) direct and indirect impacts to the species and its habitat are likely to occur regardless of avoidance efforts. C6-232
12. The DEIR lacks fundamental information on the proposed mitigation plan. This includes performance standards for mitigation sites, the duration of monitoring efforts, whether compensation will be provided, actions that will be taken to ensure the long-term conservation of the species (e.g., conservation easement), and remedial actions that will be taken if performance standards are not met. C6-233

Other Special-Status Plants

Mitigation that has been proposed for Project impacts to other special-status plant species suffers many of the same problems as those described for the San Jacinto Valley crownscale. Specifically, C6-234

7. The Applicant's consultant detected smooth tarplant and Coulter's goldfields on the Project site, and several other MSHCP Group 3 species have been documented occurring in the Project area.[384] If the Applicant solicits coverage under the MSHCP it will need to conform to the procedures listed in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. The Applicant has not met the requirements of these procedures.
8. Coulter's goldfields in known primarily from four areas in western Riverside County.[385] Of these, the San Jacinto River population is the largest remaining population representing 70 percent to 90 percent of all Coulter's goldfields known.[386] Similarly, smooth tarplant is primarily restricted to the alkali floodplains of the San Jacinto River.[387] Consequently, any Project impacts to these species, their habitat, or the ecological processes on which they depend, would be relatively severe. C6-235
9. The distribution and abundance of the special-status species that occur (or may occur) in the Project area are known to vary annually, and the species may be difficult to detect during dry years. As a result, it's indefensible for the DEIR to conclude that a single year of survey data (from 2009) can be used to avoid impacts. C6-236
10. The MSHCP reports many of the special-status plants that occur along the floodplains of the San Jacinto River likely require significantly more habitat than is occupied during any one season to maintain population dynamics within the watershed and the microhabitat diversity upon which the taxa depend.[388] As a result, the DEIR must provide additional mitigation measures to reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level. C6-237

[382] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[383] Id.
[384] California Natural Diversity Database. 2009. Rarefind [computer program]. Version 3.1.0. Aug 9, 2011. Sacramento (CA): Wildlife & Habitat Data Analysis Branch. California Department of Fish and Game.
[385] MSHCP, Vol II, Species Accounts.
[386] Id.
[387] Id.
[388] Id.

11. The DEIR needs to provide a scientifically defensible buffer size for special-status plant populations. C6-238
12. The DEIR must identify the performance standards and other components of the special-status plant mitigation plan. C6-239

Rare Plant Surveys

Special-status plant surveys have not been completed for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3. The DEIR proposes completion of the surveys as mitigation. The DEIR suggests the Applicant would coordinate with the CDFG and/or USFWS if any listed species are detected during the surveys. The DEIR concludes the proposed mitigation would reduce impacts to less than significant. I disagree with this conclusion.

First, without information on the species that occur—and as a result, the level and types of Project impacts on those species—the DEIR cannot conclude coordinating with the resource agencies would reduce Project impacts to less than significant levels. A conclusion of this nature would rely on the unrealistic presumption that all impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level. C6-240

Second, the DEIR offers no mitigation for "non-listed" special-status species, which may be as imperiled as listed ones. C6-241

Third, CDFG survey guidelines indicate surveys over a number of years may be necessary if the species is (a) an annual plant having a persistent, long-lived seed bank; and (b) known not to germinate every year. Many of the special-status species that have the potential to occur along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 exhibit these characteristics (e.g., Munz's onion, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, and thread-leaved brodiaea).[389] The DEIR does not require multi-year surveys, nor does it provide a remedial plan in the event there is inadequate rainfall to stimulate germination (and thus, detection). C6-242

The DEIR Lacks Adequate or Enforceable Mitigation for Impacts to Habitat

The DEIR indicates the Applicant would restore all areas that are temporarily disturbed by Project activities once construction is complete.[390] Activities associated with restoration of these C6-243

[389] Id.
[390] DEIR, p. 2-28.

areas would include restoring original contours and "reseeding with an appropriate seed mix, to the extent feasible."[391] The DEIR lacks information vital to evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed restoration activities. Specifically, the DEIR fails to identify: (a) performance standards; (b) whether the proposed mitigation will be accompanied by monitoring and reporting (and if so, how frequently and for what duration); (c) the timeline for the proposed restoration activities; (d) the seed species and their source (to avoid genetic contamination); (e) what is considered "feasible;" and (f) remedial actions that will be taken if restoration efforts are unsuccessful. This issue is confounded by the DEIR's failure to require restoration as an enforceable mitigation measure. C6-243 cont.

Natural resource restoration is challenging under any circumstances and it can be extremely difficult in arid environments.[392] Until the aforementioned issues have been resolved, all temporary Project impacts should be considered permanent.

Weed Management

It is well established that construction and other ground disturbance activities promote the establishment and spread of non-native plants (i.e., weeds). The potential for the introduction and spread of weeds as a result of the Project extends well beyond the construction phase. For example, weed seeds that are spread by Project activities may not germinate for several years (e.g., until environmental conditions such as rainfall are appropriate). Because the Project will entail periodic disturbance (e.g., from maintenance activities), it has the potential to spread and introduce weeds throughout its lifespan. C6-244

The introduction and spread of non-native plants as a result of the Project has the potential to result in numerous adverse environmental effects. For example, non-native plants can displace native (and perhaps sensitive) plant species, and they can degrade wildlife habitat by eliminating food sources, cover, and breeding sites. The DEIR does not discuss or provide mitigation for these potentially significant impacts.

Significance of Project Impacts After Mitigation

The majority of the mitigation measures proposed in the DEIR are limited to (1) pre-construction surveys; and (2) avoidance and protection measures. The DEIR concludes these actions would make Project impacts less than significant.[393] The DEIR's conclusion is unfounded. C6-245

[391] Id, p. 2-29.
[392] Lovich, J. E., and D. Bainbridge. 1999. Anthropogenic Degradation of the Southern California Desert Ecosystem and Prospects for Natural Recovery and Restoration. Environmental Management Vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 309–326.
[393] DEIR, p. 4.4-31.

First, pre-construction surveys do not mitigate potentially significant impacts. Many of the plant and animal species that are present on the Project site are very difficult to detect. It is well established that there is imperfect detection (<100% of individuals are detected) of these species, and that any effort to achieve perfect detection would—in itself—result in impacts (e.g., due to vegetation trampling). Consequently, it is entirely unreasonable for the DEIR to suggest that surveys and subsequent avoidance measures would reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level. C6-245 cont.

Second, language in the DEIR suggests the Applicant would do everything feasibly possible to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. This suggestion lacks credibility. The Applicant already has indicated it intends to use a backhoe instead of an auger "to expedite" installation of transmission poles, even though auger use is feasible, and almost certainly would reduce impacts.[394] C6-246

Third, all of the special-status species that occur (or potentially occur) on the Project site are threatened by habitat loss. Although the Project undeniably would have direct impacts on habitat for several special-status species, the DEIR does not provide any mitigation for impacts to habitat.[395]

As a result of these, and the other issues discussed herein, it is my professional opinion that the currently proposed Project would result in significant, unmitigated impacts to sensitive biological resources. C6-247

Sincerely,

Scott Cashen, M.S.

Senior Biologist

[394] Id, p. 2-24.
[395] Id, p. 4.4-29.

Scott Cashen, M.S.
Senior Biologist / Forest Ecologist
3264 Hudson Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. (925) 256-9185. scottcashen@gmail.com

Scott Cashen has 20 years of professional experience in natural resources management. During that time he has worked as a field biologist, forester, environmental consultant, and instructor of Wildlife Management. Mr. Cashen currently operates an independent consulting business that focuses on CEQA/NEPA compliance issues, endangered species, scientific field studies, and other topics that require a high level of scientific expertise.

Mr. Cashen has knowledge and experience with many taxa, biological resource issues, and environmental regulations. This knowledge and experience has made him a highly sought after biological resources expert. To date, he has been retained as a biological resources expert for over 40 projects. Mr. Cashen's role in this capacity has encompassed all stages of the environmental review process, from initial document review through litigation support and expert witness testimony.

Mr. Cashen is a recognized expert on the environmental impacts of renewable energy development. He has been involved in the environmental review process for 28 renewable energy projects, and he has been a biological resources expert for more of California's solar energy projects than any other private consultant. In 2010, Mr. Cashen testified on 5 of the Department of the Interior's "Top 6 Fast-tracked Solar Projects" and his testimony influenced the outcome of each of these projects. C6-248

Mr. Cashen is a versatile scientist capable of addressing numerous aspects of natural resource management simultaneously. Because of Mr. Cashen's expertise in both forestry and biology, Calfire had him prepare the biological resource assessments for all of its fuels treatment projects in Riverside and San Diego Counties following the 2003 Cedar Fire. Mr. Cashen has led field studies on several special-status species, including plants, fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Mr. Cashen has been the technical editor of several resource management documents, and his strong scientific writing skills have enabled him to secure grant funding for several clients.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- CEQA, NEPA, and Endangered Species Act compliance issues
- Comprehensive biological resource assessments
- Endangered species management
- Renewable energy
- Forest fuels reduction and timber harvesting
- Scientific field studies, grant writing and technical editing

EDUCATION
M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science - The Pennsylvania State University (1998)
B.S. Resource Management - The University of California, Berkeley (1992)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Litigation Support / Expert Witness

As a biological resources expert, Mr. Cashen reviews CEQA/NEPA documents and provides his client(s) with an assessment of biological resource issues. He then prepares written comments on the scientific and legal adequacy of the project's environmental documents (e.g., EIR). For projects requiring California Energy Commission (CEC) approval, Mr. Cashen has submitted written testimony (opening and rebuttal) in conjunction with oral testimony before the CEC.

Mr. Cashen can lead field studies to generate evidence for legal testimony, and he can incorporate testimony from his deep network of species-specific experts. Mr. Cashen's clients have included law firms, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Solar Energy Facilities
- Abengoa Mojave Solar Project
- Avenal Energy Power Plant
- Beacon Solar Energy Project
- Blythe Solar Power Project
- Calico Solar Project
- Calipatria Solar Farm II
- Carrizo Energy Solar Farm
- Catalina Renewable Energy Project
- Fink Road Solar Farm
- Genesis Solar Energy Project
- Heber Solar Energy Facility
- Imperial Valley Solar Project
- Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating
- Maricopa Sun Solar Complex
- Mt. Signal and Calexico Solar
- San Joaquin Solar I & II
- Solar Gen II Projects
- SR Solis Oro Loma
- Vestal Solar Facilities
- Victorville 2 Power Project

Geothermal Energy Facilities
- East Brawley Geothermal
- Mammoth Pacific 1 Replacement
- Western GeoPower Plant and

Wind Energy Facilities
- Catalina Renewable Energy Project
- Ocotillo Express Wind Energy
- San Diego County Wind Ordinance
- Tres Vaqueros Repowering Project
- Vasco Winds Relicensing Project

Biomass Facilities
- Tracy Green Energy Project

Development Projects
- Alves Ranch
- Aviano
- Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan
- Columbus Salame
- Concord Naval Weapons Station
- Faria Annexation
- Live Oak Master Plan
- Napa Pipe
- Roddy Ranch
- Rollingwood
- Sprint-Nextel Tower

C6-248 cont.

Project Management

Mr. Cashen has managed several large-scale wildlife, forestry, and natural resource management projects. Many of these projects have required hiring and training field crews, coordinating with other professionals, and communicating with project stakeholders. Mr. Cashen's experience in study design, data collection, and scientific writing make him an effective project manager, and his background in several different natural resource disciplines enable him to address the many facets of contemporary land management in a cost-effective manner.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Studies

- Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Resource Use and Behavior Study: (*CA State Parks*)
- "KV" Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk Inventory: (*USFS, Plumas NF*)
- Amphibian Inventory Project: (*USFS, Plumas NF*)
- San Mateo Creek Steelhead Restoration Project: (*Trout Unlimited and CA Coastal Conservancy, Orange County*)
- Delta Meadows State Park Special-status Species Inventory: (*CA State Parks, Locke*)

Natural Resources Management

- Mather Lake Resource Management Study and Plan – (*Sacramento County*)
- Placer County Vernal Pool Study – (*Placer County*)
- Weidemann Ranch Mitigation Project – (*Toll Brothers, Inc., San Ramon*)
- Ion Communities Biological Resource Assessments – (*Ion Communities, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties*)
- Del Rio Hills Biological Resource Assessment – (*The Wyro Company, Rio Vista*)

Forestry

- Forest Health Improvement Projects – (*CalFire, SD and Riverside Counties*)
- San Diego Bark Beetle Tree Removal Project – (*SDG&E, San Diego Co.*)
- San Diego Bark Beetle Tree Removal Project – (*San Diego County/NRCS*)
- Hillslope Monitoring Project – (*CalFire, throughout California*)

C6-248 cont.

Biological Resources

Mr. Cashen has a diverse background with biological resources. He has conducted comprehensive biological resource assessments, habitat evaluations, species inventories, and scientific peer review. Mr. Cashen has led investigations on several special-status species, including ones focusing on the foothill yellow-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, desert tortoise, steelhead, burrowing owl, California spotted owl, northern goshawk, willow flycatcher, Peninsular bighorn sheep, red panda, and forest carnivores.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Avian

- Study design and Lead Investigator - Delta Meadows State Park Special-Status Species Inventory *(CA State Parks: Locke)*
- Study design and lead bird surveyor - Placer County Vernal Pool Study *(Placer County: throughout Placer County)*
- Surveyor - Willow flycatcher habitat mapping *(USFS: Plumas NF)*
- Independent surveyor - Tolay Creek, Cullinan Ranch, and Guadacanal Village restoration projects *(Ducks Unlimited/USGS: San Pablo Bay)*
- Study design and Lead Investigator - Bird use of restored wetlands research *(Pennsylvania Game Commission: throughout Pennsylvania)*
- Study design and surveyor - Baseline inventory of bird species at a 400-acre site in Napa County *(HCV Associates: Napa)*
- Surveyor - Baseline inventory of bird abundance following diesel spill *(LFR Levine-Fricke: Suisun Bay)*
- Study design and lead bird surveyor - Green Valley Creek Riparian Restoration Site *(City of Fairfield: Fairfield, CA)*
- Surveyor - Burrowing owl relocation and monitoring *(US Navy: Dixon, CA)*
- Surveyor - Pre-construction raptor and burrowing owl surveys *(various clients and locations)*
- Surveyor - Backcountry bird inventory *(National Park Service: Eagle, Alaska)*
- Lead surveyor - Tidal salt marsh bird surveys (*Point Reyes Bird Observatory: throughout Bay Area*)
- Surveyor – Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds (*various clients and locations)*

Amphibian

- Crew Leader - Red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and mountain yellow-legged frog surveys *(USFS: Plumas NF)*

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- Surveyor - Foothill yellow-legged frog surveys *(PG&E: North Fork Feather River)*
- Surveyor - Mountain yellow-legged frog surveys *(El Dorado Irrigation District: Desolation Wilderness)*
- Crew Leader - Bullfrog eradication *(Trout Unlimited: Cleveland NF)*

Fish and Aquatic Resources

- Surveyor - Hardhead minnow and other fish surveys *(USFS: Plumas NF)*
- Surveyor - Weber Creek aquatic habitat mapping (*El Dorado Irrigation District: Placerville, CA*)
- Surveyor - Green Valley Creek aquatic habitat mapping *(City of Fairfield: Fairfield, CA)*
- GPS Specialist - Salmonid spawning habitat mapping *(CDFG: Sacramento River)*
- Surveyor - Fish composition and abundance study (*PG&E: Upper North Fork Feather River and Lake Almanor*)
- Crew Leader - Surveys of steelhead abundance and habitat use *(CA Coastal Conservancy: Gualala River estuary)*
- Crew Leader - Exotic species identification and eradication *(Trout Unlimited: Cleveland NF)*

Mammals

- Principal Investigator – Peninsular bighorn sheep resource use and behavior study (*California State Parks: Freeman Properties*)
- Scientific Advisor –Study on red panda occupancy and abundance in eastern Nepal *(The Red Panda Network: CA and Nepal)*
- Surveyor - Forest carnivore surveys *(University of CA: Tahoe NF)*
- Surveyor - Relocation and monitoring of salt marsh harvest mice and other small mammals *(US Navy: Skagg's Island, CA)*
- Surveyor – Surveys for Monterey dusky-footed woodrat. Relocation of woodrat houses (*Touré Associates: Prunedale*)

Natural Resource Investigations / Multiple Species Studies

- Scientific Review Team Member – Member of the science review team assessing the effectiveness of the US Forest Service's implementation of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act.
- Lead Consultant - Baseline biological resource assessments and habitat mapping for CDF management units *(CDF: San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties)*

C6-248 cont.

- Biological Resources Expert – Peer review of CEQA/NEPA documents (*Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardoza: California)*
- Lead Consultant - Pre- and post-harvest biological resource assessments of tree removal sites *(SDG&E: San Diego County)*
- Crew Leader - T&E species habitat evaluations for Biological Assessment in support of a steelhead restoration plan *(Trout Unlimited: Cleveland NF)*
- Lead Investigator - Resource Management Study and Plan for Mather Lake Regional Park *(County of Sacramento: Sacramento, CA)*
- Lead Investigator - Biological Resources Assessment for 1,070-acre Alfaro Ranch property *(Yuba County, CA)*
- Lead Investigator - Wildlife Strike Hazard Management Plan *(HCV Associates: Napa)*
- Lead Investigator - Del Rio Hills Biological Resource Assessment *(The Wyro Company: Rio Vista, CA)*
- Lead Investigator – Ion Communities project sites (*Ion Communities: Riverside and San Bernardino Counties*)
- Surveyor – Tahoe Pilot Project: Validation of California's Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) Model *(University of California: Tahoe NF)*

C6-248 cont.

Forestry

Mr. Cashen has five years of experience working as a consulting forester on projects throughout California. Mr. Cashen has consulted with landowners and timber operators on forest management practices; and he has worked on a variety of forestry tasks including selective tree marking, forest inventory, harvest layout, erosion control, and supervision of logging operations. Mr. Cashen's experience with many different natural resources enable him to provide a holistic approach to forest management, rather than just management of timber resources.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Lead Consultant - CalFire fuels treatment projects *(SD and Riverside Counties)*
- Lead Consultant and supervisor of harvest activities – San Diego Gas and Electric Bark Beetle Tree Removal Project *(San Diego)*
- Crew Leader - Hillslope Monitoring Program *(CalFire: throughout California)*
- Consulting Forester – Forest inventories and timber harvest projects *(various clients throughout California)*

Grant Writing and Technical Editing

Mr. Cashen has prepared and submitted over 50 proposals and grant applications. Many of the projects listed herein were acquired through proposals he wrote. Mr. Cashen's clients and colleagues have recognized his strong scientific writing skills and ability to generate technically superior proposal packages. Consequently, he routinely prepares funding applications and conducts technical editing for various clients.

PERMITS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit for the Peninsular bighorn sheep

CA Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / ASSOCIATIONS

The Wildlife Society (Conservation Affairs Committee member)

Cal Alumni Foresters

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Scientific Advisor and Grant Writer – *The Red Panda Network*

Scientific Advisor – *Mt. Diablo Audubon Society*

Grant Writer – *American Conservation Experience*

Scientific Advisor and Land Committee Member – *Save Mt. Diablo*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor: Wildlife Management - The Pennsylvania State University, 1998

Teaching Assistant: Ornithology - The Pennsylvania State University, 1996-1997

C6-248 cont.

ATTACHMENT B

SWAPE Technical Consultation, Data Analysis and Litigation Support for the Environment

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Richard Drury
Lozeau | Drury LLP
410 12th Street, Suite 250
Oakland, CA94607

Subject: Comments on the Southern California Edison Lakeview Substation

Dear Mr. Drury:

We have reviewed the January 2012 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project (Project). The proposed project will construct a 115/12 kilovolt substation, two 115 kilovolt subtransmission line segments to service the substation, two underground 12 kilovolt distribution getaways, and facilities to connect the proposed substation to existing fiber-optic telecommunications systems on 5.4 acres of land in unincorporated Riverside County, California (Site). C6-249

Our analysis shows that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) does not adequately analyze potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials and air quality.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), included as Appendix D-1 to the DEIR, indicates that the proposed project will be built on land that has a long history agricultural use. The Phase I ESA states that the Site is being currently used to grow potatoes. According to a publication by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), fumigants such as methyl bromide, metam sodium, chloropicrin, and dichloropropene are commonly used on potatoes.[396] The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies methyl bromide as highly toxic and warns that exposure and inhalation of the pesticide can cause severe lung injury and impair respiratory function.[397] The half-life of methyl bromide in the soil is 31 to 55 days.[398] C6-250

[396] Hhttp://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/arei/ah722/arei4_3/AREI4_3pestmgt.pdf
[397] Hhttp://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/methylbr.html

Alfalfa is a common crop grown in Lakeview and Riverside County and may have also been cultivated at the Site. The cultivation of alfalfa typically involves the application of pesticides, including carbamates.[399] Carbendazim, in the family of carbamates, can have a half-life of up to 6 months in soil.[400] C6-251

Because of the Site's long history of agriculture, soil sampling should be conducted for residual pesticide levels. Because potatoes are currently grown on Site, methyl bromide is most likely present in soil and may persist into the construction phase. During construction, workers may be exposed to residual pesticides when inhaling dust or when handing soil. Soil sampling should be conducted throughout the Site to ensure that the pesticides on the Site, used for the historical and ongoing agricultural processes, are not present in concentrations that could pose harmful health effects to construction workers. The results of the sampling and an analysis of potential health effects should be included in a revised DEIR. C6-252

The Phase I ESA identifies a water well on the property that was abandoned because of high selenium concentrations in groundwater. The Phase I ESA identifies a water well on the property that was abandoned because of high selenium concentrations but also states that it was 'not properly abandoned' (p. D-11). The California Water Code states that improperly abandoned water wells can be a source of groundwater contamination and a threat to public health. A Well Completion Report needs to be filled out and filed with the California Department of Water Resources. [401] The well should be properly abandoned, as the Phase I ESA itself notes, in accordance with the Riverside County Environmental Health Requirements and all other state requirements prior to any construction beginning on Site. C6-253

The DEIR states that the current Nuevo Station and Model Pole Top facilities include equipment such as transformers and circuit breakers that contain 17,500 gallons of mineral oil (DEIR, p. 4.9-3). Prior to project construction, the equipment will be decommissioned. The DEIR acknowledges that, historically, mineral oil constituents can include elements of concern such as lead, petroleum hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphyenyls (PCBs) (DEIR, p. 4.9-3). However, the DEIR does not provide any mitigation measures to address spillage of this oil during decommissioning activities. The DEIR states only that testing of mineral oil will be conducted during dismantling to see if it is contaminated with PCBs. C6-254

Testing should instead occur prior to decommissioning. Test results and any appropriate mitigation measures to protect worker health should be included in a revised DEIR. Additionally, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) should be prepared now and included in a revised DEIR, not following certification as proposed in the DEIR. C6-255

The Project will install approximately 73 wood poles (DEIR, p. 2-24) and remove 18 existing poles (DEIR, p. 4.9-4). The new and existing poles are likely to have been treated with C6-256

[398] National Pesticide Information Center. Methyl Bromide (Technical Fact Sheet). Hhttp://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/MBtech.pdf
[399] Hhttp://www.dtsc.ca.gov/InformationResources/Glossary_of_Environmental_Terms.cfmH
[400] Hhttp://www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc64.htm
[401] Hhttp://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/well_info_and_other/well_completion_reports.cfm

pentachlorophenol which is used as a wood preservative. Pentachlorophenol on utility poles may be a source of contamination for stormwater runoff, especially in areas where new or decommissioned poles are stored. Mitigation measures should be identified in a revised DEIR to address this potential source of stormwater contamination. C6-256 cont.

Air Quality

Construction activities will generate emissions of NOx and PM10 that exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds (p. 4.3-15) and are acknowledged to be "cumulatively considerable" (Table ES-1, p. ES-13). The Air Quality Analysis section in the DEIR states that even with mitigation measures 4.3-1a, Exhaust Emissions Control Plan, and 4.3-1b, Fugitive Dust Control Plan, NOx emissions will still be significant during construction (p. 4.3-18). The DEIR also states that during construction the Project would emit PM10 emissions at significant and harmful concentrations (p. 4.3-19). According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), PM10 is among the most harmful of pollutants. Exposure to PM10 can worsen lung conditions, including asthma and bronchitis.[402]

The DEIR should evaluate all feasible mitigation measures that are known to reduce construction emissions to levels below thresholds. Measures that are routinely considered in CEQA projects are listed below.[403]

- Any equipment emissions found to exceed 40 percent opacity shall be repaired immediately, and the lead agency notified within 48 hours of identification of non-compliant equipment.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that active grading and parking areas are watered at least twice daily.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that exposed stockpiles are enclosed, covered, watered twice daily.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that all trucks hauling dirt, sand, silt, or other loose materials are covered or maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- The construction contractor shall utilize ultra-low sulfur fuel (< 15 parts per million).
- The construction contractor shall establish an idling limit (e.g., 5 minutes per hour).
- Equipment shall be tuned to manufacturers' specifications at the manufacturers' recommended frequency.
- Any tampering with engines shall be prohibited and continuing adherence to manufacturer's recommendations will be required.
- Receipts of ultra-low sulfur fuel purchase and equipment tuning/repair shall be kept and made available upon request.

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[402] Hhttp://www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm
[403] See for example, Hhttp://www.sacrt.com/dna/pdfs/MOS-1FEIR/Section%203_Revised%20DEIR%20Pages/5.1%20Air%20Quality.doc.pdfH

These measures were not contemplated in Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a, Exhaust Emissions Control Plan or 4.3-1b, Fugitive Dust Control Plan. Mitigation, to the maximum extent possible, is critical because sensitive receptors are located close to the project as follow (p. 4.3-5): C6-257 cont.

- The proposed Lakeview Substation site is also approximately 0.25 mile south-southwest of Mountain Shadows Middle School and Nuview Bridge Early College High School.
- The proposed Lakeview Substation and Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two would be as close as approximately 0.25 mile north-northwest, and 1,000 feet west of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively.
- One residence along 11th Street would be approximately 50 feet east of Segment Two and there are also residential properties along Lakeview Avenue that would be as close as 1,000 feet from Segment Two.

C6-258

A revised DEIR needs to be prepared that identifies additional mitigation measures as outlined and all other feasible mitigation measures to provide for a greater degree of emissions reductions.

Sincerely,

Matt Hagemann, P.G., C. Hg.

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Geologic and Hydrogeologic Characterization
Investigation and Remediation Strategies
Regulatory Compliance
CEQA Review
Litigation Support and Testifying Expert

Education:
M.S. Degree, Geology, California State University Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, 1984.
B.A. Degree, Geology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, 1982.

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Professional Certification:
California Professional Geologist
California Certified Hydrogeologist

Professional Experience:
Matt has 25 years of experience in environmental policy, assessment and remediation. He spent nine years with the U.S. EPA in the RCRA and Superfund programs and served as EPA's Senior Science Policy Advisor in the Western Regional Office where he identified emerging threats to groundwater from perchlorate and MTBE. While with EPA, Matt also served as a Senior Hydrogeologist in the oversight of the assessment of seven major military facilities undergoing base closure. He led numerous enforcement actions under provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) while also working with permit holders to improve hydrogeologic characterization and water quality monitoring.

Matt has worked closely with U.S. EPA legal counsel and the technical staff of several states in the application and enforcement of RCRA, Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations. Matt has trained the technical staff in the States of California, Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona and the Territory of Guam in the conduct of investigations, groundwater fundamentals, and sampling techniques.

Positions Matt has held include:

- Founding Partner, Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE) (2003 – present);
- Geology Instructor, Golden West College, 2010 – present;
- Senior Environmental Analyst, Komex H2O Science, Inc (2000 -- 2003);
- Executive Director, Orange Coast Watch (2001 – 2004);
- Senior Science Policy Advisor and Hydrogeologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1989–1998);

- Hydrogeologist, National Park Service, Water Resources Division (1998 – 2000);
- Adjunct Faculty Member, San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences (1993 – 1998);
- Instructor, College of Marin, Department of Science (1990 – 1995);
- Geologist, U.S. Forest Service (1986 – 1998); and
- Geologist, Dames & Moore (1984 – 1986).

Senior Regulatory and Litigation Support Analyst:

With SWAPE, Matt's responsibilities have included:

- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of numerous environmental impact reports under CEQA that identify significant issues with regard to hazardous waste, water resources, water quality, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and geologic hazards.
- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of environmental issues in license applications for large solar power plants before the California Energy Commission.
- Stormwater analysis, sampling and best management practice evaluation at industrial facilities.
- Manager of a project to provide technical assistance to a comunity adjacent to a former Naval shipyard under a grant from the U.S. EPA.
- Technical assistance and litigation support for vapor intrusion concerns.
- Manager of a project to evaluate numerous formerly used military sites in the western U.S.
- Manager of a comprehensive evaluation of potential sources of perchlorate contamination in Southern California drinking water wells.
- Manager and designated expert for litigation support under provisions of Proposition 65 in the review of releases of gasoline to sources drinking water at major refineries and hundreds of gas stations throughout California.
- Expert witness on two cases involving MTBE litigation.
- Expert witness and litigation support on the impact of air toxins and hazards at a school.
- Expert witness in litigation at a former plywood plant.

With Komex H2O Science Inc., Matt's duties included the following:

- Senior author of a report on the extent of perchlorate contamination that was used in testimony by the former U.S. EPA Administrator and General Counsel.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of MTBE use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of perchlorate use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in a study that estimates nationwide costs for MTBE remediation and drinking water treatment, results of which were published in newspapers nationwide and in testimony against provisions of an energy bill that would limit liability for oil companies.
- Research to support litigation to restore drinking water supplies that have been contaminated by MTBE in California and New York.
- Expert witness testimony in a case of oil production-related contamination in Mississippi.
- Lead author for a multi-volume remedial investigation report for an operating school in Los Angeles that met strict regulatory requirements and rigorous deadlines.
- Development of strategic approaches for cleanup of contaminated sites in consultation with clients and regulators.

C6-259 cont.

Executive Director:

As Executive Director with Orange Coast Watch, Matt led efforts to restore water quality at Orange County beaches from multiple sources of contamination including urban runoff and the discharge of wastewater. In reporting to a Board of Directors that included representatives from leading Orange County universities and businesses, Matt prepared issue papers in the areas of treatment and disinfection of wastewater and control of the dischrge of grease to sewer systems. Matt actively participated in the development of countywide water quality permits for the control of urban runoff and permits for the discharge of wastewater. Matt worked with other nonprofits to protect and restore water quality, including Surfrider, Natural Resources Defense Council and Orange County CoastKeeper as well as with business institutions including the Orange County Business Council.

Hydrogeology:

As a Senior Hydrogeologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Matt led investigations to characterize and cleanup closing military bases, including Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Station, Alameda Naval Station, Moffett Field, Mather Army Airfield, and Sacramento Army Depot. Specific activities were as follows:

- Led efforts to model groundwater flow and contaminant transport, ensured adequacy of monitoring networks, and assessed cleanup alternatives for contaminated sediment, soil, and groundwater.
- Initiated a regional program for evaluation of groundwater sampling practices and laboratory analysis at military bases.
- Identified emerging issues, wrote technical guidance, and assisted in policy and regulation development through work on four national U.S. EPA workgroups, including the Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum and the Federal Facilities Forum.

At the request of the State of Hawaii, Matt developed a methodology to determine the vulnerability of groundwater to contamination on the islands of Maui and Oahu. He used analytical models and a GIS to show zones of vulnerability, and the results were adopted and published by the State of Hawaii and County of Maui.

As a hydrogeologist with the EPA Groundwater Protection Section, Matt worked with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and NEPA to prevent drinking water contamination. Specific activities included the following:

- Received an EPA Bronze Medal for his contribution to the development of national guidance for the protection of drinking water.
- Managed the Sole Source Aquifer Program and protected the drinking water of two communities through designation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. He prepared geologic reports, conducted public hearings, and responded to public comments from residents who were very concerned about the impact of designation.
- Reviewed a number of Environmental Impact Statements for planned major developments, including large hazardous and solid waste disposal facilities, mine reclamation, and water transfer.

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Matt served as a hydrogeologist with the RCRA Hazardous Waste program. Duties were as follows:

- Supervised the hydrogeologic investigation of hazardous waste sites to determine compliance with Subtitle C requirements.
- Reviewed and wrote "part B" permits for the disposal of hazardous waste.
- Conducted RCRA Corrective Action investigations of waste sites and led inspections that formed the basis for significant enforcement actions that were developed in close coordination with U.S. EPA legal counsel.
- Wrote contract specifications and supervised contractor's investigations of waste sites.

With the National Park Service, Matt directed service-wide investigations of contaminant sources to prevent degradation of water quality, including the following tasks:

- Applied pertinent laws and regulations including CERCLA, RCRA, NEPA, NRDA, and the Clean Water Act to control military, mining, and landfill contaminants.
- Conducted watershed-scale investigations of contaminants at parks, including Yellowstone and Olympic National Park.
- Identified high-levels of perchlorate in soil adjacent to a national park in New Mexico and advised park superintendent on appropriate response actions under CERCLA.
- Served as a Park Service representative on the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee, a national workgroup.
- Developed a program to conduct environmental compliance audits of all National Parks while serving on a national workgroup.
- Co-authored two papers on the potential for water contamination from the operation of personal watercraft and snowmobiles, these papers serving as the basis for the development of nation-wide policy on the use of these vehicles in National Parks.
- Contributed to the Federal Multi-Agency Source Water Agreement under the Clean Water Action Plan.

Policy:

Served senior management as the Senior Science Policy Advisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9. Activities included the following:

- Advised the Regional Administrator and senior management on emerging issues such as the potential for the gasoline additive MTBE and ammonium perchlorate to contaminate drinking water supplies.
- Shaped EPA's national response to these threats by serving on workgroups and by contributing to guidance, including the Office of Research and Development publication, Oxygenates in Water: Critical Information and Research Needs.
- Improved the technical training of EPA's scientific and engineering staff.
- Earned an EPA Bronze Medal for representing the region's 300 scientists and engineers in negotiations with the Administrator and senior management to better integrate scientific principles into the policy-making process.
- Established national protocol for the peer review of scientific documents.

Geology:

With the U.S. Forest Service, Matt led investigations to determine hillslope stability of areas proposed for timber harvest in the central Oregon Coast Range. Specific activities were as follows:

C6-259 cont.

- Mapped geology in the field, and used aerial photographic interpretation and mathematical models to determine slope stability.
- Coordinated his research with community members who were concerned with natural resource protection.
- Characterized the geology of an aquifer that serves as the sole source of drinking water for the city of Medford, Oregon.

As a consultant with Dames and Moore, Matt led geologic investigations of two contaminated sites (later listed on the Superfund NPL) in the Portland, Oregon, area and a large hazardous waste site in eastern Oregon. Duties included the following:

- Supervised year-long effort for soil and groundwater sampling.
- Conducted aquifer tests.
- Investigated active faults beneath sites proposed for hazardous waste disposal.

Teaching:

From 1990 to 1998, Matt taught at least one course per semester at the community college and university levels:

- At San Francisco State University, held an adjunct faculty position and taught courses in environmental geology, oceanography (lab and lecture), hydrogeology, and groundwater contamination.
- Served as a committee member for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Taught courses in environmental geology and oceanography at the College of Marin.

In Fall 2010, Matt taught Physical Geology (lecture and lab) to students at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California.

Invited Testimony, Reports, Papers and Presentations:

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Presentation to the Public Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, Oregon.

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Invited presentation to U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California.

Hagemann, M.F., 2005. Use of Electronic Databases in Environmental Regulation, Policy Making and Public Participation. Brownfields 2005, Denver, Coloradao.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Nevada and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Las Vegas, NV (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Invited testimony to a California Senate committee hearing on air toxins at schools in Southern California, Los Angeles.

Brown, A., Farrow, J., Gray, A. and **Hagemann, M.**, 2004. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells.

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Presentation to the Ground Water and Environmental Law Conference, National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Arizona and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Phoenix, AZ (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in the Southwestern U.S. Invited presentation to a special committee meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Irvine, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a tribal EPA meeting, Pechanga, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a meeting of tribal repesentatives, Parker, AZ.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Impact of Perchlorate on the Colorado River and Associated Drinking Water Supplies. Invited presentation to the Inter-Tribal Meeting, Torres Martinez Tribe.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. The Emergence of Perchlorate as a Widespread Drinking Water Contaminant. Invited presentation to the U.S. EPA Region 9.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. A Deductive Approach to the Assessment of Perchlorate Contamination. Invited presentation to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate: A Cold War Legacy in Drinking Water. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater and an Estimate of Costs to Address Impacts to Groundwater. Presentation to the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of the Cost to Address MTBE Contamination in Groundwater (and Who Will Pay). Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells. Presentation to a meeting of the U.S. EPA and State Underground Storage Tank Program managers.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Cleanup Cost for MTBE in Groundwater Used as Drinking Water. Unpublished report.

C6-259 cont.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Leaking Underground Storage Tanks. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., and VanMouwerik, M., 1999. Potential Water Quality Concerns Related to Snowmobile Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

VanMouwerik, M. and **Hagemann, M.F**. 1999, Water Quality Concerns Related to Personal Watercraft Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

Hagemann, M.F., 1999, Is Dilution the Solution to Pollution in National Parks? The George Wright Society Biannual Meeting, Asheville, North Carolina.

Hagemann, M.F., 1997, The Potential for MTBE to Contaminate Groundwater. U.S. EPA Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hagemann, M.F., and Gill, M., 1996, Impediments to Intrinsic Remediation, Moffett Field Naval Air Station, Conference on Intrinsic Remediation of Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Salt Lake City.

Hagemann, M.F., Fukunaga, G.L., 1996, The Vulnerability of Groundwater to Anthropogenic Contaminants on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. Hawaii Water Works Association Annual Meeting, Maui, October 1996.

Hagemann, M. F., Fukanaga, G. L., 1996, Ranking Groundwater Vulnerability in Central Oahu, Hawaii. Proceedings, Geographic Information Systems in Environmental Resources Management, Air and Waste Management Association Publication VIP-61.

Hagemann, M.F., 1994. Groundwater Characterization and Cleanup at Closing Military Bases in California. Proceedings, California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F. and Sabol, M.A., 1993. Role of the U.S. EPA in the High Plains States Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Program. Proceedings, Sixth Biennial Symposium on the Artificial Recharge of Groundwater.

Hagemann, M.F., 1993. U.S. EPA Policy on the Technical Impracticability of the Cleanup of DNAPL-contaminated Groundwater. California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F., 1992. Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquid Contamination of Groundwater: An Ounce of Prevention... Proceedings, Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting, v. 35.

C6-259 cont.

Other Experience:

Selected as subject matter expert for the California Geologist licensing examination, 2009-2010.

C6-259 cont.

2.6.13 Letter C6 – Responses to Comments from Lozeau Drury, LLP

C6-1 Opinions about the adequacy of the Draft EIR are noted, and addressed in subsequent responses replying to the more detailed comments that follow, including to comments made by Mr. Cashen and Mr. Hagemann. Revisions to the Draft EIR are identified in Chapter 3, *Revisions to the Draft EIR*. Because no significant new information has been added to the EIR, the Draft EIR is not being recirculated prior to consideration for certification (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15088.5).

C6-2 According to section 15145 of the CEQA Guidelines, "If after thorough investigation, a Lead Agency finds that a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, the agency should note its conclusions and terminate discussion of the impact." As noted on page 2-9 of the Draft EIR, "The exact location, routing and timing of construction of the remaining distribution circuits have yet to be determined…Consequently, this EIR does not evaluate impacts related to construction, operation and maintenance of the remaining distribution circuits. Under CPUC General Order 131-D, the future 12 kV distribution circuits would not be subject to additional CEQA analysis or CPUC review." The need for future distribution circuits at the Lakeview Substation is not dependent on growing population trends in California, but would be dependent on the location of current load growth, the existing distribution facilities in the area, and the location of roads and existing SCE rights-of-way. Therefore, the Draft EIR complies with section 15145 and does not piecemeal the analysis of Project impacts.

C6-3 The commenter states that the Draft EIR provides vague and imprecise information regarding Project features, but does not describe what specific information should be included or what aspects of the environmental analysis may be based on insufficient information. The location and components of the Project are described in detail beginning on page 2-2 of the Draft EIR. Figure 2-2 on page 2-5 provides a map showing the location of the Project facilities. The Draft EIR contains sufficient information to evaluate the potential environmental effects that would result from development of the Project. A final engineering plan is not necessary to complete environmental review of the Project.

C6-4 Chapter 2, *Project Description*, does not provide extensive detail about the existing conditions of the Project site; rather, the individual resource sections provide this detail as relevant to the analysis of potential impacts to that resource. As stated in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources* (page 4.4-1), the setting considers marshalling areas. The parcel adjacent to the proposed substation site, Marshalling Yard #4, does contain an agricultural field and is accurately classified as "previously disturbed." Project-related use of Marshalling Yards #2 and #3would be limited to areas that already are disturbed. The potential for vegetation communities or habitat elements is limited as these areas have been cleared of vegetation. The native vegetation along the perimeters of these

facilities would not likely be suitable for laydown areas and would not be consistent with "previously disturbed" areas.

C6-5 See Response C6-4. Further, as explained on Draft EIR page 4-3, "Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15125(a), the environmental setting used to determine the impacts associated with the Project and alternatives [i.e., the analytical baseline] is based on the environmental conditions that existed in the study area in December 2010 at the time the NOP was published." Accordingly, comments based on images from 2009 (Comment Figure 2), 2011 (Comment Figures 1 and 3), and 2012 (Comment Figure 4) may not accurately depict baseline conditions.

C6-6 As described in Response A1b-43, the description of the laydown areas noted by the commenter has been revised to include two additional potential locations. The precise location of each laydown area will not be known until the final pole locations are determined; consequently, these areas cannot be mapped or described with precision at this time.

The Draft EIR contains sufficient information to evaluate the potential environmental effects that would result from use of the laydown areas. See Draft EIR Section 2.8.3, which explains that the initial laydown areas would be located within SCE ROW or franchise. See also, for example, Draft EIR page 4.4-3, which explains that the study area for biological resources included the footprint of Project facilities plus a 50-foot buffer on either side of proposed linear subtransmission source line segments and fiber optic cable routes. This buffer results in a 100-foot-wide survey area along the proposed linear routes, which would accommodate the width of the laydown areas. Therefore, the biological resources study area adequately included analysis of impacts resulting from use of laydown areas.

C6-7 As stated on Draft EIR page 4.10-16, "Temporary storage of construction materials and equipment in work areas and staging areas also creates the potential for release of hazardous materials or sediment to nearby water bodies," and "these activities could result in erosion and sedimentation or a hazardous materials release during construction which would impact downstream water quality, which would result in a significant impact." Draft EIR page 4.10-17 states that any storage of hazardous materials would be required to be consistent with the water quality objectives defined in the Basin Plan (SARWQCB, 2010). Accordingly, it is not necessary to know the precise locations of staging areas to analyze the potential impacts to biological resources associated with accidental release of hazardous materials.

C6-8 As stated on Draft EIR page 4-3, "Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15125(a), the environmental setting used to determine the impacts associated with the Project and alternatives is based on the environmental conditions that existed in the study area in December 2010 at the time the NOP was published." The environmental setting for purposes of the analysis of potential impacts to biological resources is described in Draft EIR Section 4.4.1 (p. 4.4-1 et seq.) and for hazardous materials is presented in Draft EIR

Section 4.9.1 (p. 4.9-2 et seq.). This comment provides no data or other information explaining why this documentation and description of baseline conditions is believed to be insufficient.

C6-9 Draft EIR page 4.9-12 explains that previous investigations for proposed schools in the Project Area indicate that residual pesticides in soil, if any, would not pose a threat to public health or the environment. Additionally, soil samples would be analyzed for hazardous materials prior to construction during the geotechnical investigation. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations above regulatory action levels, SCE would decide whether to remove the contaminated soil or modify the design of the Project to the extent necessary to avoid contaminated soil. During WEAP training, construction workers would be instructed on the procedures to follow in the event unanticipated soil contamination is encountered. Therefore, the Draft EIR both provides baseline information about potential existing contamination at the Project site and describes how potential impacts would be avoided or minimized.

C6-10 As explained in Response C6-9, the Draft EIR provides baseline information about potential existing contamination at the Project site and describes how potential impacts would be avoided or minimized. The possibility of pesticide contamination in the Project area is expressly acknowledged on Draft EIR page 4.9-2 ("Based on past and present activities associated with these land uses, existing hazardous materials in the Project area could include those hazardous materials common to agriculture, such as pesticides….").

C6-11 See Responses C6-9 and C6-10.

C6-12 The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the proposed Lakeview Substation Project site (Appendix D to the Draft EIR) was prepared in 2009. As stated on Draft EIR page 4.10-6, the water well on the proposed Lakeview Substation Project site was abandoned in August 2010 under a well drilling permit for well abandonment issued by the Riverside County Community Health Agency Department of Environmental Health. Additionally, as described on Draft EIR page 4.9-2, the Phase I study revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions at the proposed Lakeview Substation site.

C6-13 Compliance with applicable hazardous materials laws and regulations would reduce the potential impact to less than significant levels as explained on page 4.9-13 of the Draft EIR: "Because SCE would be required to comply with all hazardous materials laws and regulations for the transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials, as well as construction stormwater regulations, the potential hazard to the public or the environment from hazardous materials use during construction would be less than significant." No additional Project specific mitigation measures related to potential spill of mineral oil at the site are required.

C6-14 Should the applicable hazardous materials laws require the preparation of a SPCC Plan, SCE would be required by state law to prepare and submit the SPCC Plan to the Riverside County CUPA. The EIR assumes that SCE would be in compliance with this

law before the start of construction. It is not necessary that SCE prepare the SPCC Plan prior to certification of the EIR.

C6-15 As described on page 4.9-13 of the Draft EIR, "Depending on the type, condition and original chemical treatment, the [existing] wood poles removed could be reused by SCE for other purposes or disposed of in an appropriate disposal facility." Compliance with applicable hazardous materials laws and regulations would reduce the potential impact to less than significant levels as explained on page 4.9-13 of the Draft EIR: "Because SCE would be required to comply with all hazardous materials laws and regulations for the transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials, as well as construction stormwater regulations, the potential hazard to the public or the environment from hazardous materials use during construction would be less than significant." No additional Project-specific mitigation measures related to the treatment of poles with pentachlorophenol are required.

C6-16 The locations of all biological resources in the Project area were documented through a series of general and protocol-level biological surveys that were included in the Project record. Consistent with 2011 CDFG guidance for mapping the locations of sensitive biological resources in publicly available documents (summarized in the *Data Use Guidelines* at http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=27285&inline=1; p. 9), CDFG now recommends against displaying CNDDB data and detail mapping that display precisely where sensitive species or resources are located. The location of sensitive biological resources was generally described in the Draft EIR and when sensitive resources were present, data was presented in Table 4.4-2 (Draft EIR, pp. 4.4-9 to 4.4-16). All of the baseline biological survey reports that were prepared for the Project were provided as a component of the Draft EIR administrative record and made available for public review.

Upon the request of Richard Drury received as a public comment on the Draft EIR (letter from Lozeau Drury, LLP, dated February 14, 2012), all of the documents relied upon in preparing the Draft EIR, including the protocol-level surveys performed by BonTerra Consulting, were made available via the CPUC's website for the Project. Thus, all supporting biological survey data, descriptions of existing biological conditions, species location data, and survey conclusions were readily available for public review. Thus, the analysis provided all information that was used to establish existing conditions, assess Project impacts, and establish mitigation.

C6-17 Adequate baseline survey data have been collected for the Project, and the Draft EIR coalesced and summarized relevant survey data presented in the baseline reports. Consistent with the CDFG's 2011 recommendations against mapping sensitive CNDDB information on maps that are publically available, the Draft EIR did map sensitive species distribution data. Such data on species distribution and abundance was used in preparing the Draft EIR and was provided in the Project administrative record, which was requested by and provided to the commenter.

C6-18 See Section 2.5, Project Description Changes, which explains that the Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description. All Project impacts along Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 thereby would be avoided.

C6-19 The Draft EIR analysis generally considered the potential presence of special-status plants and wildlife species within 5 miles of the Project area and documented the presence of these species within 500 feet of the Project area. The specific study area for wildlife surveys varied by species, and was follows:

- General wildlife surveys included a 50-foot buffer on either side of all the Subtransmission Source Line Routes and the Proposed Telecommunications Routes (BonTerra, 2010a);
- The protocol-level Quino checkerspot butterfly survey did not state the study buffer width, but focused on the presence of breeding areas (host plant patches), feeding areas (nectaring plant patches), and topographical features conducive to detecting the Quino checkerspot butterfly (for which none were present locally) (BonTerra, 2010g);
- The study area for burrowing owls included a 500-foot buffer area around Project areas (BonTerra, 2010a);
- Protocol-level Coastal California gnatcatcher surveys included the Project area and all appropriate habitats (i.e., Riversidean sage scrub) near the project area (BonTerra, 2010e);
- The Riverside fairy shrimp assessment did not indicate the specific study buffer, but did not identify potential habitat.

The study buffers and subsequent analysis is considered sufficient to identify and characterize sensitive biological resources in the Project area, and identify adequate mitigation to minimize Project impacts.

C6-20 Regarding the timing of the final engineering design, see Response C6-3. Regarding the extent of biological resources-related surveys, see Response C6-19.

The second paragraph of Draft EIR Section 2.8.1 on page 2-17 explains that access roads for the subtransmission source line segments would be "a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, *depending upon field construction*)," indicating that field conditions could obviate the need for shoulders. With this in mind, the estimated land disturbance for access roads provided in Draft EIR Table 2-2 (p. 2-18) reflects a 14-foot width for two reasons. First, the Applicant's reliance on this width in the calculations provided in the PEA (see Table 3.4 on page 3-31 of the PEA) implies the Applicant's own assumption that this would be the most likely road width. Second, such a presumption would be supported by the facts that most of the Project area is relatively flat and the proposed roads straight. Under these conditions, the need for 2-foot shoulders on either side is unlikely.

The comment correctly notes that the subtransmission source line easement would be 30 feet wide (see Draft EIR Section 2.6.2, p. 2-11). The activities that would occur within the easement area are described in the Draft EIR. See, for example, Draft EIR Section 2.8.5 relating to construction, and Draft EIR Section 2.10 relating to Project operation and maintenance. The survey areas adequately cover this area.

C6-21 See Response C6-6.

C6-22 As presented in Response C6-19, the study buffer for burrowing owls was 500 feet. Owl surveys followed a methodology based on the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County MSHCP (County of Riverside, 2006). The Western Riverside County MSHCP survey instructions are the most current protocol described for the species. The guidelines outline a survey methodology that has been officially approved by the CDFG and the USFWS.

C6-23 See Responses C6-2 through C6-7.

C6-24 Focused plant and wildlife surveys in the Project area were complete at the time of Draft EIR circulation; however, the Applicant Proposed Measures and Project Description mistakenly identified that additional surveys were still needed for Stephens' kangaroo rat (APM-Bio-3 on Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27) and Riverside fairy shrimp (APM-Bio-4 on Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27), burrowing owl (APM-Bio-5 on Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28), and special-status plants (APM-Bio-6 on Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28). Therefore, the distribution of special-status plants and wildlife species were known and described at the time the Draft EIR was circulated, and the supporting survey results are included in the Project's administrative record.

C6-25 The focused Stephens' kangaroo rat survey was completed and included in the Project administrative record as BonTerra (2011). See Response B2-1 for additional Stephens' kangaroo rat mitigation.

C6-26 Focused surveys have been completed for burrowing owl (BonTerra, 2010c), Riverside fairy shrimp (BonTerra, 2010f), rare plants (BonTerra, 2010b), and special-status mammals, including Stephens' kangaroo rat (BonTerra, 2011). General wildlife surveys (BonTerra, 2010a) considered the potential presence of nesting birds, American badger, and other special-status species. Preconstruction surveys and construction monitoring are also required to ensure that non-listed special-status wildlife species are not impacted during construction (see APM-Bio-1 and APM-Bio-2). A Jurisdictional Delineation was prepared for the Project area in May 2012 and is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would cause no impact to jurisdictional waters.

C6-27 See Response C6-26.

C6-28 The nearest documented Riverside fairy shrimp occurrence to the Project is greater than 12 miles to the south, east of Menifee (CNDDB, updated July 2012). There are two

reported vernal pool fairy shrimp occurrences from the Southern California counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Imperial. These are located 8 miles southeast and 18 miles south of the Project in Riverside County. The CNDDB may report seasonal wetland-associated plants in association with the San Jacinto River corridor, but the database does not report Riverside fairy shrimp or vernal pool fairy shrimp near the Project area. See response C6-27 regarding the distribution of wetlands in the Project area.

C6-29 SCE has withdrawn Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project (see Section 2.5). See also Response B2-11.

C6-30 Protocol-level botanical surveys were completed in the Project area in 2010 (BonTerra, 2010b). As the commenter identifies, botanical surveys identified four special-status plants in the survey area. Survey findings are considered final for those species with negative survey results. The botanical surveys concluded that many species were absent from the Project area based on survey results and, in some cases, also concluded that suitable habitat was present for some species in the Project area despite the negative survey results. Erring on the side of caution, these results were carried into Table 4.4-2 of the Draft EIR (pp. 4.4-14 to 4.4-16) as "Low potential. Not found during surveys" to acknowledge that surveys were complete, suitable habitat was detected, and there is a low likelihood of encountering the plant.

C6-31 Regarding spreading navarretia, see Response B2-1.

The relationship between the Applicant-drafted PEA and the CPUC's EIR is not analogous to the example of a city changing its mind as suggested in the comment. As explained in Draft EIR Section ES.1 (p. ES-1), the EIR "is an informational document intended to disclose to the public and decision-makers the environmental consequences of the Lakeview Substation Project (Project) proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE) in its application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Permit to Construct (PTC), to construct, operate and maintain electrical facilities pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D. The application includes a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) (SCE, 2010a) prepared by SCE pursuant to Rule 2.4 of CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure." The PEA is part of the administrative record for the Project and was relied upon to the extent appropriate. See, for example, the References section for Draft EIR Chapter 2, *Project Description*, on page 2-40, which identifies the PEA as one of the sources of data and other information relied upon in preparing the Project Description. However, consistent with CEQA, the CPUC independently reviewed and analyzed the Project's potential environmental effects and issued an EIR that reflects its independent judgment (Pub. Res. Code §21082.1(c): 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15084(e)).

C6-32 The botanical survey report (BonTerra, 2010a) did not identify Chaparral sand verbena in the Project area during focused surveys; however, suitable habitat was identified. The population that the commenter mistakenly noted as within the Project area is a reference

population that was visited at the base of the Bernasconi Mountains concurrent with Project area surveys.

C6-33 Neither south coast saltscale nor Davidson's saltscale were documented in the Project area during appropriately timed protocol-level botanical surveys. An occurrence of south coast saltscale is reported by the CNDDB greater than 700 feet southwest of the Project area, within the San Jacinto River channel, and would not be affected by the Project. Because protocol-level survey findings for these species were negative in the Project area, the Draft EIR considered them absent; with a low potential given in the San Jacinto River Corridor based on the presence of nearby populations and suitable habitat.

C6-34 Based on negative protocol-level botanical survey findings, Parish's brittlescale is considered absent from most portions of Project area, and is considered to have a low potential to occur in portions of the Project area that provide potentially suitable habitat.

C6-35 Based on negative protocol-level botanical survey findings, Wright's trichocoronis is considered absent from most portions of Project area, and is considered to have a low potential to occur in portions of the Project area that provide potentially suitable habitat.

C6-36 The Draft EIR identifies the presence of species that were identified during baseline surveys and the potential for breeding occurrence in the Project area. Loggerhead shrike is identified in Table 4.4-2 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-12) as "Observed. Moderate breeding & foraging potential." As identified in the PEA, the tricolored blackbird has not been observed in the Project area and is not expected to breed but may forage in the Project area. The PEA correctly states, "In the vicinity of the Survey Area, this species has been reported from the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, approximately two miles north of Lakeview (PEA Appendix D, pg. 44)." Only nesting sites and not potential foraging areas are protected by the California Fish and Game Code and the MBTA. Thus, the Draft EIR is not in conflict with the PEA regarding potential presence of these species in the Project area and suitable data is available to inform and support the analysis of potential impacts to active nests documented in the Draft EIR.

Without repeating the entire contents of the PEA biological analysis and baseline reports, the Draft EIR (Table 4.4-2, pp. 4.4-9 to 4.4-16) correctly condenses and identifies the portions of the Project area that provide nesting and foraging habitat for Cooper's hawk, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, and northern harrier. The potential for impacts to active bird nests is called out in Draft EIR Impact 4.4-2 and Impact 4.4-3 (pp. 4.4-30 to 4.4-31). As identified in Response A1b-165, the Project area is overwhelmingly dominated by barren and disturbed habitats that do not support breeding bird populations or sensitive wildlife habitat. These species therefore have limited distribution in the Project area.

C6-37 In response to the comment, the use of agricultural lands by MSHCP Planning Species has been refined in the Draft EIR. The third sentence of the last paragraph on Draft EIR page 4.4-34 is revised as follows:

> The proposed Lakeview Substation site currently supports agriculture and may provide limited foraging opportunities but does not provide breeding habitat for Criteria Area Species (see SCE, 2010, PEA Table 4.4-2, pg. 4.4-76).

C6-38 Regarding the location of Project features, see Response C6-3. Regarding the geographic extent of survey /study areas, see Response C6-19. Regarding the data and other information relied upon, see, for example, Response C6-26.

C6-39 The amount of disturbed acreage referenced in the text on page 2-17 of the Draft EIR and in Table 2-2 on page 2-18 has been revised. Please see Responses A1b-40 and A1b-42.

C6-40 The estimated number of total acres that would be disturbed by new access roads, rehabilitation of existing access roads for subtransmission lines, and rehabilitation of existing access roads for telecommunications lines is 8.64 acres. This amount reflects revisions to the disturbed acreage listed in Response A1b-42. Access roads are anticipated to be 14 feet wide whenever possible. It is only when additional footage is needed for shoulders, curves, and turnaround points that additional width would be utilized.

C6-41 The permanent disturbance associated with vegetation removal and permanent clearance area for TSPs is 1.0 acre and 3.7 acres for wood poles as shown in Table 2-8 on page 2-25 of the Draft EIR. Therefore, the permanent impact was accounted for in the Draft EIR. The permanent disturbance area for TSPs and access roads will frequently overlap and stay within the 30-foot ROW. Table 2-2 on page 2-18 includes estimated land disturbance for those few areas where access roads are expected to be outside of the 30-foot ROW in order to provide sufficient turnaround space.

C6-42 The comment refers to Table 4.4-4, which does not occur in Draft EIR Section 4.4; however, Table 4.4-1 on page 4.4-4 of the Draft EIR does indicate that there are 26.6 acres of agricultural vegetation communities within the study area for subtransmission source line route Segments 1 and 2, which includes a 50-foot study buffer. This table does not indicate what portion of this vegetation community the Project would temporarily or permanently affect, but provides the environmental setting as it relates to existing vegetation types. Table 4.2-2 shows the temporary disturbance of farmland, while Table 4.2-3 shows the permanent disturbance of farmland.

C6-43 The CPUC is not the author of SCE's PEA, and so is not in a position to clarify or edit that document. The Applicant's PEA is one source of information among many relied upon by the lead agency in preparing the Draft EIR. See Response C6-31. Requests to explain consistencies or discrepancies between the PEA and EIR are beyond the scope of the EIR.

C6-44 The comment refers to the PEA's description of Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route, Segment 3. Comments related to the PEA are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR

and no response is required. Additionally, the Draft EIR did not consider PEA Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route, Segment 3.

C6-45 See Section 2.5. Because the Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project, the Project would cause no impact along that route. Regarding the request to justify conclusions drawn by the Applicant in the PEA, see Response C6-43.

C6-46 See Response C6-45.

C6-47 The description of the staging or laydown areas has been revised, see Response A1b-43. The precise location of each laydown area will not be known until the final pole locations are determined. As described in Section 2.8.3, however, the laydown areas would be located within SCE ROW or franchise.

C6-48 See Section 2.5. Because the Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project, the Project would cause no impact along that route. As noted in Response C6-44, the CPUC did not consider PEA Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route, Segment 3 in the EIR.

C6-49 Protocol-level fairy shrimp surveys only are performed when suitable aquatic habitat is present. The BonTerra (2010f) fairy shrimp habitat assessment only identified potential habitat in a single pool within PEA Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route 3. The Draft EIR did not consider PEA Alternative Subtransmission Source Line Route, Segment 3; therefore, protocol-level fairy shrimp surveys and associated protective measures for this species are not necessary.

C6-50 Table 4.3-3 on page 4.3-10 of the Draft EIR provides a list of SCAQMD's Fugitive Dust BACMs, which identifies the use of chemical dust suppressants as a potential control measure (see SCAQMD Rule 403). Rule 403 defines the term "dust suppressants" as "water, hygroscopic materials, or non-toxic chemical stabilizers used as a treatment material to reduce fugitive dust emissions." It has not been determined at this time if a chemical dust suppressant would be used for the Project and it is very rare for such use to be necessary when water is readily available. In the event that chemical dust suppressants should be utilized for the Project, it would be non-toxic (SCAQMD Rule 403).

C6-51 The exact location of pull and tension sites, TSPs, and wood poles would be determined upon final engineering.

C6-52 Access roads would parallel the poles and existing roads would be used where available. The exact location of ground disturbing activities would be determined upon final engineering. The access roads would be located on each side of the San Jacinto River.

C6-53 The PEA does not state that "wetlands occur throughout the Project area;" rather, it states that no wetlands occur within the disturbance areas of each Project component, with the exception of 0.06 acres of alkali wetland within the PEA's Alternative Subtransmission

Source Line Route, Segment 3, which the Draft EIR did not consider. See Response C6-44. A Jurisdictional Delineation was prepared for the Project area in May 2012; a copy is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would have no impacts to jurisdictional waters.

C6-54 In response to the comment, the approach to analyzing potential impacts to special-status species in the Project area has been clarified. The last paragraph on page 4.4-8 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> This analysis evaluates potential impacts of the Project on listed and other species determined to have moderate or high potential and species known to be present in the study area. These species are described below. Non-listed special-status wildlife species that are considered absent due to lack of suitable habitat in the Project area and those species that~~, species determined to~~ have a low potential to occur in the study area due to the presence of suitable habitat with negative survey results (e.g., some rare plants), and birds that may forage (but not nest) in the area are identified as well~~, but related~~; however, potential impacts are not ~~analyzed under CEQA~~ anticipated to these species.

C6-55 A Jurisdictional Delineation was prepared for the Project area in May 2012; a copy is provided in Appendix G. This report determined that the Project would have no impacts to jurisdictional waters.

C6-56 PEA Appendix D (p. 37) says that the Project area may provide non-breeding/ wintering habitat for ferruginous hawk, and PEA Appendix D Table 5 (p. 30) notes regional foraging occurrences from the CNDDB; however this species was not observed during surveys. The loss of potential foraging habitat (agricultural lands) to this uncommon seasonal migrant is considered negligible.

With the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), there are few golden eagle nesting opportunities near the Project. Thus, the potential for the Project to impact golden eagle foraging and nesting sites is considered low.

C6-57 See Response B2-11.

The commenter references the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project Colorado River Substation Expansion Project (FSEIR) (CPUC, 2011; pg. ES-20) to conclude that overhead facilities can present a collision risk to birds (though the FSEIR analysis was specific to listed birds). The FSEIR analysis of impacts and mitigation measures parallels the discussion provided for the Lakeview Substation Project Draft EIR. Both projects utilize the most recent APLIC standards to identify and implement collision-reducing hazards to birds.

C6-58 See Responses A1b-12 and A1b-169.

C6-59 See Response B2-1.

C6-60 See Response B2-1.

C6-61 The potential presence of western spadefoot habitat was correctly identified in the Draft EIR (Table 4.4-2, p. 4.4-9) and suitable protective measures are provided in the Draft EIR (APM-Bio-2) to provide biological clearance surveys and biological monitoring in sensitive portions of the Project area. The commenter refers to 1991 spadefoot occurrence cited by the CNDDB in a field that has been leveled and is under active cultivation (CDFG, 2012). An existing dirt road provides access to the disturbed pole installation site at this location; therefore, no impacts were identified to spadefoot at this location. As a result, it is unlikely that pole sites or vehicle traffic would impact western spadefoot.

C6-62 Baseline biological reports confirmed that bat roosting habitat does not occur in the Project area. Therefore, bat impacts were not discussed in the Draft EIR.

C6-63 As identified by the commenter, designated critical habitat occurs in the Project area; however, upon review of the final 2011 critical habitat ruling for thread-leaved brodiaea, all Project elements are outside of designated critical habitat for this species. The nearest documented population of thread-leaved brodiaea is associated with Subunit 11a: San Jacinto Wildlife Area, located 1.3 mile northeast of the Project area (CNDDB, 2012; USFWS, 2011)[15].

New facilities have been designed to minimize impacts to designated critical habitat spreading navarretia, which occurs in the Project area, and protect native habitat and associated sensitive biological resources. New access roads would be constructed within agricultural lands and disturbed habitat that does not support PCEs for thread-leaved brodiaea (Response A1b-165 listed anticipated habitat impacts) and pole impacts would be minimal.

C6-64 See Response B2-1.

C6-65 Regarding the distinction between the Applicant's PEA and the CPUC's EIR, see Response C6-31. For an explanation of why requests to clarify information presented in the Applicant's PEA are beyond the scope of the EIR, see Response C6-43.

C6-66 Night lighting is not proposed in areas where the BonTerra (2011) small mammal baseline report identified Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse. Therefore, the night lighting impacts postulated by the commenter would not occur.

C6-67 Comments about the adequacy of the Applicant's PEA are beyond the scope of the EIR (see Response C6-43). As described in Draft EIR Table 4.4-2 (p. 4.4-9) and on Draft EIR

[15] Fed. Reg. 2011. Endangered and Threatened Status for Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Revised Critical Habitat for *Brodiaea filifolia* (Thread-Leaved Brodiaea); Vol. 76, No. 26, February 8, 2011, pp. 6,848-6,925.

page 4.4-17, neither vernal pools nor ephemeral ponds occur in the study area for the Project or alternatives. Therefore, the Project and alternatives do not have the potential to directly or indirectly affect vernal pools and/or the species that use these pools for habitat.

C6-68 The Applicant has removed Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), thus removing most of the poles within potential habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat, San Diego pocket mouse, and Los Angeles pocket mouse. The 1997 Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephens' kangaroo rat implicates population declines with domestic cat predation pressure and does not link predation by native species on species declines. The Plan states that there are a number of native predators that feed on kangaroo rats and other small mammals. In a natural system, this type of predation is normal and variable within and between years due to the changing densities and distribution of the predators and prey.

As the following quote shows, the Plan links domestic cat predation with small mammal population declines, as follows:

> In an urban environment, or along its interface with natural areas, predator densities can be artificially high due to the presence of domestic cats that are not dependent on the natural system for their survival. Therefore, predation by domestic cats can remain consistent through time on native mammals like the Stephens' kangaroo rat that occur near rural and urban development. This constant predation pressure can push small populations of native mammals past the point of recovery and result in their local extirpation. [USFWS, 1997, Draft Recovery Plan for the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, pg. 18]

The Project would not increase domestic cat populations and would not cause artificially high predation pressure above baseline conditions.

C6-69 As explained in Draft EIR Section 6.1 (p. 6-1), the cumulative effects analysis relies on "a blend of two approaches to analyze cumulative effects: the "list-of-projects" approach and the "summary of projections" approach (CEQA Guidelines §15130(b))." The list of projects was completed after publication of the NOP based on input received from each of the affected land use jurisdictions; specific sources are identified within and at the end of Draft EIR Table 6-1 (p. 6-2). The list of projects considered in the cumulative scenario was and is consistent with the baseline for the analysis in the Draft EIR. The cumulative projects listed in Draft EIR Table 6-1 and shown in Draft EIR Figure 6-1 (p. 6-5) are not inclusive of every cumulative project considered in the analysis. To the contrary, the list is supplemented by the plan-based projections reflected in various agencies' comprehensive, long-term visions for physical development or resources conservation within the region. As a result, the Draft EIR considered all of the major projects and activities, regardless of jurisdiction, that were proposed or under development in the region.

The geographic scope of the area considered for each cumulative impact evaluated in the EIR is dictated by the specific type and nature of impact being considered and not strictly by proximity to the site. All projects that would cause an impact that could combine with the incremental effects of the Project were evaluated irrespective of their distance from or proximity to the Project. For example, when considering the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative aesthetic impacts, the geographic scope of area consists of the Ramona Expressway view corridor, and locations from which a viewer could see the Project along with views of other projects in the cumulative scenario (Draft EIR Section 6.2.1, p. 6-7). By contrast, the geographic scope of cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions is global (Draft EIR Section 6.2.8, p. 6-14) and the geographic scope of cumulative impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials depends on the pathway of exposure (i.e., the air basin, watershed boundary, groundwater basin, or extent of affected soils) (draft EIR Section 6.2.9, p. 6-15). The list of projects identified in Draft EIR Table 6-1 is restricted to 3 miles to give an idea of the projects that are most likely to cause impacts to the same resources in the same area at the same time as the Project. Where other projects or activities would cause impacts that could combine with those of the Project to cause or contribute to significant cumulative effects, they are identified in t he resource-by-resource cumulative effects analysis in Draft EIR Section 6.2 (p. 6-7 et seq.).

Section 6.2.4 (p. 6-10 et seq.) identifies the appropriate resource-specific geographic scope for the analysis of cumulative impacts to biological resources as a 10-mile radius based on the specific incremental impacts of the Project. See Draft EIR pages 6-10 and 11, which provide the rationale for the 10-mile radius in the context of the analysis of cumulative effects to biological resources.

C6-70 See Response C6-69. The statement regarding SCE's planned projects in the vicinity of the proposed Project was provided by SCE in its PEA, which used a 1-mile radius to identify cumulative projects. The CPUC did not rely on the geographic limitation suggested in the PEA. To clarify the geographic scope of the cumulative projects list, the second and third sentences of the fourth paragraph on Draft EIR page 6-1 are revised as follows:

> Factors considered in determining whether to include a project on the list include whether it would cause impacts of the same nature as the proposed project, its location (projects within 3 miles of the proposed Project were considered), the timing of its impacts, and the type of project. ~~SCE is not planning any other projects over 50 kV within 1 mile of any of the Project components (SCE, 2010a, p. 6-1).~~

C6-71 See Response C6-69.

C6-72 See Responses C6-43 and C6-70.

C6-73 The Draft EIR includes information about past projects to the extent such information is relevant to the understanding of the environmental impacts of the proposed Project, when considered cumulatively with other present and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The environmental setting for this Project reflects the environmental effects of past projects and is considered in numerous places in the EIR. In addition, where previously approved projects could cause impacts to the same resources as the Project contemporaneously and in the same area, they are noted and considered. See, for example, cumulative projects 1 and 7 (Draft EIR, p. 6-2), which were approved years ago but have not yet been completed. Nothing in these comments demonstrates how the conclusions reached in the Draft EIR would be any different if the analysis included other (unnamed) past projects.

C6-74 See Response C6-75. The commenter states that Coulter's goldfields is limited to primarily four locations in western Riverside; however, this species with statewide distribution is documented in 21 recent populations documented in western Riverside County and an additional 7 historic occurrences that are reported as extant (CNDDB, 2012). As identified in Response C6-114, the single population of Coulter's goldfields in the Project area, located in a drainage ditch near the Subtransmission Source Line Segment 2 alignment, would be avoided by the Project if this alternative were selected.

C6-75 Section 6.3.2 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP will result in the protection of greater than 90 percent of existing occupied habitat for covered species. The Applicant is presently pursuing incidental take authorization with the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency for Stephens' kangaroo rat under the SKRHCP, and may pursue similar authorization under the MSHCP if potential impacts to San Joaquin Valley crownscale cannot be avoided through the avoidance of known plant populations. There is very little development pressure in the San Jacinto Valley and surrounding mountains, as most of the land is owned and managed by the State of California. To the west of the Project area, the Lake Perris State Recreational Area includes an 8,800-acre valley area bounded on three sides by low ridges (the Bernasconi Hills and the Russell, Apuma, and Armada Mountains). To the north, the San Jacinto Wildlife Management Area encompasses 20,000 acres including 9,000 acres of restored wetlands including ponds. The floodplain of the upper San Jacinto River in the Project area has been identified by county, state, and federal governments as an example of a landscape Linkage that is a Core Area for Narrow Endemic Plant Species but also serves as a movement corridor across the central portion of the Plan Area. As such, any proposed development in or near the river corridor is closely reviewed by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency for consistency with the MSHCP and SKRHCP, respectively. The Project is entirely consistent with the HCP goals to maintain habitat quality, floodplain processes along the San Jacinto River and conserve covered species in this area. Transmission facilities would not fragment or otherwise degrade existing habitat within the otherwise undeveloped rural portions of the Project area.

C6-76 See Response A1b-166 and Response B2-4.

C6-77 See Response B2-1. Consistent with the MSHCP guidance, pole alignments would traverse portions of the San Jacinto River corridor and would have minimal impacts to Group 3 species. The substation site and alterative substation site were selected to avoid habitat for Group 3 species.

C6-78 The Western Riverside County MSHCP conservation strategy presents one global biological goal and seven biological objectives that are proposed to benefit MSHCP Covered Species. The Project is generally consistent with the global MSHCP goal to conserve covered species and their habitats. The commenter's statement that the Project is generally in a "core area" for many of the MSHCP planning species is generally true. The community of Lakeview is surrounded on all sides by habitat that is important to the conservation of MSHCP planning species. In response to such locally sensitive habitat, the Project was planned within undeveloped agricultural land located adjacent to the urban area with a minimal footprint on undeveloped lands. However, to connect the new substation to the power grid, a crossing over the San Jacinto River corridor is required. When taken at the planning scale of the MSHCP conservation strategy, a single powerline crossing over the river corridor will have little to no affect on MSHCP planning species identified by the commenter, and does not conflict with the goal of conserving covered species and their habitats. Furthermore, focused surveys have verified that most of the species identified by the commenter are absent from the Project area.

C6-79 The Draft EIR reports the presence of suitable habitat for Bell's sage sparrow and recently reported nearby CNDDB observations on the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 alignment (Draft EIR Table 4.4-2, p. 4.4-11); however, this alignment was removed from the Project Description (see Section 2.5).

The commenter is mistaken that two roads are proposed that would bisect the San Joaquin River corridor. No roads would traverse the river corridor. As identified in Response B2-4, the Project clusters new facilities (e.g., the proposed substation and substation upgrades) within or adjacent to existing development in the community of Lakeview and the City of Moreno Valley. In doing so, no impacts to wildlife corridors are anticipated. The proposed source lines and telecommunication lines would not impede wildlife movement.

C6-80 Comment noted.

C6-81 The commenter identifies a list of measures and suggests that the measures would reduce Project construction emissions to below the significance thresholds; however, the commenter offers no documentation to support the claim. It should be noted that Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a has been revised based on SCAQMD comments to require SCE to use available off-road construction equipment that meets the highest USEPA-certified tiered emission standards as well as to use available 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks. Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b also has been revised per SCAQMD recommendations

to require the use of specific applicable dust control measures during construction activities (see Responses to SCAQMD Letter B3).

The commenter has not substantiated that the identified measures would provide emission controls any more effective than those required by Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 4.3-1b as revised per recommendations of SCAQMD, which is the agency recognized as having the most air quality expertise in the region of the Project area. It is the opinion of the CPUC that Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 4.3-1b, as revised per SCAQMD suggestions, would effectively reduce construction-related emissions to the extent feasible.

C6-82 For analysis of Project-related air quality impacts on sensitive receptors, see Draft EIR Impacts 4.3-4 and 4.3-5 (pp. 4.3-21 through 4.3-23). As stated in Response C6-81, the CPUC has determined that Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 4.3-1b, as revised per SCAQMD suggestions, would effectively reduce construction-related emissions to the extent feasible.

C6-83 Generally, nesting bird surveys performed during the breeding season that are more than 30 days old are considered invalid by CDFG. Because impacts to nesting birds are prohibited by the California Fish and Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the timing of preconstruction breeding bird findings does not need to be explicitly defined.

C6-84 See Response C6-19.

C6-85 As required by the Draft EIR (APM-Bio-2, p., 4.4-27), preconstruction nesting bird surveys will be performed in all work areas.

C6-86 Preconstruction biological surveys, including nesting bird surveys, would be performed by qualified biologists whose professional credentials will be reviewed and approved by the CPUC on a case-by-case basis. Surveys will be based on established protocols (when available) relying upon the professional opinion of the surveyors to determine the appropriate level of survey effort to demonstrate species absence in Project areas. As such, there is no need to establish minimum standards to perform surveys, as suggested by the commenter.

C6-87 See Response C6-86.

C6-88 APM-Bio-1 provides sufficient assurances to ensure that the Project would not impact nesting birds. If active bird nests are found during preconstruction surveys and Project work is near an active nest, AMP-Bio-1 provides that SCE will coordinate with CDFG and USFWS on a case-by-case basis prior to initiating work.

C6-89 Preconstruction surveys will consider all special-status species that were identified in the Draft EIR (Table 4.4-2, pp. 4.4-9 to 4.4-16) with potential to occur in the Project area. Survey methods will follow established surveys protocols when available (e.g.,

burrowing owl) and when not available (e.g., for breeding birds and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit) surveys will be performed by a qualified biologist to ensure that special-status species are absent from the Project area prior to construction. The level of effort required for these surveys will be determined by the qualified biologist. The term "qualified biologist" is a term-of-art that refers to an individual that holds a 4-year natural resources degree and at least 2 years fulltime experience performing similar surveys; however, specific qualifications can vary widely and the CPUC will review SCE staff resumes on a case-by-case basis. The timing of preconstruction surveys will vary by species, as required by established survey protocols and CDFG guidance.

C6-90 The Draft EIR, APM-Bio-2 (p. 4.4-27) states that any "significant findings" during pre-construction surveys would be added to the WEAP training program. In this context, the term "significant finding" denotes any previously unknown biological resource that requires protection. Given that wildlife populations often move in a fluid manner across the landscape, new wildlife occurrences sometimes are documented in areas where they were not previously known. A prime example is the identification of an active burrowing owl burrow that was not previously known. The Draft EIR anticipates the potential for such new findings, and provides a mechanism to incorporate protection measures and educate work crews though the WEAP training program. The discovery of any new special-status plant or wildlife individual or populations that is protected by CDFG or the USFWS would constitute a "significant finding" suitable for inclusion in the WEAP training program.

C6-91 See Response B5-2.

C6-92 See Response B2-1. The comment states that the Draft EIR omits all of the Applicant's expert's recommendations to minimize take and habitat disturbance to Stephens' kangaroo rat. The baseline report (BonTerra, 2011, pg. 9), provided a single recommendation for areas located north of Ramona Expressway: "a biological monitor would still need to be present for all activities performed in this portion of the project area." Consistent with the recommendation, APM-Bio-2 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27) provides that a full-time biological monitor will be on-site for all Project activities in sensitive areas. However, with the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), no Project elements are proposed in any area subject to the Applicant's expert's recommendation for minimizing take and habitat disturbance to Stephens' kangaroo rat.

C6-93 See Response C6-49.

C6-94 See Response C6-49.

C6-95 See Response C6-49.

C6-96 See Response C6-49.

C6-97 The term “feasible” is defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15364 as “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.”

C6-98 See Response C6-49.

C6-99 See Response C6-49.

C6-100 See Response C6-22. Protocol-level burrowing owl surveys followed the methodology based on the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Preconstruction surveys for this species and will follow the same survey protocol. Preconstruction raptor surveys will likely be performed concurrent with preconstruction burrowing owl surveys, and will consider the project area with a 500-foot buffer, as mandated by the protocol.

C6-101 Active relocation of burrowing owls is sometimes allowed by CDFG with advance notification; however, the commenter is correct in stating that owl relocation, if needed, is more likely performed by passive means.

C6-102 Based on baseline survey findings (BonTerra, 2010c), burrowing owls are not expected to nest in the Project area and construction activities and nest sites are not expected in the Project area. The suggestion to enhance or create surrogate burrows and provide compensation habitat is noted, but not required by CDFG.

C6-103 See Response C6-102. The Project does not defer mitigation for burrowing owls and does not require performance criteria to monitor owl populations following construction.

C6-104 Comment noted.

C6-105 The difference of professional opinion as to the adequacy of the mitigation measure and characterization of the Eagle Act and MBTA are noted.

C6-106 To reduce the potential for bird collisions and electrocutions, Mitigation Measure 4.4-4 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-32) requires that “SCE shall follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee guidelines for avian protection on powerlines,” which could include provisions to provide visual deterrents on powerlines, if necessary. The Draft EIR (p. 4.4-32) further requires that the Project “(u)se pole designs that minimize impacts to birds.” Additionally, SCE has a formal Avian Protection Program in place to protect birds from collision and electrocution hazards.

C6-107 By following the current APLIC guidelines for avian protection on powerlines, the Project is expected to have a negligible impact, if any, on bird populations. APLIC guidance sets the industry standard for safe design of powerline facilities to minimize bird risks. Furthermore, a species-specific analysis of regional bird population status and

susceptibility to powerline threats, as requested by the commenter, is beyond the scope of an EIR analysis.

C6-108 Section 6.3.2 of the Riverside County MSHCP identifies need for botanical surveys in order to receive species coverage under the MSHCP. Based on survey data, this section identifies that conclusions can be made regarding the presence of occupied habitat within the MSHCP Conservation Area for species discussed in that section, and what survey requirements may be modified or waived. Special-status plant surveys completed in 2010 described the distribution of covered species in the Project area, which would be largely avoided by the Project. SCE does not hold ownership of the San Jacinto River corridor, where San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations were identified. The Project will not impact the portions the riverbed or floodplain, which will be spanned by powerlines.

C6-109 See Response A1b-14.

C6-110 The precise extent of project impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are not known at this time because the preferred alignment across the San Jacinto River has not been selected and construction methods near occupied habitat have not been fully refined. The primary approach in the Draft EIR, characterized by APM-Bio-7 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28), is to avoid impacts to crownscale populations. Thus, Project impacts are not expected to this species; however, the Draft EIR provides a mechanism to take action under the MSHCP if it is determined that impacts are unavoidable.

C6-111 The CEC document cited by the commenter (California Energy Commission. 2010 Jul. Supplemental Staff Assessment for the Calico Solar Project. p. C.2-5) provided a 250-foot buffer area around special-status plant populations. This buffer distance was effective in that context because: 1) only a few plants were known within the project site, and; 2) the proposed project design already avoided rare plant areas. Referring to mitigation measures recommended by other agencies for other projects in other contexts has no bearing on the adequacy of the analysis of the effects of this Project and the CPUC's recommendation of associated mitigation measures. Nonetheless, the CPUC notes that spanning in the San Jacinto River is integral to the Project; a 250-foot avoidance buffer would not be compatible with the Applicant's proposal. As identified in the Draft EIR, APM-Bio-7 (p. 4.4-28), populations would be avoided to the maximum extent feasible, as allowed by the Project design.

C6-112 Surveys were recently performed during years with adequate rainfall to identify rare plant populations and are considered valid for the purposes of Project planning and permitting. Neither the CDFG nor California Native Plant Society rare plant survey protocols suggest performing more than two years of botanical surveys when optimal survey conditions are met.

C6-113 If Project impacts would occur to San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, payment of the MSHCP mitigation fee and compliance with the requirements of the MSHCP

would provide full mitigation under CEQA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal Endangered Species Act, and California Endangered Species Act for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP pursuant to agreements with the USFWS, CDFG, and/or any other appropriate participating regulatory agencies and as set forth in the Implementing Agreement for the MSHCP (MSHCP, Section 6.1-1). Thus, no mitigation requirements or performance standards are needed for mitigation sites.

C6-114 A single small population of smooth tarplant was identified on the Subtransmission Source Line Route Segment 2 and would be avoided by the Project. A single population of Coulter's goldfields was identified in a drainage ditch along this alignment and would be avoided by the Project. Multiple goldfields populations were detected within Subtransmission Source Line Route Segment 3, which is not considered by the Draft EIR. See Response C6-108 regarding compliance with requirements of the MSHCP.

C6-115 As summarized in Response C6-114, based on the findings of multi-year surveys the Project would not affect smooth tarplant or Coulter's goldfields. Surveys were performed during years with adequate rainfall to identify rare plant populations and are considered valid for the purposes of Project planning and permitting. Neither the CDFG nor California Native Plant Society rare plant survey protocols suggest performing more than two years of botanical surveys when optimal survey conditions are met.

C6-116 See Response C6-112.

C6-117 As identified in Response A1b-165, the Project would affect a limited amount of disturbed and ruderal habitat, and possibly some Alkali grassland (0.2 acre) and annual grassland (0.22 acre) near the San Jacinto River corridor. These areas are not occupied by smooth tarplant or Coulter's goldfields, and identified populations would not be affected by the proposed Project.

C6-118 See Response C6-111.

C6-119 No impacts are anticipated to smooth tarplant or Coulter's goldfields, as documented populations will be avoided by the Project. Therefore, a special-status plant mitigation plan is not required for these species. If participation in the MSHCP is pursued, as described in Response C6-113, the avoidance plant populations and participation in the MSHCP would fulfill all Project mitigation regarding impact to special-status plants.

C6-120 With the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), special-status plant surveys are complete within the Project area.

C6-121 See Response C6-119.

C6-122 See Response C6-120.

C6-123 As described in the Project Description (Draft EIR Section 2.8.6.1, p. 2-28), all temporarily disturbed areas would be subject to restoring original ground contours, removal of debris, and reseeding, primarily as a means for erosion control. The term "restoration" as used in the Project Description describes the removal of site materials and debris, restoring of original contours, and one-time hydroseeding of areas to control erosion. Use of the term "restoration" in the Project Description is synonymous with the term "site cleanup" and should not be confused with ecological restoration. Site cleanup would be performed as a component of the Project and is not subject to performance standards, monitoring and reporting, or subsequent remedial actions.

C6-124 Only a small portion of the Project area, about 0.42 acre, is located within non-disturbed grassland habitat (see Response A1b-165). The remaining portions of the Project area (67.94 acres) support disturbed habitat (e.g., disturbed, agriculture, ruderal, or ornamental habitat) where native vegetation is not present. Presumably only a fraction of the 0.42-acre area would be affected by the Project, as habitat largely would be spanned by powerlines and disturbance within native habitat otherwise minimized. The Project requires reseeding of all disturbed areas with native or other appropriate seed mix (Draft EIR, pp. 2-29, 2-32). By reseeding disturbed Project areas that currently support disturbed, ruderal, or barren habitat, the Project ensures that vegetation that is established after the Project would improve habitat relative to baseline conditions. In addition, as a component of Project activities that affect San Jacinto Valley crownscale habitat (APM-Bio-7; Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28), a mitigation plan is required that would describe maintenance and monitoring requirements within disturbed crownscale habitat.

C6-125 Identifying and avoiding sensitive wildlife resources through preconstruction surveys is a standard means to avoid direct impacts to wildlife populations, and is required by the USFWS and CDFG. The distribution of special-status plant populations in the Project area is known through focused botanical surveys that adhered to CDFG and CNPS survey protocols. The distribution of wildlife species and sensitive areas that support these species also was described through baseline studies that followed rigid USFWS and CDFG survey protocols. Such surveys for California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl, and small mammals firmly establish which portions of the Project area support, or could support these species. The commenter's observation that it is difficult to avoid impacts to secretive animals and some plant populations is noted. However, established CDFG and USFWS protocols provide survey methods for special-status wildlife species, and in many cases (e.g., for burrowing owl) separate protocols also are available for the active (i.e., physical moving) or passive (i.e., allowing individuals to relocate on their own volition) relocation of special-status animals from active work areas. Because nearly the entire Project area supports bare ground, a preconstruction survey by a qualified biologist prior to construction (see APM-Bio-2: Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27) coupled with breeding bird surveys (see APM-Bio-1: Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27; APM-Bio-5: Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28) and avoidance of rare plant populations (APM-Bio-7: Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28) will provide adequate protection to special-status species.

The Applicant is pursuing incidental take authorization with the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency for Stephens' kangaroo rat under the SKRHCP, and may pursue similar authorization under the MSHCP if potential impacts to San Joaquin Valley crownscale cannot be avoided.

C6-126 The comment implies that the entire Project area contains sensitive habitat, which is not true. The suggestion that the relatively slower and more costly auger pole installation technique is environmentally superior to proposed backhoe method is unfounded. The Project is largely proposed within non-sensitive barren, agricultural, disturbed, or developed habitat where pole installation methods have no relevance to the protection of biological resources. The location of areas that warrant special protection would be conveyed to construction personnel (if the Project is approved) during the WEAP training program identified in APM-Bio-2 (Draft EIR, p. 4.4-27) and off-limits Environmentally Sensitive Areas would be identified for avoidance (see APM-Bio-7: Draft EIR, p. 4.4-28). Thus, the avoidance and minimization of Project impacts to biological resources is a component of Project design and implementation.

C6-127 See Response C6-113.

C6-128 See Response C6-69. The 10-mile study area identified in the Draft EIR Biological Resources cumulative impacts analysis includes nearly a third of Western Riverside County, 92 CNDDB reported Stephen's kangaroo rat populations, 19 Coulter's goldfield populations, and shows extensive regional distribution of Los Angeles pocket mouse. The distribution of these and other special-status plant and wildlife species may be limited in the region by the availability of habitat; however, the documented and protected populations would not be jeopardized by the Project, which was designed to avoid areas that provide habitat for these special-status plant and wildlife species (see, e.g., Section 2.5). Further, the MSHCP and SKRHCP assure that 90 percent of remaining populations will be protected from developments.

C6-129 The CPUC respectfully disagrees with the suggestion that the Environmentally Superior Alternative is analyzed in detail and that all other alternatives receive a more cursory review. Instead, CEQA focuses on the potential impacts of a proposed project and, to a lesser extent, on the impacts of potential alternatives. Until the environmental analysis is complete, it cannot be determined which among the alternatives is the Environmentally Superior Alternative. Draft EIR Section 5.1 (p. 5-2) explains that "determining an Environmentally Superior Alternative is difficult because of the many factors that must be balanced" and discloses the possibility that, although the Draft EIR identifies one alternative as the Environmentally Superior Alternative, "it is possible that the CPUC could choose to balance the importance of each impact area differently and reach a different conclusion during the project approval process." Once all of the information, data, and other evidence have been considered (including information provided in comments on the Draft EIR or in responses to them) the CPUC may reach a different conclusion.

What constitutes a reasonable range of alternatives is governed by a "rule of reason." Section 15126.6(c) of the CEQA Guidelines instructs that the range of potential alternatives to a proposed project shall include alternatives that "could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project and could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects." Consistent with this, the Draft EIR considered the following factor as part of the alternatives screening methodology: "Does the alternative avoid or substantially lessen any significant effects of the proposed project (including consideration of whether the alternative could create significant effects potentially greater than those of the proposed project)?" (Draft EIR Section 3.2.1, p. 3-3). As summarized in Draft EIR Section ES.7 (pp. ES-9 and ES-10), and analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.4 (p. 4.4-1 et seq.) and Section 6.2.4 (p. 6-10), the Project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources were determined to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Because impacts of the Project to air quality were determined to be significant and unavoidable (see Draft EIR, p. ES-10), the alternatives screening process focused on potential alternatives that could avoid or reduce the Project's significant unavoidable impact to air quality.

The Draft EIR does present an alternative to avoid all impacts to listed species: the No Project Alternative (see Draft EIR Section 4.4.5, p. 4.4-35). However, as explained in Draft EIR Section 3.4.3 (p. 3-11), the No Project Alternative would meet none of the basic objectives of the Project. The purpose of the Project is to connect the Lakeview Substation to the Valley-Moval 115 kV Subtransmission Line (located west of the San Jacinto River) and connect to the Moval Substation, which would require a river crossing. Although one proposed and two alternative crossing sites were selected that allowed access primarily on existing roads and within disturbed areas, the entire San Jacinto River corridor supports sensitive resources. Therefore, there was no available alternative that would meet most of the basic objectives of the Project and entirely avoid impacts to special-status species. Special-status plant and wildlife species are absent from the proposed Lakeview Substation location and alternative location, and as disclosed in the Draft EIR, anticipated impacts to native habitat and associated special-status plant and wildlife species are small and mitigable to a less-than-significant level.

C6-130 The comment states that the Draft EIR "lacks measures to monitor the nests of birds to ensure mitigation measures are successful." The Draft EIR does not propose mitigation measures related to monitoring bird nests. APM-Bio-1 describes methods to reduce and/or avoid potential impacts to nesting birds and is assumed to be implemented as part of the Project. The Draft EIR finds (pp. 4.4-30 and 31) that impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant. Therefore, the MMRCP does not provide additional implementation measures related to nesting birds.

C6-131 Comment noted.

C6-132 See Response C6-3.

C6-133 See Response C6-4.

C6-134 See Response C6-5.

C6-135 See Response C6-6.

C6-136 See Response C6-7.

C6-137 See Response C6-16. The Draft EIR analyzes impacts of the Project relative to the actual physical conditions in the area that could be affected by the Project and alternatives as of December 2010, when the NOP was published. This is consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15125(a).

C6-138 See Response C6-17.

C6-139 See Section 2.5 and Response C6-18. Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 no longer is part of the Project.

C6-140 See Response C6-19.

C6-141 See Response C6-20.

C6-142 See Response C6-21.

C6-143 See Response C6-22.

C6-144 See Response C6-23.

C6-145 See Response C6-24.

C6-146 See Response C6-26.

C6-147 See Response C6-26.

C6-148 See Response C6-28.

C6-149 See Response C6-29.

C6-150 See Response C6-30.

C6-151 Regarding spreading navarretia, see Response B2-1.

C6-152 See Response C6-32 regarding Chaparral sand verbena.

C6-153 See Response C6-33 regarding the lack of documentation of either south coast saltscale or Davidson's saltscale in the Project area during appropriately timed protocol-level botanical surveys.

C6-154 See Response C6-34 regarding Parish's brittlescale.

C6-155 See Response C6-35 regarding Wright's trichocoronis.

C6-156 See Response C6-36 regarding special-status bird species.

C6-157 See Response C6-37 for a clarification of MSHCP Planning Species' use of agricultural lands.

C6-158 See Response C6-38, which refers readers to Response C6-3 regarding the location of Project features, to Response C6-19 regarding the geographic extent of survey /study areas, and to Response C6-26 (for example) regarding the data and other information relied upon.

C6-159 Comments on the PEA are outside the scope of the EIR. See Responses C6-31 and C6-43. Regarding access road-related disturbance, see Responses A1b-40 and A1b-42.

C6-160 See Response C6-40 regarding access road widths and related disturbance.

C6-161 See Response C6-41.

C6-162 See Response C6-42.

C6-163 See Response C6-43.

C6-164 See Response C6-44 regarding information provided in the PEA.

C6-165 See Section 2.5 regarding the Applicant's removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project, and Response C6-43 regarding why no response is provided to requests to justify conclusions reached in the Applicant's PEA.

C6-166 See Response C6-45.

C6-167 See Responses Response A1b-43 and C6-47 regarding laydown areas.

C6-168 See Response C6-48.

C6-169 See Response C6-49.

C6-170 See Response C6-50 regarding the non-toxic nature of any chemical dust suppressants that would be used on the Project site.

C6-171 See Response C6-51.

C6-172 See Response C6-52.

C6-173 See Response C6-53 and Appendix G regarding the formal wetland delineation prepared for the Project.

C6-174 See Response C6-53.

C6-175 See Response C6-54.

C6-176 See Response C6-55.

C6-177 See Response C6-55.

C6-178 See Response C6-56.

C6-179 See Response C6-57.

C6-180 See Responses A1b-12 and A1b-169.

C6-181 See Response B2-1.

C6-182 See Response B2-1.

C6-183 See Response C6-61.

C6-184 See Response C6-62.

C6-185 See Response C6-63.

C6-186 See Response B2-1.

C6-187 See Response C6-65.

C6-188 See Response C6-66.

C6-189 See Response C6-67.

C6-190 See Response C6-68.

C6-191 See Response C6-69 regarding the analysis of cumulative effects.

C6-192 See Response C6-70.

C6-193 See Response C6-69 regarding the list of projects.

C6-194 See Responses C6-43 and C6-70.

C6-195 See Response C6-73.

C6-196 See Response C6-74.

C6-197 See Response C6-75.

C6-198 See Responses A1b-166 and B2-4 regarding consistency with the MSHCP.

C6-199 See Response C6-77.

C6-200 See Response C6-78.

C6-201 See Response C6-79.

C6-202 See Response C6-83 regarding nesting birds.

C6-203 See Response C6-19 regarding survey areas.

C6-204 See Response C6-85 regarding preconstruction nesting bird surveys.

C6-205 See Response C6-86.

C6-206 See Response C6-86.

C6-207 See Response C6-88.

C6-208 See Response C6-89.

C6-209 See Response C6-90.

C6-210 See Response B5-2 regarding revision of the third paragraph on page 4.4-35 of the Draft EIR to address SCE's enrollment in the MSHCP if the avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale is not possible by applying applicable APMs and mitigation measures.

C6-211 See Response C6-92 regarding Stephens' kangaroo rat.

C6-212 See Response C6-92.

C6-213 See Response C6-49 regarding Riverside fairy shrimp.

C6-214 See Response C6-49.

C6-215 See Response C6-49.

C6-216 See Response C6-49.

C6-217 See Response C6-97 for the definition of "feasible."

C6-218 See Response C6-49.

C6-219 See Response C6-49.

C6-220 See Response C6-100 regarding burrowing owl.

C6-221 See Response C6-101 regarding burrowing owl relocation.

C6-222 See Response C6-102.

C6-223 See Response C6-103.

C6-224 Comment noted.

C6-225 See Response C6-105.

C6-226 See Response C6-106 regarding reducing the potential for bird collisions.

C6-227 See Response C6-107.

C6-228 See Response C6-108 regarding San Jacinto Valley crownscale.

C6-229 See Response A1b-14.

C6-230 See Response C6-110.

C6-231 See Response C6-111 regarding buffer widths for San Jacinto crownscale.

C6-232 See Response C6-112.

C6-233 See Response C6-113.

C6-234 See Response C6-114 regarding smooth tarplant and Coulter's goldfields.

C6-235 See Response C6-115.

C6-236 See Response C6-112.

C6-237 See Response C6-117.

C6-238 See Response C6-111 regarding the buffer width for special-status plants.

C6-239 See Response C6-119.

C6-240 With the removal of Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 from the Project Description (see Section 2.5), special-status plant surveys are complete within the Project area.

C6-241 See Response C6-119.

C6-242 See Response C6-120.

C6-243 See Response C6-123 regarding site restoration.

C6-244 See Response C6-124.

C6-245 See Response C6-125.

C6-246 See Response C6-126.

C6-247 See Response C6-113.

C6-248 Comment consists of the resume of Mr. Scott Cashen and is noted.

C6-249 Comment summarizes the proposed Project and states an opinion that the Draft EIR does not adequately analyze potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials and air quality. Comment noted.

C6-250 See Response C6-10 regarding the Draft EIR's description of pesticide use in the Project area and analysis of potential associated hazards and hazardous materials-related effects.

C6-251 See Responses C6-9 and C6-10.

C6-252 See Response C6-12 regarding the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Project site (Draft EIR Appendix D), which revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions at the proposed Lakeview Substation site.

C6-253 See Response C6-12 regarding permitted closure of the water well.

C6-254 See Response C6-14.

C6-255 See Response C6-14.

C6-256 See Response C6-15 regarding SCE's reuse or disposal of wood poles in an appropriate disposal facility.

C6-257 See Response C6-81 regarding the revision of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a and Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b in accordance with SCAQMD recommendations.

C6-258 See Response C6-82.

C6-259 Comment consists of the resume of Mr. Matthew F. Hagemann and is noted.

Comment Letter D

Public Meeting, February 9, 2012

Sue Nash and Tom Paulek, Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley

D1-1: What project-related work would occur at the Moval Substation?

D1-2: Commenter expressed concern with potential impacts to the SKR Reserve.

D1-3: Commenter expressed concern with growth-inducing impacts and need for the project.

D1-4: Commenter inquired regarding the proposed construction date.

D1-5: What is involved with installation of fiber optic cable along Route 3?

D1-6: Commenter expressed concern with potential impacts to golden eagles.

Tom Ybarrola

D2-1: Commenter expressed concern with negative aesthetic impact of Segment 2 bisecting his property.

D2-2: Commenter expressed concern with affect on property values.

D2-3: Commenter strongly endorsed Alternative 2.

2.6.14 Letter D – Responses to Comments from the Public Meeting, February 9, 2012

Sue Nash and Tom Paulek, Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley

D1-1 The Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 component of the Project that would connect to the Moval Substation in the City of Moreno Valley has been withdrawn (see Section 2.5). As revised, the Project proposes no work at the existing Moval Substation.

D1-2 For information pertaining to the Stephen's kangaroo rat Habitat Conservation Plan and the effects of the Project, see Responses A1b-12, A1b-160, A1b-169, B5-2, and B5-3.

D1-3 See Response B1-25, which explains why the Project is not considered growth-inducing. SCE provided the following statement of Project need in Section 1.2 of its PEA: "The Electrical Needs Area… for the Lakeview Substation Project is defined as the portion of unincorporated western Riverside County served by SCE's existing Nuevo Substation (33/12 kV) and temporary Model 33/12 kV P.T Substation. These substations currently provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers. In 2007, SCE projected that the capacity at Nuevo Substation would be exceeded in 2009 and a temporary substation was constructed (Model P.T.) to provide an interim means to serve the electrical demand in the area until a new substation project could be constructed to provide for the long-term capacity, reliability, and system operational flexibility needs of the Electrical Needs Area. The Lakeview Substation Project has a planned operating date of June 2013." On the basis of this information, Section 2.4 of the Draft EIR (p. 2-2) identifies the Applicant's Project Objectives in full and, as refined for purposes of developing a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Project, the "basic objectives of the Project" are listed in Draft EIR Section 3.2.2 (p. 3-3). See Response A1b-6 for clarification of the Applicant's Project Objectives.

D1-4 As discussed on page 2-4 of the Draft EIR, construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 12 months. Construction would commence following CPUC approval, final engineering, and procurement activities.

D1-5 Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 has been withdrawn from the Project. See Section 2.5.

D1-6 For information pertaining to potential Project effects to golden eagles, see Responses B2-11, C6-29, and C6-57.

Tom Ybarrola

D2-1 See Responses C5-2 and C5-3.

D2-2 See Response C5-2.

D2-3 Preference for Alternative 2 is noted.

CHAPTER 3
Revisions to the Draft EIR

3.1 Introduction

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15132, this section presents changes to the Draft EIR that either were initiated by the Lead Agency or were made in response to comments. Such changes merely clarify or amplify the text or make insignificant modifications to it, and so do not require recirculation (see CEQA Guidelines §15088.5). The revisions are presented below in the order in which they appear in the Draft EIR, and are further organized by the chapter or section and by the page number on which they appear or would appear in the Draft EIR.

Revisions to the Draft EIR text are indicated such that revised or new language is underlined, deleted language is ~~struck out~~, and the original text is shown without underline or strikethrough.

3.2 Text Changes

Page ***Identification* / Text Change**

Acronyms

x *The definition of "SAC" on page x is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-5:*

> ~~Standard~~ Stranded Aluminum Conductor

Executive Summary

ES-1 *The last sentence of Section ES.1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

> Based on this evaluation and the documentation which follows, this Draft EIR identifies Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

ES-2 *The first bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

> Serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014;

ES-4 *The third bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-10:*

- Access road rehabilitation is proposed in case it becomes necessary to conduct Project work along the existing Valley-Moval Subtransmission Line during installation of Fiber-Optic Cable Line Route 1 ~~3~~.

ES-5 *The last sentence of APM Bio-2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-11:*

Any significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the [Worker Environmental Awareness Plan (WEAP)] training described in Section ~~2.7.3~~ 3.9 of Chapter 3 [of the PEA].

ES-5 *APM Bio-3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-12 (For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-3, including on Draft EIR pages 2-38 et seq., 4-4, 4.4-27, and 9-9.):*

APM Bio-3, Stephen's Kangaroo Rat: A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat ~~shall be~~ was conducted for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority. ~~by a biologist qualified to conduct Stephens' kangaroo rat Surveys along Segments One, Two and Three and the Proposed Telecommunications Route. If no potential occupied habitat is found during this assessment, then no further action is necessary. If potential for occupied habitat is found, protocol trapping surveys shall be conducted. The Proposed Telecommunications Route is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species is found, a fee shall be paid in lieu of further surveys (County of Riverside 1996).~~

ES-6 *The following is added to APM Bio-6 in response to comment A1b-13 (For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-6, including on Draft EIR pages 2-39, 4-4 et seq., 4.4-28, and 9-10):*

In lieu of preparing the abovementioned plan, SCE may participate in the MSHCP.

ES-6 *APM Bio-7 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-14 (For consistency, this clarification also has been made to other references in the Draft EIR to APM Bio-7, including on Draft EIR pages 2-40, 4-5, 4.4-28, and 9-10):*

APM Bio-7, Avoidance of San Jacinto Valley Crownscale Populations: In order to avoid potential impacts to known populations of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be developed prior to construction to the extent feasible in the final Project Design ([see PEA] Figure 4.4-5). If impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would seek inclusion in the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to this species. ~~If significant impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable,~~

~~a biologist will be selected to prepare and implement a mitigation plan, which will include detailed descriptions of maintenance appropriate for the mitigation site, monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements, and will have the full authority to suspend any operation which is, in the biologist's opinion, not consistent with the mitigation plan. This plan will be submitted for review to the appropriate agencies.~~

ES-8 *Paragraph three of Section ES.5 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

Among the remaining alternatives, Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative. ~~Although~~ Alternative 1 would provide a reduction in short-term construction related impacts, specifically a reduction in daily emissions as well as reduced ~~, while avoiding placement of the relocated substation (Alternative 2) in a 100-year flood hazard zone, the~~ overall air quality impacts relative to ~~would be greater than~~ the Project~~ because of the additional construction activities associated with the installation of the 12 kV distribution line. The CPUC has determined that the importance of reducing overall Project impacts outweighs the reduction of air quality daily emission associated with Alternative 1~~. Therefore, Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~ would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative~~, followed by Alternative 1, then Alternative 2~~.

ES-11 *Table ES-1, Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Project, is revised, as shown on the following page, to reflect changes shown in response to comments to the Draft EIR.*

Project Description

2-1 *The fourth sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-19:*

Existing wooden ~~distribution~~ poles would be removed and a combination of new wood poles and tubular steel poles (TSPs) would be constructed.

2-2 *The first bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

Serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014;

2-4 *The first paragraph under Section 2.6.1.1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-25:*

The Lakeview Substation would be a new, approximately ~~330~~ 395 foot by ~~345~~ 403 foot, 115/12 kV unattended, automated 56 MVA low-profile substation constructed on approximately ~~2.7~~ 3 acres of a 5.4-acre parcel located in unincorporated Riverside County. The substation site would be approximately 452 feet long by 525 feet wide. The remaining ~~2.7~~ 2.4 acres of the proposed site would allow for future street improvements and widening, street set-backs, safety buffers, and landscaping.

TABLE ES-1 (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources			
Impact 4.2-1: Construction activities would result in temporary impacts to designated Farmland.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a:** SCE and/or its contractors shall ensure that the following measures are taken, during construction of the Project: • Replace soils in a manner that shall minimize any negative impacts on crop productivity. The surface and subsurface layers shall be stockpiled separately and returned to their appropriate locations in the soil profile; alternately, SCE may work with individual property owners to develop a different method for the disposition of any soils that are impacted on private property, assuming a mutual agreement may be reached. • To avoid over-compaction of the top layers of soil, monitor pre-construction soil densities and return the surface soil (approximately the top 3 feet) to within 5 percent of original density, except where higher soil density is necessary to meet engineering requirements ~~for tower foundations within the tower buffer zone.~~ • Where necessary, the top soil layers shall be ripped to achieve the appropriate soil density. Ripping may also be used in areas where vehicle and equipment traffic have compacted the top soil layers. • Avoid working or traveling unnecessarily on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil structure. • Remove all construction-related debris from the soil surface. This shall prevent rock, gravel, and construction debris from interfering with agricultural activities. • Remove topsoil before excavating in fields. Return it to top of fields to avoid detrimental inversion of soil profiles. **Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b:** SCE and/or its contractors shall incorporate the following measures into the Project construction plans and specifications specific to lands designated as Farmland: Coordinate construction scheduling as practicable so as to minimize disruption of agricultural operations by scheduling excavation to occur before or after the growing season. • Either ~~S~~supply replacement crops and trees, or financial compensation for the value of replacement crops and trees, to the landowner at a mitigation ratio of one to one (1:1), upon completion of construction. ~~Coordinate planting of replacement crops and trees with landowners~~.	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources (cont.)			
Impact 4.2-2: The Project would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural use.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-2:** SCE shall obtain permanent agricultural conservation easements at a one to one (1:1) ratio for each acre of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance that is permanently converted by the Project. Conservation easements shall be on land of at least equal quality and size as land disturbed by the Project. Preference shall be given to easements within Riverside County, though comparable or better arrangements may be made if Riverside County easements are unavailable. Mitigation via agricultural conservation easement shall be satisfied under the following conditions: 1. SCE shall ~~grant a~~ acquire farmland and shall establish an easement for the portion of the land that will no longer be used for agricultural land equal to the acreage converted (i.e., 7.9 acres). This land shall be in an area designated for long-term future agricultural use; or 2. SCE shall pay a fee equal to or greater than the value of a previous farmland conversion transaction in the planning area plus the estimated cost of legal appraisal and other costs, including staff time, to acquire property for agricultural mitigation. The fee shall be used for farmland mitigation purposes, with priority given to lands with prime agricultural soils and habitat value.	Less than Significant
Impact 4.2-3: The Project could involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural land.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-3:** SCE and/or its contractors shall incorporate the following measures into the project construction plans and specifications specific to lands designated as Farmland: • Ensure that existing drainage systems at Project sites that are needed for farming activities function as necessary per coordination with the landowner, so that agricultural uses are not disrupted. • Coordinate with landowners to ensure that construction does not impact irrigation and/or other ancillary farming systems to a degree that farming practices cannot be maintained. • Maintain existing levels of water available to farmers via the current irrigation system including, but not be limited to, implementing re-routing and/or temporary irrigation systems. In lieu of implementing the above requirements, SCE shall have the option of negotiating agreements with any affected landowner(s) that shall enable the landowner(s), to the extent practicable, to effect their own irrigation and/or drainage system changes in a manner consistent with the landowner's farming practices and plans.	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
3. Air Quality			
Impact 4.3-1: Project construction activities would generate NO_x and PM10 emissions that could contribute substantially to violations of ozone and PM air quality standards.	Class I	**Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a:** For diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment of more than 50 horsepower~~ and on-road diesel fueled vehicles~~, SCE shall make a good faith effort to use available construction equipment that meets the highest USEPA-certified tiered emission standards~~ ensure achievement of a Project-wide fleet-average 20 percent NO_x reduction and 45 percent PM10 exhaust reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average~~. SCE shall also make a good faith effort to use 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks. An Exhaust Emissions Control Plan ~~to achieve~~ that indentifies each off-road unit's certified tier specification, Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and the CARB or SCAQMD operating permit number (if applicable), as well as the model year of all haul trucks to be used on the Project that are under direct control of SCE or its construction contractor ~~these reductions~~ shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. Construction activities cannot commence until the plan has been approved. ~~Acceptable options for reducing emissions include the use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as such become available.~~ For all pieces of equipment that would not meet Tier 3 emission standards, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation from two local heavy construction equipment rental companies that indicates that the companies do not have access to higher-tiered equipment for the given class of equipment. In the event that 2010 or newer diesel haul trucks are not available for the Project, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall document that a good faith effort to obtain such haul trucks has been made. During construction of the Lakeview Substation, SCE and/or its construction contractor(s) shall use electricity from the regional power grid where feasible rather than diesel or gasoline power generators. In the event that SCE determines that this would not be feasible, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation to support the determination. **Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b:** SCE shall develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how compliance with each of SCAQMD Rule 403 Best Available Control Measures (BACMs) shall be achieved. If it is determined that any of the BACMs are not applicable to construction of the Project, the plan shall present rational as to why the BACMs are not applicable and would not be implemented. This plan shall be	*Significant Unavoidable*

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
3. Air Quality (cont.)			
Impact 4.3-1 (cont.)		submitted to the CPUC for review and approval and the approved plan shall be distributed to all employees and construction contractors prior to commencement of construction activities. The Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following specific control measures as applicable: • Limit soil disturbance to the amounts analyzed in the air quality analysis; • Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials; • Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip; • Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more); • Suspend all excavating and grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph; • Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads shall not exceed 15 mph; • Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more); • Replace ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible; • Apply water three times daily, or non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications, to all unpaved parking or staging areas or unpaved road surfaces; • Sweep streets adjacent to the construction site at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water); and • Appoint a construction relations officer to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity including resolution of issues related to PM10 generation.	

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
4. Biological Resources			
Impact 4.4-2: Construction activities associated with the Project could result in adverse impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat as well as non-listed special status species.	Class II~~I~~	**Mitigation Measure 4.4-2**: SCE shall implement measures to reduce Project impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles Pocket mouse in the San Jacinto River corridor as follows: SCE shall implement a Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse trapping and relocation effort only if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. Habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse within Project area grasslands (such as those identified in BonTerra, 2011) shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone to be approved by the USFWS and CDFG. SCE shall stake, flag, fence, or otherwise clearly delineate the construction right-of-way that restricts the limits of construction to the minimum necessary to implement the Project that also would avoid and minimize impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat. Where avoidance of confirmed Stephens' kangaroo rat precincts is infeasible and unavoidable, and if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, SCE shall install silt fence or other impermeable barrier to Stephens' kangaroo rat to exclude Stephens' kangaroo rat from entering the active work areas.	Less than Significant
Impact 4.4-4: Operation of new transmission lines could impact raptors as a result of electrocution or collision.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.4-4:** SCE shall follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee guidelines for avian protection on powerlines. SCE shall use current guidelines to reduce bird mortality from interactions with powerlines. The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC, 2006) and USFWS recommend the following: • Provide 60-inch minimum horizontal separation between energized conductors or energized conductors and grounded hardware; • Insulate hardware or conductors against simultaneous contact if adequate spacing is not possible; • Use pole designs that minimize impacts to birds, and; • ~~Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions~~	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
5. Cultural Resources			
Impact 4.5-2: Project construction could adversely impact a unique archaeological resource.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a:** Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor shall be retained and contracted by SCE and/or its contractors to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including brush clearance and grubbing. ~~In addition, the archaeological monitor shall carry out monitoring in the vicinity of designated ESAs as specified in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1c.~~ The archaeological monitor shall work under the supervision of the qualified archaeologist. The Native American monitor shall be selected from the list of Native American groups demonstrating affiliation with the Project area and demonstrating interest in the Project. ~~The duration and timing of monitoring shall be determined by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the lead agency and based on the grading plans.~~ Initially, all ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored. However, the qualified archaeologist, based on observations of soil stratigraphy or other factors, and in consultation with the Native American monitor and the lead agency, may reduce the level of monitoring as warranted. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological and Native American monitors shall be empowered to halt or redirect ground-disturbing activities away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated and appropriate treatment determined. Arrangements for the appropriate curation of any cultural materials encountered during Project implementation shall be made prior to the issuance of grading permits and in coordination with the Native American group selected for monitoring. Contingency funding and time in the construction schedule should be made available to appropriately manage the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources. **Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b:** If archaeological resources are encountered at any point during Project implementation, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within ~~50~~ 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature). Preservation in place shall be the preferred means of mitigating impacts to cultural resources. If the archaeologist determines that the resources may be significant, and if avoidance is determined to be infeasible, the archaeologist shall notify the lead agency and shall prepare a treatment plan, in consultation with the lead agency and with appropriate Native American representatives ~~(if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).~~	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
5. Cultural Resources (cont.)			
Impact 4.5-3: Project implementation would have a potentially significant impact on a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-3:** Prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall contract with a qualified professional paleontologist or a California Registered Professional Geologist (California RPG) with appropriate paleontological expertise, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (SVP 1995 Guidelines) to develop ~~carry out a paleontological resources training program~~ WEAP training for construction workers and implement a paleontological monitoring program. The qualified paleontologist shall be available "on-call" to SCE and/or its contractors throughout the duration of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the scope of services shall include: • *Preparation of a preconstruction paleontological assessment based on final project design*. The preconstruction assessment shall include a review of information presented in this EIR, existing fossil localities in the region, Project grading plans and all geological/geotechnical reports developed to date to determine with greater precision the depth and extent of geologic units of high paleontological potential (e.g. older alluvial fan deposits) within the areas to be excavated. The results will be documented in a report along with recommendations for appropriate and feasible measures to avoid or minimize damage to any paleontological resources present. Based on the volume, depth and extent of soil excavations and the professional judgment of the paleontologist, he or she shall make recommendations regarding the locations/phases of project construction activity where paleontological monitoring of ground-disturbing activities would be needed. The county geologist shall review and approve the report in consultation with SCE and/or its contractors. • *Paleontological resources training.* Paleontological resources training. All construction forepersons and field supervisors shall be trained ~~in the recognition of~~ regarding the potential to encounter fossil materials prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction. Training on paleontological resources shall also be provided to all other construction workers, but may include videotape of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by the qualified paleontologist. ~~In addition to fossil recognition, t~~The training shall convey procedures to follow if potential fossil materials are encountered by construction crews in the course of earthwork, excavation, or grading, as described below.	Less than Significant

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
5. Cultural Resources (cont.)			
Impact 4.5-3 (cont.)		• *Assessment and salvage of potential fossil finds*. If potential fossils are discovered by construction crews, all earthwork or other types of ground disturbance within 50 feet of the find shall stop immediately until the qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find. Based on the scientific value or uniqueness of the find, the monitor may record the find and allow work to continue, or recommend salvage and recovery of the fossil. The monitor may also propose modifications to the stop-work radius based on the nature of the find, site geology, and the activities occurring on the site. If treatment and salvage is required, recommendations will be consistent with SVP guidelines (SVP, 1995; SVP, 1996) and currently accepted scientific practice, and shall be subject to review and approval by the county geologist or designee. If required, treatment for fossil remains may include preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection, and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds. SCE and/or its contractors will be responsible for ensuring that treatment is implemented and report to Riverside County. If no report is required, SCE and/or its contractors will nonetheless ensure that information on the nature, location, and depth of all finds is readily available to the scientific community through university curation or other appropriate means. • *Active monitoring of construction sites for paleontological resources within geologic units of high paleontological potential*. Paleontological monitoring will consist of periodically inspecting disturbed, graded, and excavated surfaces, as well as soil stockpiles and disposal sites. The monitor (which will be the professional paleontologist or a designee) will have authority to divert grading or excavation away from exposed surfaces temporarily in order to examine disturbed areas more closely, and/or recover fossils. The monitor will coordinate with the construction manager to ensure that monitoring is thorough but does not result in unnecessary delays. If the monitor encounters a paleontological resource, he or she shall assess the fossil, and record or salvage it, as described above.	

TABLE ES-1 (Continued) (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

Impact	Impact Class	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Impact
5. Cultural Resources (cont.)			
Impact 4.5-4: Project construction could result in damage to previously unidentified human remains.	Class II	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-4:** If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work, contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in ~~§15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA *Guidelines*~~ Health and Safety Code §7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, ~~SCE and/or its contractors~~ the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code §5097.98, SCE shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the SCE and/or its contractor has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (Public Resources Code §5097.98), with the most likely descendents regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.	Less than Significant
11. Land Use and Planning			
Impact 4.11-1: The Project construction ~~c~~would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan ~~the Western Riverside County MSHCP~~. *Less than Significant ~~with Mitigation~~* (Class III)	Class III	~~**Mitigation Measure 4.11-1:** If through the permitting process CDFG and/or USFWS determine that participation in the MSHCP is appropriate, SCE shall participate in the Western Riverside County MSHCP for the Project. SCE shall hire a biological consultant who holds a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Riverside to prepare a consistency analysis to determine the Project's consistency with the applicable criteria in the Western Riverside County MSHCP. If the consistency analysis determines that the Project would not be consistent with the criteria, SCE shall implement the necessary measures to bring the Project into compliance, as determined by the consistency analysis and review by the Riverside County Environmental Programs Department.~~	Less than Significant

2-4 *The first sentence under "115 kV Switchrack" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-26:*

> One steel 115 kV switchrack, ~~up to~~ approximately 100 feet long by 240 feet wide by 36 feet high would be installed. The switchrack would consist of eight 30-foot-wide positions:

2-7 *The second sentence under "Two 28 MVA, 115/12 kV Transformer" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-30:*

> ~~The~~ Total transformer bank area would be approximately ~~80~~ 160 feet long by ~~52~~ 60 feet wide by ~~34.5~~ 35 feet high.

2-8 *The following is added after the first paragraph in response to comment A1b-21:*

> Currently, there is potable water service available at the site; however, no feasible sewer service option is available. Therefore, a portable chemical unit would be placed within the substation perimeter wall, and maintained by an outside service company.

2-9 *The second sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-32:*

> At full build out, the Lakeview Substation could accommodate sixteen ~~16~~ 12 kV distribution circuits.

2-14 *The first sentence under Section 2.7.2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-36:*

> SCE conducted an initial geotechnical investigation report for the ~~Project~~ proposed substation site to determine the nature and engineering properties of the subsurface soils and to provide preliminary recommendations for site grading, foundation design, and construction.

2-15 *The second bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-37:*

- *Nesting Bird*: If Project construction activities would occur during the nesting season (February 15 – September 15), a qualified biologist would survey construction areas for active nests. If active nests are identified, a Project specific nesting bird management plan would be developed and include appropriate buffers based on species specific biology and behavior. Additionally, reduction of buffers (as identified in the plan) would be based on recommendations of the biological monitors in the field and approved by the SCE project biologist ~~construction activities would not occur within 200 feet of the active nest.~~

2-17 *A fifth bullet is added under Section 2.8 in response to comment A1b-38:*

- Decommissioning of the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations.

2-17 *The second paragraph under Section 2.8.1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-39:*

For the subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication line, access roads would parallel the poles and existing roads would be used where available. If rehabilitation is required for existing roads to accommodate construction activities, related activities could include: grading and repair, vegetation clearance and grubbing, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, re-compaction of the surface, and installation of drainage and erosion control devices, ~~and ensuring~~ to ensure a minimum drivable width of 14 feet (preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side, depending upon field construction).

2-17 *The third paragraph under Section 2.8.1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-40:*

New roads (up to 3.5 miles) would be needed to access the new subtransmission source line segments, resulting in a disturbance of approximately ~~8.0~~ 5.94 acres. Construction of new access roads would include clearing the road alignments and grubbing them of vegetation, blade-grading to remove surface irregularities, over-excavation, ~~and~~ re-compaction, and installation of drainage and erosion control devices. Like existing roads, new roads would be constructed to provide a minimum drivable width of 14 feet, preferably with an additional 2 feet of shoulder on each side. Road gradients would be leveled so that any sustained grade would not exceed 12 percent. A 14 percent gradient would be permitted if grades do not exceed 40 feet in length and are located more than 50 feet from other excessive grades or any curves. Excess excavated material from grading the access roads would be properly disposed of off-site, if required (see Section 2.8.9.3).

2-18 *The following is added to the first paragraph in response to comment A1b-41:*

Final material selection and design would be determined during final engineering, and coordinated with local agencies.

2-18 *Table 2-2 is revised in response to comment A1b-42, as shown on the following page.*

TABLE 2-2 (REVISED)
ESTIMATED LAND DIST~~R~~URBANCE FOR ACCESS ROADS AND STAGING AREAS

Project Component	Linear Miles or Number of Sites	Disturbed Acreage Calculation (L x W)	Acreage Disturbed during Construction	Acres to be Restored	Acres Permanently Disturbed
New Access Roads	3.5 miles	Linear miles x 14' wide	~~5.1~~ 5.94	0	~~5.1~~ 5.94
Rehabilitation of Existing Access Roads for Subtransmission Lines	1.2 miles	Linear miles x 14' wide	Up to 2.0	0	Up to 2.0
Material and Equipment Staging Area for Subtransmission Lines	1	2.00 to 5.00 acres	2.0-5.0	2.0-5.0	0
Material and Equipment Staging area for Telecommunications	1	1 acre	1	1	0
Rehabilitation of Existing Access Roads for Telecommunications	~~8~~ 1 mile	Linear Miles x 14'	~~7.75~~ 0.7	0	~~7.75~~ 0.7

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a Table 3.4

2-20 *The last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-43 and A1b-44:*

Laydown areas serve as temporary staging locations for subtransmission equipment and materials. Laydown areas would be located along the proposed subtransmission source line segments within SCE ROW or franchise. Once materials leave the marshalling yard, they would be delivered to pole or wire stringing locations along the proposed routes. Common materials temporarily stored in laydown areas include, but are not limited to: TSPs, wood poles, rebar cages, wire stringing equipment, and conductor reels. ~~Up to 90 laydown areaws would be required, each no larger than 20,000 square feet (typically 200 feet by 100 feet).~~ Information pertaining to the number and approximate size of laydown areas is provided in Table 2-8. The laydown areas would be prepared by clearing existing vegetation and grading (SCE, 2011). ~~Soils in the laydown areas would be stabilized as soon as practical after soil disturbing activities have occurred or one day prior to the onset of precipitation.~~

2-21 *The paragraph under "Ground Grid" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-45:*

The ground grid consists of a series of bare copper conductor installed in trenches within the substation perimeter to ~~connect~~ ground the various components of the substation. A backhoe would be used to dig the trenches~~,~~ ~~which would be lined with concrete to house the conduit. Where below grade construction would occur (not in fill soil) the~~. The grid conductors are buried at a depth of 12 to 18 inches. Ground rods and ground electrodes may also be required depending on soil conditions. The design of the ground grid would be based on soil resistivity measurements collected during the geotechnical investigation.

2-21 *The first sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-47:*

> Installation of substation equipment (including switchracks, the MEER, transformer banks, capacitor banks and ~~two~~ four TSPs) would require the construction of concrete foundations.

2-22 *Footnote "a" of Table 2-5 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-48:*

> Excavation "spoils" ~~would~~ may be permanently placed on site during the below-ground construction phase.

2-23 *The last sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-49:*

> Prior to substation construction, SCE would obtain ~~a grading~~ permits from the County of Riverside as required, at which time a final site drainage plan would be determined.

2-24 *The last sentence of the first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-50:*

> It would be delivered by trucks approximately 9 times per day for a total duration of ~~5~~ 20 days (potentially not consecutive) for Lakeview Substation construction (SCE, 2011).

2-25 *Table 2-8 is revised in response to comment A1b-51, as shown on the following page.*

2-27 *The last sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-52:*

> These activities generally require an area of approximately ~~50~~ 100 feet wide by ~~100~~ 200 feet long.

2-28 *The first sentence under Section 2.8.5.6 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-53:*

> Prior to removal of existing poles, the existing subtransmission lines, distribution lines and telecommunication lines (where applicable) would be transferred to the new poles; all remaining subtransmission, distribution and telecommunication ~~lines~~ facilities that are not reused by SCE would be removed (above- and below-ground) and delivered to a facility for recycling.

TABLE 2-8 (REVISED)
ESTIMATED LAND DISTURBANCE FOR 115 KV SUBTRANSMISSION SOURCE LINES AND TELECOMMUNICATION LINES

Project Component	Number of Sites	Disturbed Acreage (Laydown Area) Calculation (L x W)	Acreage Disturbed during Construction	Acres to be Restored	Acres Permanently Disturbed
Guard Structure	8	50' x 75'	0.7	0.7	0
Removal of Existing Wood Poles	10	50' x 50'	0.6	0.6	0
Construction of New TSPs	17	200' x 100'	7.8	6.8	1
Construction of New Subtransmission Wood Poles	73	150' x 75'	18.9	15.2	3.7
115 kV Conductor Stringing Setup Area-Puller	4	200' x 100'	1.8	1.8	0
115 kV Conductor Stringing Setup Area-Tensioner	~~4~~ 3	200' x 100'	~~1.8~~ 1.0	~~1.8~~ 1.0	0
115 kV Conductor Stringing Splicing Setup Area	4	150' x 100'	1.4	1.4	0
Telecommunications Pull and Tension Sites	7	150' x 100'	2.4	2.4	0

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a Table 3-4

2-28 *The last sentence on page 2-28 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-55:*

Activities associated with restoration of these areas would include restoring original contours and reseeding with an appropriate seed mix for soil stabilization, to the extent feasible. All construction materials and debris would be removed from the area and recycled or properly disposed of offsite.

2-29 *The first sentence of the second paragraph under Section 2.8.6.2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-56:*

Depending on the type, condition and original chemical treatment, wood poles removed from the site could be reused by SCE for other purposes, disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill consistent with the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Article 4, §25143.1.5. Hazardous wastes generated during site activities would be disposed at the properly permitted Class I hazardous landfill.

2-29 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-57:*

> Non-hazardous waste, including soil that is not used as fill, would be transported to one of the three Riverside County solid waste management facilities located within 30 miles of the substation site: The El Sobrante Landfill in Corona, the Badlands Sanitary Landfill in Moreno Valley, or the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Beaumont all have sufficient capacity to accommodate Project-related solid waste (CIWMB, 2011).

2-30 *The third sentence of the fifth paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-58:*

> The temporary Model Pole Top Substation was installed at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and East Lakeview Avenue in ~~2007~~ 2009 to supplement capacity at the Nuevo Substation until a new substation project could be constructed to provide electrical service in the Electrical Needs Area.

2-32 *The last sentence of the fifth paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-59:*

> ~~No import or export of fill/soils would be necessary~~

2-33 *The second complete sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-61:*

> SCE maintains an inspection frequency of the energized subtransmission overhead facilities a minimum of once per year via ground ~~and/or~~ observation with the option of aerial observation on alternate years.

2-33 *The last sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-62:*

> Approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons per day would be necessary, and would be delivered to the site by water trucks ~~eight~~ 20 times a day (SCE, 2011).

2-34 *The following footnote is added to "Fuel Type" in Table 2-9 in response to comment A1b-63:*

> Diesel fueled vehicles could be interchangeable with gasoline fueled vehicles as seen in this table based on contractor and/or equipment availability.

2-36 *Portions of Table 2-9 beginning on page 2-36 are revised in response to comment A1b-64, as shown on the following page.*

TABLE 2-9 (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type[1]
115 kV Subtransmission Line Construction				
Survey (2 people)	13~~5~~	1/2-ton Pick-up Truck, 4x4	8	Gasoline
Marshalling Yard (4 people)	Duration of Project	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4	2	Diesel
		30 Ton Crane Truck	2	Diesel
		10,000lb Rough Terrain	5	Diesel
		Fork Lift		
		Truck, Semi, Tractor	1	Diesel
Right of Way Clearing (5 people)	14	1-ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	8	Diesel
		1 Road Grader	6	Diesel
		1 Water Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		1 Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		1 Lowboy Truck/Trailer	4	Diesel
Roads & Landing Work (5 people)	20	1-ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	2	Diesel
		1 Road Grader	4	Diesel
		1 Water Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		Drum Type Compactor	4	Diesel
		1 Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		Excavator	6	Diesel
		1 Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2	Diesel
Guard Structure Installation (6 People)	5~~2~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck 4x4	6	Diesel
		1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	6	Diesel
		Compressor Truck	6	Diesel
		Auger Truck	6	Diesel
		Extendable Flat Bed Pole Truck	6	Diesel
		30 Ton Crane Truck	8	Diesel
		80 foot Hydraulic Manlift/Bucket Truck	4	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
Remove Existing Wood Poles (6 People)	5~~1~~	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4	5	Diesel
		10,000 lb Rough Terrain Forklift	4	Diesel
		30 Ton Crane Truck	6	Diesel
		Compressor Trailer	6	Diesel
		Flat Bed Truck/Trailer	8	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
Install TSP Foundation (7 people)	41~~34~~	1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	2	Diesel
		30 Ton Crane Truck	5	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	8	Diesel
		Auger Truck	8	Diesel
		4,000 Gallon Water Truck	8	Diesel
		10 cu. Yd. Dump Truck	8	Diesel
		10 cu. Yd. Concrete Mixer Truck	5	Diesel
Install Subtransmission Wood Poles (8 people)	28~~19~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4	5	Diesel
		1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4	5	Diesel
		Compressor Trailer	5	Diesel
		80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane	6	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel

1 Diesel fueled vehicles could be interchangeable with gasoline fueled vehicles as seen in this table based on contractor and/or equipment availability.

TABLE 2-9 (Continued) (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type
115 kV Subtransmission Line Construction (cont.)				
Steep Pole Haul (4 people)	9~~5~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane 40' Flat Bed Truck/Trailer	5 6 8	Diesel Diesel Diesel
Steel Pole Assembly	9~~6~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane	5 5 5 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Steel Pole Erection (8 people)	9~~6~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer 80 Ton Rough Terrain Crane	5 5 5 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Install Conductor (16 people)	15~~10~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Wire Truck/Trailer Dump Truck (trash) Bucket Truck 22 Ton Manitex Splicing Rig Splicing Lab 3 Drum Straw Line Puller Static Truck/Tensioner	8 8 2 2 8 8 2 2 6 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Guard Structure Removal (6 people)	4~~2~~	¾ Ton Pick Up Truck, 4x4 1 Ton Crew Cab Flat Bed, 4x4 Compressor Trailer Extendable Flat Bed Pole Truck 30 Ton Crane Truck 80 Ft. Hydraulic Manlift/Bucket Truck Backhoe/Front Loader	6 6 6 6 8 4 6	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Restoration (7 people)	4	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4 Road Grader Water Truck Backhoe/Front Loader Drum Type Compactor Truck Type Dozer Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2 6 8 6 6 6 3	Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel
Telecommunications Construction				
Control Building Communications Room (7 people)	10 1	2 Vans 1 Crew Truck	1 1	Gasoline Diesel
Overhead Cable Installation (8 people)	44	2 Bucket Truck	8	Diesel
		1 Splice Lab Truck 1 Crew Truck	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Underground Facility Installation (6 people)	20	2 Crew Trucks	8	Diesel
		1 Backhoe	8	Diesel
		1 Flat Bed Truck	2	Diesel
		1 Stake Bed Truck Concrete Mixer	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Underground Cable Installation (6 people)	6	2 Reel Trucks	8	Diesel
		1 Splice Lab Truck 1 Crew Truck	8 8	Diesel Diesel
Optical Systems at Other Locations (6 people)	12	6 Vans	2	Gasoline

TABLE 2-9 (Continued) (REVISED)
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKFORCE ESTIMATES

Activity and Number of Personnel	Number of Work Days	Equipment and Quantity	Duration of Use (Hours/Day)	Fuel Type
Telecommunications Construction (cont.)				
Roads & Landing Work (5 people)	~~116~~	1 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4	2	Diesel
		Road Grader	4	Diesel
		Water Truck	8	Diesel
		Backhoe/Front Loader	6	Diesel
		Drum Type Compactor	4	Diesel
		Track Type Dozer	6	Diesel
		Excavator	6	Diesel
		Lowboy Truck/Trailer	2	Diesel

SOURCE: SCE, 2010a

Alternatives Analysis

3-2 *The fourth and fifth items under Section 3.2, Alternatives Development and Screening Process, are revised as follows as determined by the Lead Agency:*

> ~~4. Identify and evaluate other solar generation technology alternatives, if any, that have the potential to avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the Project;~~
>
> ~~5. Identify and evaluate whether alternative approaches, such as conservation and demand side management or distributed generation solar, could provide a reasonable feasible alternative to the Project; and~~

3-3 *The fourth bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

> Serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014;

3-6 *Portions of Table 3-2 beginning on page 3-6 are revised as shown on the following page.*

3-8 *The first sentence under "Project Objectives" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

> This alternative would meet the basic Project objectives, but could result in service to the Electrical Needs Area not beginning by ~~mid-2013~~ 2014.

3-9 *The sixth sentence under Section 3.4.2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-77:*

> The subtransmission line segments along 10th and 11th ~~streets~~ Streets would proceed as proposed for the Project but would not run between "A Avenue ~~A~~" and Reservoir Avenue on 10th or 11th Streets, and as a result the subtransmission line routes for this alternative would be approximately ~~2,900~~ 1,320 feet shorter for each segment ~~overall~~ than for the Project.

TABLE 3-2 (REVISED)
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING ANALYSIS – LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Alternative	Project Objectives Criteria	Feasibility Criteria	Environmental Criteria
Passes Screening			
Alternative 1: Phased Construction • Revises the proposed construction schedule to preclude overlapping activities as necessary for construction-related air emissions to remain below SCAQMD-established significance thresholds for NO_x (100 lbs/day) and PM10 (150 lbs/day). • ~~Approximately 2-3 miles of new 12 kV distribution line would be constructed from the Bunker Substation to the Nuevo Substation. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that this distribution line would be strung or undergrounded on/within existing facilities. Addition of this distribution line would allow for up to 6 MVA of electrical demand to be transferred from the Nuevo Substation to provide enough capacity for the Electrical Needs Area through 2015 (SCE, 2011a).~~	Meets most Project objectives.	Meets feasibility criteria.	Meets these criteria. Aesthetics: no change anticipated. Noise: construction noise impacts would be similar and operational noise impacts would be the same as under the Project. Air Quality: would reduce daily construction air emissions. ~~Noise: construction and operational noise impacts would be the same as under the Project.~~ ~~New Impacts: Placement of the temporary distribution line could result in new impacts related to air quality, noise, and transportation and traffic.~~
Alternative 2: Relocated Substation • The alternative substation site would be: - Adjacent to (and northwest of) the proposed substation site. - Like the proposed site, the alternative substation site would be adjacent to the planned extension of 10th Street along the existing parcel boundary. - The alternative substation site also would be adjacent to planned "Avenue A" shown on the Assessor's parcel map and delineated between fields on Project figures. - SCE does not own, control access to, or have an existing right to construct and operate a substation on the alternative substation site. Rights would have to be obtained. • The alternative subtransmission line route would: - Run adjacent to "Avenue A" instead of Reservoir Avenue - Not change the location of the proposed alignment running southwest-southeast down 10th and 11th Streets, but would reduce the distance of the runs by approximately ~~2,900~~1,320 feet per segment. - Substantially maintain the contiguity of existing single ownership by separating seven parcels from one parcel rather than bisecting four parcels from four parcels. - Require ~~3-5 fewer~~ the same number of TSPs to be constructed at the proposed substation site - Require 3-5 fewer wood poles along 11th Street between Reservoir Avenue and the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line - Require new ROW along "Avenue A" between 10th and 11th Streets - Be installed aboveground	Meets most Project objectives.	Meets feasibility criteria.	Meets environmental criteria, although some impacts may be similar to the Project but would merely occur in a different location. Aesthetics: would decrease visual impacts for local motorists and residents along the western edge of Lakeview, but would increase visual impacts for San Jacinto River trail users and motorists on Ramona Expressway. Agricultural: would disturb less Farmland than the Project during both construction and operation Air Quality: daily construction air emissions would be approximately the same; however, local impacts to a residence along 11th Street would be reduced. Noise: would lessen construction and operational noise impacts New Impacts: The relocated Substation would be constructed in a flood zone.

3-9 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-78:*

> ~~***Potential New Impacts Created***~~
>
> ~~Placement of the temporary distribution line between the Nuevo and Bunker Substations under Alternative 1 would result in an increase in vehicle trips and potential new temporary lane closures, resulting in increased air pollutant emissions, noise effects near sensitive land uses, and transportation and traffic impacts.~~

3-13 *The first sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-82:*

> Distributed generation is electricity production that is on-site or close to the load center that could be interconnected at ~~16 kV~~ distribution, subtransmission, or transmission system voltages.

Aesthetics

4.1-7 *The last sentence of the last paragraph on page 4.1-7 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-91:*

> However, the visual sensitivity of the Project as viewed from parks and trails is generally in the moderate-to-high range due to the ~~change~~ relatively close range from which the Project would be seen.

4.1-9 *The first sentence under "Lakeview Substation Site" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-89:*

> The Lakeview Substation Site is located in an agricultural field ~~northwest~~ southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Reservoir Avenue.

4.1-9 *The first sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-90:*

> The only relevant County eligible scenic roadway in the visual study area is the Ramona Expressway, which is ~~designated~~ eligible as a scenic corridor by Riverside County due to its open and unobstructed views of the surrounding hills, the San Jacinto River, and surrounding agricultural land.

4.1-15 *Figure 4.1-8 has been revised in response to comment A1b-92, as shown on the following page.*

4.1-24 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-93:*

> Because the fiber optic cables would not be visible or would follow existing or proposed utility lines, the telecommunications facilities would have a less-than-significant impact with respect to all visual resources significance criteria.

KOP 4 - Existing View from informal recreational trail along San Jacinto River, facing east

KOP 4 - Simulated View from informal recreational trail along San Jacinto River, facing east

SOURCE: SCE and AECOM, 2010

Lakeview Substation Project . 207584.08

Figure 4.1-8

Project Simulation from KOP 4

4.1-28 *The fourth sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-98:*

> Although there are several existing subtransmission and distribution ~~lines~~ structures (or facilities) visible from the San Jacinto River corridor, the new subtransmission source line would be located in an area that currently features minimal visual clutter (i.e., straight, geometric and complex forms and lines).

4.1-28 *The last sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-99:*

> APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter with green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings.

4.1-29 *The last sentence of the fourth paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-100:*

> APM Aesthetics-1 would reduce the color contrast of the substation perimeter wall with the surrounding area by landscaping the outer perimeter, thereby placing green shrubs ~~and trees~~ that would be more compatible with the rural residential and agricultural surroundings and discouraging graffiti.

4.1-32 *The first complete sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-102:*

> ~~At the proposed Lakeview Substation site~~ For the Project, this is likely to reduce the number of personnel, vehicles, and machinery operating at any one time, thereby reducing the visual clutter and activity of an active construction site, but is not likely to reduce the general visual presence of cleared ground, fencing, material stockpiles or construction-related equipment.

4.1-32 *The third sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-103:*

> Under Alternative 2, the proposed Lakeview Substation would be located approximately ~~0.250~~ 0.125 mile further away from the affected local roads and residences, thereby significantly reducing the level of visual impact from KOPs 5, 6, 7 and 8.

4.1-33 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-104:*

> ~~As such, while the No Project Alternative would result in reduced impacts compared to the Project, impacts would remain less than significant.~~

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

4.2-2 *The following is added to "Prime Farmland" in response to comment A1b-106:*

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

4.2-2 *The following is added to "Unique Farmland" in response to comment A1b-107:*

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

4.2-2 *The following is added to "Farmland of Statewide Importance" in response to comment A1b-108:*

> Land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles (four years) prior to the mapping date.

4.2-2 *The period of acreage changes in Table 4.2-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-109:*

> ~~2004-2006~~ 2006-2008

4.2-7 *The second and third bullets of Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a are revised as follows in response to comment A1b-112:*

- To avoid over-compaction of the top layers of soil, monitor pre-construction soil densities and return the surface soil (approximately the top 3 feet) to within 5 percent of original density, except where higher soil density is necessary to meet engineering requirements~~ for tower foundations within the tower buffer zone~~.

- Avoid working or traveling unnecessarily on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil structure.

4.2-8 *The second bullet under Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-114:*

- Either ~~S~~supply replacement crops and trees, or financial compensation for the value of replacement crops and trees, to the landowner at a mitigation ratio of one to one (1:1), upon completion of construction. ~~Coordinate planting of replacement crops and trees with landowners.~~

4.2-8 *The following footnote is added under Table 4.2-8 in response to comment A1b-116:*

> [d] Totals may not match values shown in the table due to rounding.

4.2-9 *Mitigation Measure 4.2-2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-117:*

1) SCE shall ~~grant a~~ acquire farmland and shall establish an easement for the portion of the land that will no longer be used for agricultural land equal to the acreage converted (i.e., 7.9 acres). This land shall be in an area designated for long-term future agricultural use; or

4.2-11 *The first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-123:*

In addition, there would not be ~~a less-than-significant~~ an impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth caused by the Project. The Project is proposed to ensure the availability of reliable electric service to meet customer electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area because existing facilities would not meet forecasted, long-term electrical demand. Therefore, the Project would not induce growth but instead is designed to respond to existing growth and demand trends, and therefore would not be expected to substantially induce or exacerbate conversion of agricultural land. ~~Impacts would be less than significant.~~

4.2-11 *The last sentence under Mitigation Measure 4.2-3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-124:*

In lieu of implementing the above requirements, SCE shall have the option of negotiating agreements with any affected landowner(s) that shall enable the landowner(s), to the extent practicable, to effect their own irrigation and/or drainage system changes in a manner consistent with the landowner's farming practices and plans.

4.2-12 *The second sentence under "Alternative 2" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-126:*

Construction of Alternative 2 would cause temporary disturbance to Farmland similar to the Project, but because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 2,640 feet and Alternative 2 would require 3 to 5 fewer wood poles and ~~0.54 fewer~~ 0.55 mile less of rehabilitated and new access roads, the total temporary disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Farmland of Statewide Importance*, and *Unique Farmland* would be slightly less than the Project.

4.2-12 *The second sentence of the second paragraph under "Alternative 2" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-126:*

However, because the subtransmission source line routes would be shorter by approximately ~~2,900~~ 2,640 feet and Alternative 2 would require 3 to 5 fewer wood poles and ~~0.54 fewer~~ 0.55 mile less of rehabilitated and new access roads, the total permanent disturbance of *Prime Farmland*, *Unique Farmland*, and *Farmland of Statewide Importance* would be slightly less than the Project.

4.2-12 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-123:*

In addition, Alternative 1 would have no ~~a less-than-significant~~ impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth, because the provision of electricity would be the same as for the Project.

4.2-13 *The first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-123:*

In addition, Alternative 2 would have no ~~a less-than-significant~~ impact related to the conversion of Farmland from induced growth, because the provision of electricity would be the same as for the Project.

Air Quality

4.3-9 *The following is added after the first paragraph in response to comment B3-3:*

In addition, on-road vehicles with a gross vehicular weight rating of 10,000 pounds or greater shall not idle for longer than 5 minutes at any location as required by Title 13 California Code of Regulations Section 2485. This restriction does not apply when vehicles remain motionless during traffic or when vehicles are queuing.

4.3-9 *"Regulation IV-Prohibitions, Rule 402-Nuisance," is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-133:*

This rule prohibits the discharge of air contaminants or other material, including odorous material, in quantities that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public.

4.3-16 *The following is added to the first paragraph in response to comment A1b-138:*

It should be noted that the PM10 emissions estimates presented in Table 4.3-6 factor in emission reductions that would be achieved by implementing the BACMs, which are general in nature to offer flexibility in implementation. Fugitive dust PM10 emission estimates include control efficiencies of 57 percent, 61 percent, and 90 percent for limiting vehicle speed on unpaved roads and surfaces; watering during ground disturbance activities such as bulldozing, scraping, and grading activities; and watering soil storage piles, respectively. To ensure that the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust BACMs are properly implemented during Project construction activities in a manner that reduces fugitive dust emissions to the extent feasible, SCE shall implement Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b, which would require SCE to develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that would specifically describe how implementation of each of the applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 fugitive dust BACMs would be successfully achieved in the field.

4.3-16 *Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a is revised as follows in response to comment B3-3:*

Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a: For diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment of more than 50 horsepower~~ and on-road diesel fueled vehicles~~, SCE shall make a good faith effort to use available construction equipment that meets the highest USEPA-certified tiered emission standards~~ ensure achievement of a Project-wide fleet-average 20 percent NO_x reduction and 45 percent PM10 exhaust reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average~~. SCE shall also make a good faith effort to use 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks. An Exhaust Emissions Control Plan ~~to achieve~~ that indentifies each off-road unit's certified tier specification, Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and the CARB or SCAQMD operating permit number (if applicable), as well as the model year of all haul trucks to be used on the Project that are under direct control of SCE or its construction contractor ~~these reductions~~ shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. Construction activities cannot commence until the plan has been approved. ~~Acceptable options for reducing emissions include the use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as such become available.~~ For all pieces of equipment that would not meet Tier 3 emission standards, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation from two local heavy construction equipment rental companies that indicates that the companies do not have access to higher-tiered equipment for the given class of equipment. In the event that 2010 or newer diesel haul trucks are not available for the Project, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall document that a good faith effort to obtain such haul trucks has been made.

During construction of the Lakeview Substation, SCE and/or its construction contractor(s) shall use electricity from the regional power grid where feasible rather than diesel or gasoline power generators. In the event that SCE determines that this would not be feasible, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation to support the determination.

4.3-17 *Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b is revised as follows in response to comment B3-3:*

Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b: SCE shall develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how compliance with each of SCAQMD Rule 403 Best Available Control Measures (BACMs) shall be achieved. If it is determined that any of the BACMs are not applicable to construction of the Project, the plan shall present rational as to why the BACMs are not applicable and would not be implemented. This plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval and the approved plan shall be distributed to all employees and construction contractors prior to commencement of construction activities.

The Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following specific control measures as applicable:

- Limit soil disturbance to the amounts analyzed in the air quality analysis;
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials;

- Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip;
- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more);
- Suspend all excavating and grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph;
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads shall not exceed 15 mph;
- Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more);
- Replace ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible;
- Apply water three times daily, or non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications, to all unpaved parking or staging areas or unpaved road surfaces;
- Sweep streets adjacent to the construction site at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water); and
- Appoint a construction relations officer to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity including resolution of issues related to PM10 generation.

4.3-17 *The second sentence under "Significance after Mitigation" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-141:*

As noted above, implementation of the ~~BAAQMD~~ SCAQMD fugitive dust BACMs have been factored into the emission estimates presented in Table 4.3-6; therefore, further reductions in PM10 emissions through implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b (Fugitive Dust Control Plan) cannot be substantiated.

4.3-20 *Table 4.3-8 has been revised as follows in response to comment A1b-144:*

TABLE 4.3-8
CONSTRUCTION LOCALIZED SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

Project Component	CO	NO_x	PM10	PM2.5
Nuevo Substation Demolition Emissions (lbs/day)	28	6	1	<0.5
Maximum Allowable Emissions (lbs/day)[c]	1,059	~~201~~ 116	16	5
Exceedance?	No	No	No	No

4.3-24 *The following reference has been added in response to comment A1b-139:*

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), 2012a. Table II - Off-Road Engine Emission Rates Comparison of Uncontrolled to Tiered Rates and Tiered to Tiered Rates. Webpage (http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/FleetRules/1186.1Sweepers/index.htm) accessed July 27, 2012.

Biological Resources

4.4-1 *The fifth bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-150:*

- Focused biological reports that considered the potential presence or absence, and distribution of sensitive resources in the study area, including:
  - special-status plants (BonTerra, 2010b, 2011b);
  - burrowing owl (BonTerra, 2010c);
  - sensitive mammals (BonTerra, 2010d; SJM Biological Consultants, 2011);
  - coastal California gnatcatcher (BonTerra, 2010e);
  - Riverside fairy shrimp (BonTerra, 2010f), and;
  - Quino checkerspot butterfly (BonTerra, 2010g)
  - Small mammal habitat assessment and trapping survey (BonTerra, 2011a)

4.4-2 *The fifth sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-151:*

Portions of SCE's existing ~~Lakeview~~ Valley-Moval ~~155~~ 115 kV Subtransmission Line are adjacent to or within the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, which is principally located east of the subtransmission line (CDFG, 2011b).

4.4-4 *Table 4.4-1 is revised in response to comment A1b-165, as shown on the following page.*

4.4-6 *The third sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-153:*

Portions of SCE's existing ~~Lakeview~~ Valley-Moval ~~155~~ 115 kV Subtransmission Line are adjacent to or within the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, which is principally located east of the subtransmission line (CDFG, 2011b).

TABLE 4.4-1 (REVISED)
VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IN THE PROJECT AREA

Project Component	Vegetation Type	Area (acres)[a]	Project Impact (acres)[b]
Proposed Lakeview Substation	Agriculture	7.09	7.09
	Disturbed	0.98	0.98
	Subtotal Area	**8.07**	**8.07**
Proposed Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 & 2	Alkali Grassland	0.77	0.20
	Annual Grassland	0.22	0.22
	Alkali Scrub Playa	0.29	0.00
	Disturbed Alkali Scrub Playa	0.03	0.00
	Southern Willow Scrub	0.06	0.00
	Ruderal	1.03	1.03
	Agriculture	26.60	26.60
	Ornamental	0.21	0.21
	Detention Basin	0.19	0.00
	Disturbed	8.40	8.40
	Developed	0.84	0.00
	Subtotal Area	**38.35**	**36.44**
Proposed Fiber-Optic Cable Routes	Annual Grassland	50.88	0.22
	Alkali Grassland	0.77	0.00
	Riversidean Sage Scrub	3.68	0.00
	Disturbed Riversidean Sage Scrub	5.42	0.00
	Ruderal	13.85	2.00
	Agriculture	23.97	14.96
	Ornamental	1.16	0.07
	Irrigation Ditch	1.22	0.00
	Disturbed	30.15	5.83
	Developed	12.08	0.57
	Subtotal Area	**143.18**	**23.65**
	Total Area:	**189.60**	**68.36**
Alternative 2: Relocated Substation	Agriculture	10.60	10.60
	Disturbed	1.13	1.13
	Developed	0.01	0.01
	Subtotal Area	**11.74**	**11.74**
Alternative Subtransmission Segment 2	Developed	0.57	0.57
	Ruderal	1.71	1.71
	Agriculture	0.79	0.79
	Disturbed	4.11	4.11
	Ornamental	0.07	0.07
	Subtotal Area	**7.25**	**7.25**
	Alternative Project Total Area:	**18.99**	**18.99**

[a] Acreage figures presented in Figure 4.4-1 include a 50-foot study buffer on linear facilities such as proposed subtransmission source line segments and fiber optic cable routes. The acreage figures for the proposed and alternative substation sites correspond to the footprint of proposed facilities.

[b] The Project impact does not include Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3, which was removed from the Project Description.

SOURCE: SCE, 2010, pp. 4.4-87, 4.4-89, 4.4-93, 4.4-98, and 4.4-101

4.4-8 *The last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment C6-54:*

This analysis evaluates potential impacts of the Project on listed and other species determined to have moderate or high potential and species known to be present in the study area. These species are described below. Non-listed special-status wildlife species that are considered absent due to lack of suitable habitat in the Project area and those species that~~, species determined to~~ have a low potential to occur in the study area due to the presence of suitable habitat with negative survey results (e.g., some rare plants), and birds that may forage (but not nest) in the area are identified as well~~, but related~~; however, potential impacts are not ~~analyzed under CEQA~~ anticipated to these species.

4.4-14 *Table 4.4-2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-156:*

~~Present. Occurs in the alignment near the San Jacinto River.~~ Low potential, not found during surveys.

4.4-17 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-157:*

… Suitable habitat for this species occurs in seasonal pools near the San Jacinto River; however, these areas are not in the study area for the proposed project or alternatives (SCE, 2010, pg. 4.4-10). A 2010 Riverside fairy shrimp habitat assessment performed by BonTerra (2010f) identified no suitable habitat for this species within the footprint of the proposed Project. Designated critical habitat for this species does not occur in the study area for the project or alternatives (USFWS 2001; 2004b).

4.4-18 *The first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-158:*

Numerous occurrences are reported in the study area (CDFG, 2011) and this species was detected along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 during focused surveys for the Project (Bonterra, 2010d; 2011).

4.4-18 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-162:*

Designated critical habitat for thread-leaved brodiaea occurs on ~~the~~ Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~.

4.4-18 *The fifth paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-159:*

This species is documented by CDFG in the San Jacinto River corridor within Subtransmission Source Line Segment~~s~~ 1 ~~and 2~~ (CDFG, 2011; Bonterra, 2010b).

4.4-18 *The following is added above the section titled "Special-Status Plants" in response to comment B2-8:*

Raptors. The San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris State Recreation Area are important breeding and foraging area for many resident raptor species, and also serve as important wintering grounds for numerous migratory raptors. The regional topography, variety of local habitats, and availability of year-round water attract a wide variety of birds, including high densities of wintering raptors. Common resident and wintering raptors in the region include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*),white-tailed Kite, osprey, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), among others. Numerous owl species also occur locally and include burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), among others.[2] Generally, raptors can be susceptible to human activities such as habitat alteration, loss of breeding habitat, poisoning, disturbance of nesting or roosting sites, or interactions with powerlines or towers through electrocution or collision.

4.4-25 *The following is added after the last paragraph in response to comment A1b-160:*

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Stephens' kangaroo rat in Western Riverside County is administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. The area covered by the plan includes 533,954 acres in western Riverside County, roughly corresponding to the historic range of the Stephens' kangaroo rat. The HCP permits the lawful "take" of this species consistent with state and federal permitting obligations under the HCP.

4.4-30 *Impact 4.4-2 is revised as follows in response to comment B2-1:*

Impact 4.4-2: Construction activities associated with the Project could result in adverse impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat as well as non-listed special status wildlife species. *Less than Significant with Mitigation* (Class III)

4.4-30 *The first paragraph under Impact 4.4-2 is revised as follows in response to comment B5-3:*

In addition to known occurrences of Stephens' kangaroo rat in the Project area, potential habitat for this species was identified in portions of Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2, Fiber-Optic Cable Route 2 and 3. Habitat for this species does not occur at the proposed Lakeview Substation site. SCE would

[2] McCrary, M. D., R.. McKernan, W. D. Wagner, and R. E. Landry. 1986. Roadside raptor census in the San Jacinto Valley of southern California. Western Birds 17:123-130.

have a qualified biologist perform a habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, 2 and 3 (APM-BIO-3). If potential habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat were to be identified, SCE would perform protocol-level trapping surveys. All the fiber-optic cable routes are within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, if suitable habitat for this species were found, SCE would participate in the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan and a fee would be paid to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys. Additionally, a qualified biological monitor would supervise and assist construction crews to minimize impacts within potential habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat. Therefore, impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat would be less than significant ~~level~~.

4.4-30 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-166:*

SCE would avoid known special-status plant populations through general plant protection measures (APM-Bio-6), and avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations (APM-Bio-7); however, if avoidance of these species is not possible by applying applicable APMs, SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP, therefore, impacts to critical habitat ~~to~~ would be less than significant.

4.4-31 *Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 is added in response to comment B2-1:*

Mitigation Measure 4.4-2: SCE shall implement measures to reduce Project impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles Pocket mouse in the San Jacinto River corridor as follows:

SCE shall implement a Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse trapping and relocation effort only if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency.

Habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse within Project area grasslands (such as those identified in BonTerra, 2011) shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone to be approved by the USFWS and CDFG. SCE shall stake, flag, fence, or otherwise clearly delineate the construction right-of-way that restricts the limits of construction to the minimum necessary to implement the Project that also would avoid and minimize impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat.

Where avoidance of confirmed Stephens' kangaroo rat precincts is infeasible and unavoidable, and if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, SCE shall install silt fence or other impermeable barrier to Stephens' kangaroo rat to exclude Stephens' kangaroo rat from entering the active work areas.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

4.4-31 *The first paragraph of Impact 4.4-2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-169:*

In addition to known occurrences of Stephen's kangaroo rat in the Project area, potential habitat for this species was identified in portions of Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2 and 3~~. Habitat for this species does not occur at the proposed Lakeview Substation site. SCE performed protocol-level trapping surveys for the Stephen's kangaroo rat and it was determined that there is a presence of the species along Subtransmission Line Segment 1 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1. ~~would have a qualified biologist perform a habitat assessment for Stephen's kangaroo rat along Subtransmission Source Line Segment 1 and 2 and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, 2 and 3 (APM-BIO-3). If potential habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat were to be identified, SCE would perform protocol-level trapping surveys. All the fiber-optic cable routes are~~ The Project is within a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, ~~if suitable habitat for this species were found,~~ a fee ~~would~~ will be paid in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority (APM-Bio-3). ~~to the County of Riverside in lieu of performing additional surveys. Additionally, a qualified biological monitor would supervise and assist construction crews to minimize impacts within potential habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat.~~ Therefore, impacts to Stephen's kangaroo rat would be less than significant.

4.4-32 *The fourth bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-172:*

- ~~Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions~~

4.4-33 *The first sentence of the first full paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-165:*

One CDFG sensitive natural community~~ies~~ occurs in the Project area and would be impacted by the Project. ~~Less than~~ Approximately ~~0.01~~ 0.20 acre of ~~Riversidean sage scrub and disturbed Riversidian sage scrub~~ alkali grassland occurs in association with the San Jacinto River corridor and would be impacted on the proposed Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2 ~~on the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 and would be impacted~~ (SCE, 2010; pp. 4.4-89 and 4.4-93).

4.4-33 *The second sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-174:*

Portions of the San Jacinto River would be spanned by Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2~~.

4.4-33 *The first sentence under Impact 4.4-6 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-177:*

> As identified in the PEA (SCE, 2010, pg. 4.4-68), the alignments for Subtransmission Source Line Segments 1 and 2, and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 ~~2~~ traverse the San Jacinto River.

4.4-34 *The third sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment C6-37:*

> The proposed Lakeview Substation site currently supports agriculture and may provide limited foraging opportunities but does not provide breeding habitat for Criteria Area Species (see SCE, 2010, PEA Table 4.4-2, pg. 4.4-76).

4.4-35 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment B5-2:*

> The Lakeview Substation Project is also located within the area covered by the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKRHCP), which is administered by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. If the avoidance of San Jacinto Valley crownscale and Stephens' kangaroo rat is not possible by applying applicable APMs and mitigation measures, SCE would seek inclusion in the MSHCP and SKRHCP. While it is uncertain as to whether or not SCE will participate in the MSHCP or SKRHCP; by performing focused biological resource survey and carrying out APMs, SCE has committed to protect sensitive and protected species and habitats in a manner that is consistent with these HCPs ~~MSHCP~~ (SCE, 2010; pg. 4.4-82). Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the provisions of an approved HCP ~~the MSHCP~~.

4.4-37 *The following is added to the References in response to comment A1b-150:*

> Bonterra, 2011b. Results of the 2011 Special-Status Plant Surveys for the Lakeview Substation Project, Prepared for Southern California Edison, October 2011.

Cultural Resources

4.5-2 *The paragraph under "Cultural Resources" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-182:*

> The Project area is located within a wide northeast-southwest trending branch of Perris valley, within an alluvial plain formed by the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River has been realigned and channelized in modern times. ~~The proposed fiber optic cable line runs along the base of the Bernasconi Hills and Mount Russell, ending in Moreno Valley.~~ Elevation ranges from 1,410 to 1,630 feet above mean sea level. Soil in the area consists of decomposed granitic silt, corals sand, and gravel. ~~Hill slopes in the Bernasconi Hills are characterized by granitic~~

~~bedrock outcrops.~~ Originally, vegetation within the Project area would have consisted of grasslands and coastal sage scrub; however, this has been replaced by non-native grass, weeds, and agricultural fields (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

4.5-4 *The first paragraph under "Ethnographic Resources" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-183:*

At the time of Spanish contact, the Project area was located near the boundary between the territories of the Luiseño, the Serrano, and the Cahuilla.

4.5-4 *The following is added before "Historic Setting" in response to comment A1b-183:*

The Serrano have also been identified as having associations with the area. Serrano territory was bordered to the west by the Cajon Pass in the San Bernardino Mountains, to the east by Twenty-nine Palms and to the south by Yucaipa Valley. The Serrano subsistence strategy relied upon hunting and gathering, and occasionally fishing (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren, 1984). Mountain sheep, deer, rabbits, acorns, grass seeds, piñon nuts, bulbs, yucca roots, cacti fruit, berries, and mesquite were some of the more common resources utilized (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren, 1984). The Serrano were organized into clans, with the clan being the largest autonomous political entity. They lived in small villages where extended families lived in circular, dome-shaped structures made of willow frames covered with tule thatching. Despite early European and Spanish contact in 1771 and 1772, the Serrano remained relatively autonomous until the period between 1819 and 1834 when most of the western Serrano were removed and placed into missions (Bean and Smith, 1978; Warren 1984).

4.5-7 *The discussion of "Archival Research" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-185:*

Archival Research. The cultural resources studies included a records search, Native American contact program, and survey of the Project area (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

A records search was completed at the Eastern Information Center for the Project and alternatives and a 0.5-mile radius. The records search included a review of existing site records and literature, historic maps, and listings of resources on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), California Points of Historical Interest, and California Historical Landmarks. ~~For convenience purposes, t~~ The records search ~~was divided into two areas: 1)~~ consisted of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2~~; and 2) Fiber Optic Cable Route 3~~.

The records search indicated that 21 cultural resources investigations have been previously conducted within 0.5 mile of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2, of which eight included portions of the Project area. ~~Twenty-eight cultural resources investigations have been conducted within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, of which eight covered portions of the Project area.~~

Twenty cultural resources have been previously recorded within 0.5 mile of the proposed Lakeview Substation site, subtransmission source line segments, and Fiber Optic Cable Routes 1 and 2. These include 12 prehistoric archaeological sites, 1 prehistoric isolated artifact, 2 historic-era irrigation features, 1 historic-era isolated find, 3 historic-era buildings or groups of buildings, and 1 multi-component archaeological site. All of the prehistoric sites and the prehistoric component of the multi-component site consist of or include bedrock milling features.

~~An additional 67 cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mile of Fiber Optic Cable Route 3, including 57 prehistoric archaeological sites, 2 prehistoric isolated artifacts, 2 historic-era archaeological sites, 1 historic-era irrigation ditch, 1 historic-era cistern, 1 historic-era building, 1 historic-era human burial, and 2 multi-component archaeological sites. Fifty-one of the prehistoric sites and the prehistoric components of both of the multi-component sites consist of or include bedrock milling features.~~

Two of the previously recorded resources, P-33-09030 and P-33-05130, lie within the Project area. Resource P-33-09030, located within the proposed Lakeview Substation site, was recorded as an irrigation pump and engine mounted on concrete footings. The pump and engine are now gone. Resource P-33-05130 is located within a subtransmission source line segment and consists of structures associated with the early 20th century Stalder Farm. The farm was evaluated in 1993 as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register (Cotterman and Mason, 2010).

~~Four of the previously recorded resources, although not located within the Project area, were recorded within 100 feet of the Fiber Optic Cable Route 3. These resources, P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, and P-33-02951, are all prehistoric archaeological sites consisting of bedrock milling features.~~

4.5-8 *The paragraphs under "Native American Contact" are revised as follows in response to comments A1b-186 and B1-3:*

Native American Contact. Contact with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native American ~~contacts also~~ representatives was performed by SCE. The NAHC responded that a check of their Sacred Lands File did not reveal the presence of Native American resources within the Project

area. ~~No responses were received from any of the Native American contacts recommended by the NAHC as of the filing of SCE's application for a PTC.~~

A response from the Cahuilla Band of Indians was received via email on April 6, 2010. The Cahuilla Band of Indians expressed interest in the Project area due to the Project location being within the traditional use of the tribe. However, no traditional cultural properties or sacred lands were identified by the Cahuilla Band of Indians.

In a letter dated March 2, 2012, Pechanga Cultural Resources, Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians (Pechanga) commented on the Draft EIR indicating its concerns about the Project and the lack of consultation to solicit information about sensitive cultural resources that may be present in the Project area. The letter requests that consultation be initiated; provides important contextual information concerning the Pechanga's cultural affiliation with the Project area, archaeological sites including villages and ceremonial sites, and a trade and travel corridor that connects several Luiseño villages in the Project vicinity; expresses that archaeological resources be viewed from a holistic landscape perspective rather than as individual sites; and presents mitigation recommendations. The Pechanga's interests and concerns with the Project are detailed in the March 2, 2012 letter and are included in the Final EIR through the Draft EIR response to comments process.

Since receiving the comment letter, the CPUC, its cultural resources consultant, and SCE have initiated and engaged in coordination with the Tribe to elicit important information concerning the cultural resources sensitivity of the Project area. Telephone conferences were held on April 4 and July 11, 2012 and a meeting between Tribal representatives and the CPUC's cultural resources consultant took place on July 18, 2012. During this meeting, the Pechanga provided additional information concerning the proximity of the Project area to the Lakeview Hot Springs which may have been of cultural, traditional, and/or ceremonial importance to the Luiseño prehistorically and historically and the proximity of the Project to the modern Ramona Expressway, which extends along what was once an important Luiseño trade and travel route as evidenced by the types of cultural resources located in the area. Additionally, they have expressed concern about four sites located in the general Project vicinity, CA-RIV-858, CA-RIV-111, CA-RIV-1772, and CA-RIV-528, the closest of which is approximately 500 feet from the closest Project component.

4.5-8 *The second paragraph under "Archaeological Survey" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-187:*

As a result of the archaeological surveys, five resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3), two previously recorded and three newly recorded, were identified within the Project area. All five resources are

historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources. ~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6), four previously recorded and three newly recorded, are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources.~~ An additional three built historic resources were identified adjacent to the Project area. All resources are described in detail below.

4.5-10 *The discussion of "Cultural Resources Located Adjacent to the Project Area" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-188:*

~~The following seven archaeological resources and t~~ Three built historic resources are located outside of, but within 100 feet of, the Project area. They have not been evaluated for significance under the National Register or California Register of Historical Resources.

~~**P-33-00525:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet west of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of three bedrock milling slicks and one bedrock mortar. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-00526:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 65 feet northwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1972 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-02951:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 16 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of a single bedrock milling slick. The site was originally recorded in 1983 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**P-33-00608:** This prehistoric archaeological resource is located approximately 100 feet southwest of the fiber optic cable route. The resource consists of two bedrock milling slicks on separate granitic bedrock outcroppings. The site was originally recorded in 1973 and was relocated in 2010.~~

~~**CWA63-4:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a partially collapsed structure with a concrete foundation and lumber walls covered in corrugated galvanized steel. The structure may have been a well house. The resource is located about 25 feet southeast of the fiber optic cable route.~~

~~**CWA63-5:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of a 6-foot-high, 60-foot diameter dirt mound surrounding the base of a cylindrical~~

~~water reservoir. The reservoir is composed of granite boulders and cobbles bound by mortar and lined with cement plaster. Several historic-era artifacts were recorded in the reservoir, including a cylindrical "Prince Albert" tobacco can, a rectangular can, an aluminum-top beverage can with a pull-tab opening, and several lumber fragments. The resource is located about 65 feet east of the fiber optic cable route.~~

~~**CWA63-6:** This newly recorded historic-period archaeological resource consists of the remains of an irrigation pumping feature and a capped well. The pumping feature consists of a concrete slab with protruding steel pipes, but no pumping equipment, and is flanked by two concrete standpipes. The capped well is a steel pipe set in concrete and projecting to a height of 42 inches above the ground surface. The top of the pipe is capped with a flat steel plate. The resource is located about 30 feet west of the fiber optic cable route.~~

4.5-19 *The following is added before the first paragraph under Impact 4.5-1 in response to comment B1-3:*

The Pechanga have expressed concern regarding the proximity of the Project area to the Lakeview Hot Springs, which may have been of cultural, traditional, and/or ceremonial importance to the Luiseño prehistorically and historically, and the proximity of the Project to the modern Ramona Expressway, which extends along what was once an important Luiseño trade and travel route as evidenced by the types of cultural resources located in the area. Additionally, they have expressed concern about four sites located in the general Project vicinity, CA-RIV-858, CA-RIV-111, CA-RIV-1772, and CA-RIV-528, the closest of which is approximately 500 feet from the closest Project component. The proposed Project would not impact these sites, nor would it impact known Luiseño village sites, none of which are located in close proximity to the Project area.

4.5-19 *The last paragraph under Impact 4.5-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-189:*

As a result of the archaeological surveys, five resources (P-33-05130, P-33-09030, CWA63-1, CWA63-2, and CWA63-3) were identified within the Project area. All five resources are historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources. ~~An additional seven archaeological resources (P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6) are located outside of, but adjacent to (within 100 feet of), the Project area. These adjacent resources consist of four prehistoric archaeological resources and three historic-period agriculture-related archaeological resources.~~

4.5-19 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-190:*

Fiber optic cable would be strung along existing ~~transmission~~ distribution line poles and once installed, would have no additional visual impact; therefore, the setting of the houses would not be changed by the Project and no indirect impacts would occur.

4.5-22 *Mitigation Measures 4.5-2a and 4.5-2b are revised as follows in response to comment B1-27:*

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a: Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor shall be retained and contracted by SCE and/or its contractors to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including brush clearance and grubbing. ~~In addition, the archaeological monitor shall carry out monitoring in the vicinity of designated ESAs as specified in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1c.~~ The archaeological monitor shall work under the supervision of the qualified archaeologist. The Native American monitor shall be selected from the list of Native American groups demonstrating affiliation with the Project area and demonstrating interest in the Project. ~~The duration and timing of monitoring shall be determined by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the lead agency and based on the grading plans.~~ Initially, all ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored. However, the qualified archaeologist, based on observations of soil stratigraphy or other factors, and in consultation with the Native American monitor and the lead agency, may reduce the level of monitoring as warranted. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological and Native American monitors shall be empowered to halt or redirect ground-disturbing activities away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated and appropriate treatment determined. Arrangements for the appropriate curation of any cultural materials encountered during Project implementation shall be made prior to the issuance of grading permits and in coordination with the Native American group selected for monitoring. Contingency funding and time in the construction schedule should be made available to appropriately manage the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b: If archaeological resources are encountered at any point during Project implementation, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within ~~50~~ 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature). Preservation in place shall be the preferred means of mitigating impacts to cultural resources. If the archaeologist determines that the resources may be significant, and if avoidance is determined to be infeasible, the archaeologist shall notify the lead agency and shall prepare a treatment plan, in consultation with the lead agency and with appropriate Native American representatives ~~(if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).~~

4.5-22 *Mitigation Measure 4.5-3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-197:*

Mitigation Measure 4.5-3: Prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall contract with a qualified professional paleontologist or a California Registered Professional Geologist (California RPG) with appropriate paleontological expertise, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (SVP 1995 Guidelines) to develop ~~carry out a paleontological resources training program~~ WEAP training for construction workers and implement a paleontological monitoring program. The qualified paleontologist shall be available "on-call" to SCE and/or its contractors throughout the duration of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the scope of services shall include: …

- *Paleontological resources training*. All construction forepersons and field supervisors shall be trained ~~in the recognition of~~ regarding the potential to encounter fossil materials prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction. Training on paleontological resources shall also be provided to all other construction workers, but may include videotape of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by the qualified paleontologist. ~~In addition to fossil recognition, t~~The training shall convey procedures to follow if potential fossil materials are encountered by construction crews in the course of earthwork, excavation, or grading, as described below.

4.5-25 *Mitigation Measure 4.5-4 is revised as follows in response to comment B1-34:*

Mitigation Measure 4.5-4: If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work, contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in ~~§15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA *Guidelines*~~ Health and Safety Code §7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, ~~SCE and/or its contractors~~ the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code §5097.98, SCE shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the SCE and/or its contractor has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (Public Resources Code §5097.98), with the most likely descendents regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.

4.5-27 *Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-CUL-1 is revised as follows in response to comment B1-36:*

Mitigation Measure Alternative 2-CUL-1: SCE and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified archaeologist (defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeology) to survey

those portions of the final selected Project footprint that have not been previously subjected to systematic pedestrian cultural resources survey. SCE also shall notify interested Native American representatives in advance in order to notify them of the survey and to schedule a Native American monitor. After additional archaeological survey is carried out, the archaeologist shall prepare a report, for approval by the CPUC, that summarizes the survey efforts, and evaluates any identified cultural resources for their eligibility for listing in the National Register, California Register, or local register, or as a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5. Any resources determined to be significant shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is infeasible, a Treatment Plan that documents the research approach and methods for data recovery shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with CPUC and with appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature).

4.5-27 *The following reference is added in response to comment A1b-183:*

Bean, L. J., and C. R. Smith, "Serrano", In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 570-574, Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, W. C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 1978.

Energy Conservation

4.6-1 *The first sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-201:*

~~There are currently~~ The Electrical Needs Area consists of that part of unincorporated western Riverside County (including the developing areas of Nuevo and Lakeview) now served by SCE's 33/12 kV Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, which provide electrical service to approximately 1,800 metered customers ~~in the portion of unincorporated western Riverside County that would be served by the Project~~.

4.6-2 *The last sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

The Project is designed to meet this projected need and has a planned operating date of ~~June 2013~~ 2014.

4.6-3 *The second sentence of the first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-203:*

SCE currently provides electricity to the Project area via overhead and underground ~~transmission and~~ distribution lines.

4.6-7 *The last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-206:*

The Project would be located within SCE's service territory and would ~~transmit energy~~ have energy delivered from the regional power grid. By replacing an older, less efficient substation that has reached its capacity limit with no further ability for capacity expansion with a new, more efficient one that would have the capability for accommodating the current electrical needs of the area as well as the electrical needs of the foreseeable future, the Project would ~~contribute~~ increase the ability to deliver approximately ~~74 percent more power~~ four times the capacity to the area as needed ~~to~~ from the grid than the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, meeting both existing and projected local energy needs. Consequently, the Project would have a beneficial impact on local and regional energy supplies because it would ensure that current energy needs are met and that there is capacity to met projected future energy needs in the Electrical Needs Area. No adverse impact on local or regional energy supplies or capacity would result (No Impact).

4.6-9 *Item e) is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-206:*

As discussed above, the Project would increase the capacity ~~efficiency~~ of the existing site's ~~existing~~ contribution of energy delivered from ~~to~~ the grid by approximately four times the capacity of that of ~~74 percent above~~ the existing Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and Model Pole Top Substations while also increasing the efficiency of the energy delivered. Consequently, the Project would not result in adverse impacts on energy resources (No Impact).

Geology and Soils

4.7-1 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-214:*

The Project area is located in the north-central portion ~~of the greater~~ Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province is characterized by ~~a series of~~ northwest trending mountain ranges separated by northwest trending valleys and faults. The valleys are alluvium-filled basins ~~of Cenozoic sedimentary~~ and Mesozoic granitic rocks (SCE, 2010). ~~The structural geology of the area is dominated by faults.~~ Major active faults in the province are the San Jacinto and the Elsinore faults. The study area relevant to geology and soils includes the proposed Lakeview Substation site, the subtransmission source line route, and the telecommunications system where new facilities are proposed. The Nuevo ~~Substation~~ and temporary Model Pole Top Substations would be removed as part of the Project and would no longer be subject to geologic or seismic hazards. For this reason, these components are not included as part of the geology/soils study area.

4.7-1 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-215:*

The Project is located on the Perris Block ~~Plain~~, between the San Jacinto and Elsinore Faults ~~Valley and the Perris Valley~~, and is bounded by the Bernasconi Hills to the northwest and the Lakeview Mountains to the southeast. The Perris Block ~~Plain~~ consists of active valley deposits (late Holocene) along the San Jacinto River, young alluvial-fan deposits (Holocene and late Pleistocene) north of the proposed Lakeview Substation site in Lakeview and along ~~much of~~ the eastern portion of the fiber-optic route, old alluvial-fan deposits (late to middle Pleistocene) underlying the proposed Lakeview Substation site, the City of Nuevo, and the western portion of Fiber-Optic Route 1 and the southern portion of Fiber-Optic Route 2 ~~much of the fiber-optic route~~, and granitic outcrops (Cretaceous) that form the surrounding mountain ranges (Morton and Miller, 2006).

4.7-1 *Footnote 1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-215:*

The ~~Cenozoic and~~ Mesozoic ~~are~~ is a geological era~~s~~ that spans the period of 65 ~~date from the present~~ to 248 million years ago.

4.7-3 *The second paragraph under "Soils" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-218:*

Table 4.7-1 lists the soil units mapped on the proposed Lakeview Substation site and the subtransmission source line route, and their key physical characteristics. Soils at the proposed Lakeview Substation site consist mostly of the Hanford coarse sandy loam unit with minor components of the Pachappa fine sandy loam and the Exeter sandy loam. These units range from coarse to fine sandy loam[1], ~~which is~~ are well-drained soils, and ~~has~~ have low liquid limits[2]. ~~While Figure 4.7-2 does not show the fiber-optic line route, t~~The soils underlying the length of the fiber-optic route ~~are the~~ consist of sandy loams with soil properties the same or similar ~~as~~ to the Hanford coarse sandy loam (NRCS, 2008). Soil types along the subtransmission source line routes range from silty loam to coarse sandy loam. In the areas where the subtransmission source line routes cross~~es~~ the San Jacinto River, soils range from silty clay to Riverwash.

4.7-3 *The sixth sentence under "Accelerated Erosion" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-220:*

Areas along the subtransmission source line routes and the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 underlain by the Domino silt loam and the Willows silty clay may have a higher potential for soil loss from erosion relative to other soils in the Project area due to their high erosion factor and/or runoff potential.

4.7-5 *Table 4.7-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-225:*

TABLE 4.7-1
SOIL TYPES UNDERLYING THE PROJECT AREA

Location	Soil Type	Drainage Class	Liquid Limit[a]	Shrink/ Swell Potential	Risk of Corrosion[b] (concrete / uncoated steel)	Hydrologic Soil Group[c] / Erosion Factor (Kf)[d]
Proposed Lakeview Substation Site	Hanford Coarse Sandy Loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.28
	Pachappa Fine Sandy Loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.24
	Exeter sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate / High	B / 0.24
Subtransmission Source Line Routes	Domino silt loam	Moderately Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low/ High	C / 0.55
	Exeter sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate / High	B / 0.24
	Hanford coarse sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low	Low / Low	B / 0.28
	Pachappa fine sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low to Moderate	Low / Low	B / 0.24
	Ramona sandy loam	Well Drained	Low	Low	Low / Moderate	B / 0.20
	Riverwash	Excessively Drained	Low	--	--	--
	Willows silty clay	Poorly Drained	Moderate	High	Low / High	D / 0.20

4.7-6 *The second complete sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-226:*

While no soils were identified as having the highest shrink/swell category ("very high"), the Willows silty clay, which underlies portions of the subtransmission source line routes and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1, is estimated to have a high shrink/swell potential (see Figure 4.7-2).

4.7-7 *The first sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-227:*

Ground subsidence and associated fissures have been documented in basin fill sediments of the San Jacinto Valley and the Perris ~~Plain~~ Block.

4.7-8 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-228:*

No active fault zones are present within 1 mile of the substation site. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment of the San Jacinto fault zone, located approximately 4 miles to the northeast of the proposed Lakeview Substation site,

has the greatest ground acceleration potential (0.401 g) in the vicinity of the Project. The San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment includes the Casa Loma, Claremont, Hot Springs, and Park Hill faults. In addition, the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a 31 percent probability of experiencing an earthquake greater than a 6.7 in magnitude over the next 30 years (USGS, 2008). Studies suggest that the San Jacinto Valley ~~section~~ segment has a slip rate of greater than 5 millimeters per year, with a recurrence interval for large earthquakes of 65 to 98 years (USGS, 2010). The maximum historical earthquake magnitude on the Claremont segment was a 6.9 magnitude in 1918 (USGS, 2010).

4.7-18 *The first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-237:*

As discussed in the setting, expansive soils were not encountered during the initial geotechnical investigation conducted for the proposed Lakeview Substation site; however, based on the regional soil survey, there are soils along the subtransmission source line route and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 that could be subject to shrink/swell behavior (TDBU, 2009). Expansive soils along the source line route and Fiber-Optic Cable Route 1 are unlikely to pose a geotechnical problem because subtransmission source line/fiber-optic cable poles would be direct buried to depths of 9 to 40 feet (depending on pole type and location) using augured holes.

4.7-19 *The third complete sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-232:*

A geotechnical investigation of Alternative 2 ~~would~~ may be required prior to final design and construction, and would involve site soil characterization and testing, determination of seismic design coefficients, and recommendations for installation of wood poles and TSPs, consistent with the CBC and CPUC General Order 95.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4.8-6 *The first two sentences under "Approach to Analysis" are revised as follows in response to comment A1b-241:*

This analysis uses an approach for the determination of significance of GHG emissions based on the interim GHG significance thresholds adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD has adopted an interim operational screening significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons CO_2e per year for stationary/industrial sources (SCAQMD, 2008).

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

4.9-3 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-245:*

Although substation transformers now almost exclusively use mineral oil as an insulating agent, transformer oil historically used at substations contained several

constituents of concern, including ~~lead,~~ petroleum hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

4.9-4 *The third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-248:*

There are no public airports or private airstrips within 2 miles of the Project. The closest public airports to the Project are the Hemet-Ryan Airport, located ~~6.5~~ 8.4 miles ~~southwest~~ southeast, and the Ontario International Airport, located approximately 29 miles west of the Project area. A number of additional small airfields in the general area at the following distances from the Project: an airstrip located on the March Airforce Base (6.5 miles northwest); Perris Valley Airport (6.5 miles southwest); March Global Port (8.8 miles northwest); Skylark Field (16 miles southwest); Pines Airpark (12 miles southeast); and, French Valley Airport (17 miles south). There is also a helipad located 1.2 miles ~~east~~ west at the Riverside County ~~Hospital~~ Regional Medical Center (SCE, 2010).

4.9-4 *A bullet is added in response to comment A1b-249:*

- Armada Elementary School, located at 25201 John F. Kennedy Drive, Moreno Valley, approximately 0.15 mile west of the Project.

4.9-15 *The fourth sentence under Impact 4.9-3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-254:*

Standard construction water quality BMPs required by the RWQCB through its review ~~and approval~~ of the SWPPP include measures for the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials used during construction to prevent a release and methods to contain any such release if it should occur.

4.9-16 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-259:*

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-4 requires SCE and/or its contractors to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers ~~in and along the subtransmission source line route~~ for the Project to minimize disruption to emergency vehicle access (see Section 4.17, *Transportation and Traffic*).

Hydrology and Water Quality

4.10-7 *The first sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-277:*

The total disturbance area associated with Project implementation would be concentrated at discrete sites (e.g., substation site, staging areas and marshalling yards, and electrical subtransmission and telecommunication installation sites) but spread out over a large area ~~approximately 80 acres~~.

4.10-8 *The last sentence of the first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-268:*

Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ became effective July 1, 2010, superseding Order No. 99-08; it applies to construction sites that include 1 or more acre of soil disturbance.

4.10-8 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-269:*

The Construction General Permit requires that the landowner and/or ~~contractor~~ project owner file permit registration documents prior to commencing construction and pay an annual fee. The~~se~~ Permit Registration ~~d~~Documents (PRDs) include a ~~n~~Notice of ~~i~~Intent (NOI), risk assessment, site map and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and ~~signed certification statement~~ are submitted via the SWRCB's database, known as "Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System" (SMARTS), in order to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit.

4.10-8 *The fifth sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-272:*

The western-most area of Riverside County, where the Project is planned, is under the jurisdiction of the SARWQCB.

4.10-9 *The last two sentences under "Waste Discharge Requirements" are revised as follows in response to comment A1b-273:*

For discharges directly to surface water (waters of the United States) an NPDES permit is required, which is issued under both state and federal law; for other types of discharges, such as waste discharges to land (e.g., ~~spoils disposal and storage~~ soils found to be contain hazardous materials or meeting the definition of a waste), erosion from soil disturbance, or discharges to waters of the state (such as isolated wetlands), Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are required and are issued exclusively under state law. If needed, SCE would contact the SARWQCB and file a Report of Waste Discharge; the SARWQCB then would determine whether an issuance or a waiver of WDRs is required.

4.10-12 *The second sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-274:*

The new NPDES permit (Order ~~R2~~ RB8-2010-0033 Permit No. 618033) issued by the SARWQCB is designed to enable the RCFCWCD to meet CWA requirements.

4.10-12 *The last sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-275:*

The Project has linear components and, therefore, the ~~LUP provisions would apply~~ Qualified SWPPP Developer may decide, at the time that permit coverage is obtained, that portions of the Project should be covered under Attachment A of the Construction General Permit. Attachment A specifically applies to LUPs.

4.10-17 *The first sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-278:*

Portions of ~~t~~The Project ~~is~~ may be considered a LUP ~~by the SARWQCB~~ and has been evaluated as a Type 1 LUP.

4.10-17 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-279:*

~~The temporary storage~~ Discharge to land of excavation material and imported fill that are found to meet the State of California's definition of a waste would likely require issuance of WDRs or a wavier thereof issued by the SARWQCB. SCE and/or its contractors would be required to comply with the WDRs should they apply to the Project, and any storage or excavation of materials and fill that are found to contain hazardous materials or meet the definition of waste would be required to be consistent with the water quality objectives defined in the Basin Plan (SARWQCB, 2010).

4.10-18 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-280:*

The existing measures required of the Applicant (e.g., the General Construction Permit/SWPPP implementation, WDRs [if required], and LUP standards) are sufficient to reduce construction-related water quality impacts to a less-than-significant level.

4.10-20 *The second bullet is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-285:*

- ***Subtransmission Lines, Wood Poles, and TSPs.*** Construction of the subtransmission source lines would span drainages, including the San Jacinto River, but would not place any structures within drainages. The wood poles and TSPs would each result in minor alterations to the drainage patterns. Each TSP would have a ~~footprint of up to 4 feet~~ concrete foundation between 5 to 8 feet in diameter ~~and would be spaced approximately every 200 feet~~. If located in a flood area, these structures would comprise less than 2 percent of the total available area.

4.10-22 *Impact 4.10-5 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-288:*

Impact 4.10-5: Project operation could expose people or structures to impacts resulting from flooding caused by failure of a levee or dam. ***Less than Significant ~~with Mitigation~~*** **(Class III)**

4.10-24 *The discussion of "Alternative 2" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-292:*

Alternative 2 would relocate the proposed Lakeview Substation site approximately ~~0.25~~ 0.125 mile to the northwest, closer to the San Jacinto River corridor, resulting in a shorter subtransmission source line route compared to the Project. As such, the potential for erosion and water quality impacts during construction would decrease because the area of construction disturbance would be reduced and the relocated substation site would remain outside of the bed and banks of the San Jacinto River. Further, the disturbance area would not be sufficiently reduced to avoid having to comply with the regulatory controls described above (i.e., SWPPP). Similar to the Project, the Alternative 2 substation site is located outside of the 100-year flood zone. Placement of TSPs along the subtransmission source line segments in the 100-year floodplain would also be the same as the Project. Alternative 2 would result in slightly less erosion and water quality impacts compared to the Project but otherwise impacts would be similar.

~~In contrast to the Project, which is outside of the 100-year FEMA flood hazard zone, half of the relocated substation site would be located within 100-year flood zone. In the event of a 100-year flood, the Lakeview Substation could be damaged, possibly resulting in the interruption of electrical service until such time the substation could be repaired. This would be a significant impact under CEQA criteria h) and j). However, implementation of Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1, which would require SCE to protect the site from a 100-year flood using earthen berms, by grading the site to above the flood elevation, or by other means, would reduce the impact to less than significant. to provide studies, calculations, plans and other information required to meet FEMA requirements, and obtain a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a LOMR prior to occupancy.~~

> ~~**Mitigation Measure Alternative 2 HYD-1:** SCE and/or its contractor shall design the Lakeview Substation site to be protected against a 100-year flood along the San Jacinto River. SCE and/or its contractor shall include in its drainage plan and grading plans any combination of engineered features, such as earthen berms, elevated building pads, or other measures necessary to protect vital substation components from 100-year flood flows. Such measures shall be designed by a qualified professional engineer (P.E.), and include flood flow modeling necessary to determine the depth and extent of flooding expected in a 100-year flood. These studies, calculations, and plans shall be required to meet FEMA requirements and shall comply with Riverside County flood control ordinance (Ordinance No. 458). If necessary, SCE and/or its subcontractor shall obtain from FEMA a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to grading, recordation or other final approval of this alternative, and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) prior to occupancy.~~

~~While the decreased disturbance area results in slightly lesser impacts from construction activities and associated water quality impacts, Alternative 2 could result in a potentially significant impact with respect the FEMA 100-year flood hazard zone that does not exist under the Project. For this reason, Alternative 2 results in greater impacts than the Project.~~

Land Use and Planning

4.11-10 *Impact 4.11-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-302:*

Impact 4.11-1: The Project construction ~~c~~would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan ~~the Western Riverside County MSHCP~~. *Less than Significant ~~with Mitigation~~* (Class III)

The Project would be located within the established Western Riverside County MSHCP boundary and within several of its identified Criteria Areas, and within the boundaries of the HCP for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, as described in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*. If the Project would cause take of any federal listed threatened or endangered species, the requirements of FESA may be satisfied though compliance with the MSHCP and Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP. As described in APMs Bio-2, Bio-3, Bio-4, Bio-6, and Bio-7, SCE ~~has the option~~ will seek to become a Participating Entity in the MSHCP and Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP, and as such would be entitled to have its "future facilities," including electrical utilities, considered Covered Activities under the plans provided that they comply with the criteria outlined in the ~~MSHCP~~ plans …. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP or Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP. ~~However, if through the permitting process CDFG and/or USFWS determine that participation in the MSHCP would be appropriate to offset potential Project impacts to biological resources, the Project could conflict with the MSHCP if SCE would not be a Participating Entity. This would be a potentially significant impact.~~

~~**Mitigation Measure 4.11-1:** If through the permitting process CDFG and/or USFWS determine that participation in the MSHCP is appropriate, SCE shall participate in the Western Riverside County MSHCP for the Project. SCE shall hire a biological consultant who holds a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Riverside to prepare a consistency analysis to determine the Project's consistency with the applicable criteria in the Western Riverside County MSHCP. If the consistency analysis determines that the Project would not be consistent with the criteria, SCE shall implement the necessary measures to bring the Project into compliance, as determined by the consistency analysis and review by the Riverside County Environmental Programs Department.~~

~~**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than Significant.~~

The paragraph under the heading "Alternative 2: Relocated Substation Alternative" is revised as follows:

> … ~~Alternative 2 could also conflict with the Western Riverside MSHCP because it would construct the Project components that are within Criteria Areas in the same locations. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.11-1 would reduce this impact to less-than-significant.~~ Like the Project, Alternative 2 would not conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP or Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP. The impacts of Alternative 2 on land use and planning would be the same as the Project.

Noise

4.13-7 *The third sentence of the second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-311:*

> The alternative substation site and subtransmission source line Segment Two would be as close as approximately ~~0.5~~ 0.4 mile northwest, and ~~0.4~~ 0.3 mile west-northwest of Nuview Elementary School and Nuview Special School, respectively.

4.13-8 *The fourth sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-313:*

> ~~These criteria are consistent with the standards presented in the County's General Plan.~~

4.13-11 *The first sentence of the second paragraph under Impact 4.13-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-315:*

> Chapter 2, *Project Description*, does not identify a daily construction schedule for the Project; however, Section 2.~~7~~8.2, *Marshalling Yards*, indicates that construction-related deliveries would be scheduled to occur during off-peak traffic hours, which are generally considered to be outside the primary commute times of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

4.13-17 *The paragraph under "Alternative 1" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-325:*

> Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in the phased construction of the various Project components to reduce combined daily regional air quality emissions. From a noise impact perspective, which is assessed based ~~at the local level for each component of the Project~~ on the distance from Project-related activities and facilities to nearby receptors, Alternative 1 would involve construction and operation in the same locations as that of the Project, and therefore, impacts under this alternative would be the same as the Project.

Population and Housing

4.14-1 *The third sentence under Impact 4.14-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-328:*

> The proposed subtransmission source line segments and telecommunication routes would include installation of subtransmission poles, subtransmission conductors ~~cables~~, and fiber-optic telecommunication cables in new and existing utility ROWs, and operation of these components would be performed periodically by current SCE personnel.

Public Services

4.15-7 *The footnote is deleted and the following is inserted after the fourth sentence of the first paragraph in response to comment A1b-340:*

> In Riverside County in 2010, there were 686,260 individual households and the total county population of children under the age of 18 was 620,108 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). This gives a rough average of 0.9 children per household. Assuming each of the 40 temporary construction workers represented one average household in Riverside County, this could result in an increase of 36 children in the service areas of the NUSD and MVUSD.
>
> This revision in the number of the potential additional school aged children that could result if all of the 40 temporary construction workers moved into the area (as opposed to being an existing part of the local labor pool) is less than the number of potential new school children analyzed in the Draft EIR. Because fewer potential children would cause fewer potential impacts, the analysis in the Draft EIR is appropriately conservative. In any event, this revision provides no basis to change the "no impact:" conclusion reached in connection with Public Services significance criterion a.iii).

Recreation

4.16-5 *The second sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-350:*

> At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which could require the trail to be closed intermittently during construction activities ~~(up to 12 months)~~.

4.16-6 *The first sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-351:*

> Alternative 1 could result in a longer-term (i.e., an additional ~~10~~ 12 months) intermittent closure of the informal trail along the San Jacinto River than the Project.

Transportation and Traffic

4.17-2 *The second paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-352:*

> Reservoir Avenue, 10th Street, and 11th Street are two-lane Riverside County roads in the community of Lakeview. Portions of these roadways are currently undeveloped; however, their future ultimate widths and expansions can be seen in the Riverside County General Plan. The proposed Lakeview Substation site is adjacent to the intersection of Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street. The intersection of Lakeview Avenue and 10th Street would be the primary access point for construction traffic that would access the proposed Lakeview Substation site and the Subtransmission Source Line Segment One. At that intersection, both streets are two-lane, undivided paved roads. Access to Subtransmission Source Line Segment Two and corresponding access roads would be achieved via 11th Street ~~or~~ and Lakeview Avenue or Reservoir Avenue and 10th Street.

4.17-3 *The second sentence under "Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-357:*

> No County-designated bikeways or trails currently exist in the Project area; however, there is ~~an~~ a Class I bike path and informal trail along the San Jacinto River that would be crossed by both subtransmission source line segments (see Section 4.16, *Recreation*).

4.17-4 *The first sentence under "Local" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-358:*

> Ordinance No. 499 gives the County of Riverside Transportation Department the authority to require ministerial permits to be obtained for any type of work conducted within a County road ROW, which in many cases extends beyond the paved road to the adjacent private property boundary.

4.17-6 *The paragraph under "Construction Easement Requirements" is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-359:*

> The portions of the proposed subtransmission source line segments along 10th and 11th streets would be constructed within planned or existing unpaved County road ROWs and would require easement rights from private property owners and encroachment permits from the county.

4.17-8 *The second complete sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-361:*

> Construction personnel could use additional local ~~paved~~ roads, such as 11th Street to access the ~~s~~Subtransmission ~~s~~Source ~~l~~Line Segment Two.

4.17-8 *The last sentence is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-362:*

> At least six pull and tension sites would be located in proximity to the San Jacinto River (see Figure 2-2), which could require the informal trail to be closed intermittently during construction activities ~~resulting in a potential significant impact to trail users lasting approximately 1 week.~~

4.17-9 *The fifth sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-364:*

> SCE maintains an inspection frequency of its overhead energized subtransmission lines of a minimum of once per year via ground and/or aerial observation in alternate years.

Utilities and Service Systems

4.18-4 *The last sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-374:*

> The Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD) is specifically charged with the responsibilities of (Riverside County, ~~2008~~ 2003):

4.18-6 *The first sentence under Impact 4.18-1 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-378:*

> During construction, dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing would require ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water per day.

4.18-7 *The first two sentences under Impact 4.18-2 are revised as follows in response to comment A1b-378:*

> Project construction would use approximately ~~32,000~~ 62,000 gallons of water per day for dust suppression, site clean-up, drinking, and hand washing. This water would be delivered to the site by water trucks approximately 20 ~~eight~~ times per day (SCE, 2011a).

4.18-8 *The second sentence of the first paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-382:*

> Construction crews would collect and separate waste items and materials into roll-off boxes at the materials staging area and/or marshalling yards.

4.18-10 *The reference is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-374:*

> County of Riverside, 2003. Riverside County General Plan, ~~Land Use Element~~ Environmental Impact Report, (http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/content/~~gp/chapter03.html~~ eir/volume1.html) accessed September 19, 2011.

Comparison of Alternatives

5-3 *The first paragraph of Section 5.3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

As discussed in the previous section, the Project and the alternatives would have significant and unavoidable impacts on air quality. The selection of an Environmentally Superior Alternative is based on differences in intensity and duration of significant impacts (Table 5-2) and the ability of the alternative to meet most of the basic Project objectives. Based on these differences, the identified Environmentally Superior Alternative is Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~.

5-4 *The last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

Although Alternative 1 would still result in significant unavoidable air quality impacts, these impacts would be reduced compared to the Project. Additionally, ~~although Alternative 1 would result in reduced air quality impacts compared to the Project, these impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. While~~ Alternative 1 would meet the Applicant's project objective of serving the Electrical Needs Area by 2014~~, it would require an additional component of stringing a temporary 12 kV distribution line on existing facilities between Nuevo and Bunker substations. This additional component would result in the need for more vehicle trips and possibly new temporary lane closures. Moreover, it would result in additional short-term construction-related impacts to air quality, noise, and traffic and transportation. Although Alternative 1 would be preferred compared to the Project on the basis of air quality impacts, specifically daily thresholds, the overall air quality impacts would be greater than the Project since additional construction activities would be required to install a 12 kV distribution line. The CPUC has determined that the importance of reducing overall Project impacts outweighs the reduction of daily air quality emissions associated with Alternative 1.~~ Therefore, ~~the Project~~ Alternative 1 would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative~~, followed by the Project Alternative 1, then Alternative 2.~~

5-5 *Section 5.4.2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

The Environmentally Superior Alternative is defined in Section 5.3 as Alternative 1 ~~the Project~~.

5-6 *The first sentence of Section 5.4.3 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-15:*

The Environmentally Superior Alternative (Alternative 1 ~~Project~~) would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality.

5-7 *The discussion of Geology and Soils for Alternative 1 in Table 5-2 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-388:*

The potential for construction-related impacts from erosion and soil loss would be slightly ~~decreased~~ increased, but remain less than significant. All other impacts would be the same as the Project.

~~Slightly Preferred~~ Less Preferable

Cumulative Effects

6-1 *The second and third sentences of the fourth paragraph are revised as follows in response to comment C6-70:*

Factors considered in determining whether to include a project on the list include whether it would cause impacts of the same nature as the proposed project, its location (projects within 3 miles of the proposed Project were considered), the timing of its impacts, and the type of project. ~~SCE is not planning any other projects over 50-kV within 1 mile of any of the Project components (SCE, 2010a, p. 6-1).~~

6-9 *The first sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-390:*

The Project would contribute incrementally (approximately 7.9 ~~9.9~~ acres) to Riverside County's overall decline in Farmland.

6-11 *The sixth sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-392:*

SCE would avoid ~~or prepare a mitigation plan to be reviewed by appropriate agencies for~~ native or special-status vegetation and special-status plant populations or participate in the Western Riverside County MSHCP to mitigate for unavoidable impacts (APM-Bio-6); avoidance would be likely.

6-12 *The first sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment B1-24:*

The Project area vicinity contains a significant archaeological and historical record that, in many cases, has not been well documented or recorded and that contains cultural resources of important value to local Tribes.

6-12 *The first sentence of the fourth paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment B1-24:*

The potential direct construction impacts of the Project to historical and archaeological resources are mitigated such that preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigation ~~historical or archaeological resources~~ and because such resources are non-renewable, they ~~are either~~ should be avoided completely~~,~~.

~~or i~~ If they cannot be feasibly avoided, ~~that~~ a treatment plan shall be prepared and the resources be subject to data recovery excavations (Mitigation Measure~~s~~ ~~4.5-1a through~~ 4.5-2b ~~and 4.5-4)~~.

6-13 *The second sentence of the last paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-1:*

The objectives of the Project are to serve existing and long-term projected electrical demand requirements and to improve the reliability and system operational flexibility within the Electrical Needs Area beginning in ~~mid-2013~~ 2014.

Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance Program

9-3 *The second sentence of the third paragraph is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-395:*

Though other state and local agencies would have permit and approval authority over construction of the subtransmission line, the CPUC would continue to act as the lead agency for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures required by this EIR.

Appendices

App C *The header row for REVISED Table 5 on page C-3 is revised in response to comment A1b-148:*

REVISED Table 5
Construction Emissions
Localized Significance Threshold Analysis

Pollutant	Daily onsite Emissions (lb/~~lbs~~ day)	Receptor Distance (m)	Allowable Emissions Interpolation					Allowable Exceeded ?
			Distance 1 (m)	Emissions 1 (lb/day)	Distance 2 (m)	Emissions 2 (lb/day)	Interpolated Emissions (lb/day)	

App C *The Distribution Civil row of Table C-1 on page C-9 is revised as follows in response to comment A1b-149:*

Dump Truck	HHDT	4	Based on 315 CY (Table 3.1) over 9 days and 10 CY/truck: ~~450~~ 315 / 9 / 10

APPENDIX A

Notice of Availability

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA **JERRY BROWN, Governor**

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

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

From: **Michael Rosauer, Environmental Project Manager**

Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIR) AND PUBLIC MEETING**:**
Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016)
SCH No. 2010121035

Date: **January 12, 2012**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of the application filed by Southern California Edison (SCE) to construct, operate, and maintain the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016). The Draft EIR details the Project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project's construction, operation, and maintenance; identifies those impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft EIR also evaluates alternatives to the Project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA.

Description of the Project.
The Project is located in the unincorporated Riverside County near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. SCE requests authorization to:

- Construct a new 115/12 kV low-profile substation (proposed Lakeview Substation) on approximately 2.6 acres of a 5.4-acre site;
- Install two 115 kV subtransmission source line segments to connect the Lakeview Substation to the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line;
- Construct two underground 12 kV distribution getaways;
- Install telecommunications facilities at the Lakeview Substation, including fiber-optic telecommunications cable (overhead and underground) to connect the Lakeview Substation to SCE's telecommunications network, and upgrades to the telecommunications equipment at the various substations in the vicinity; and
- Decommission the existing Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top.

The objectives of the Project are to meet long-term electrical demand requirements and improve electrical system operational flexibility and reliability in the electrical needs area (see Figure 1).

Public Comment on the Draft EIR.
The Draft EIR is available for a 45-day public comment period (January 12, 2012 through February 27, 2012). The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than February 27, 2012. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be sent to:

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 896-5900
Fax: (415) 896-0332
lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

The CPUC also will hold a public comment meeting to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. Following the end of the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft EIR and submitted within the specified 45-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft EIR, will constitute the Final EIR for the Project. The public meeting will be held:

Thursday, February 9, 2012
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road
Perris, CA 92570

Availability of Draft EIR.
Copies of the Draft EIR will be available for public review at the Nuview Branch Library, Moreno Valley City Library, Perris Branch Library, and on the Project website:

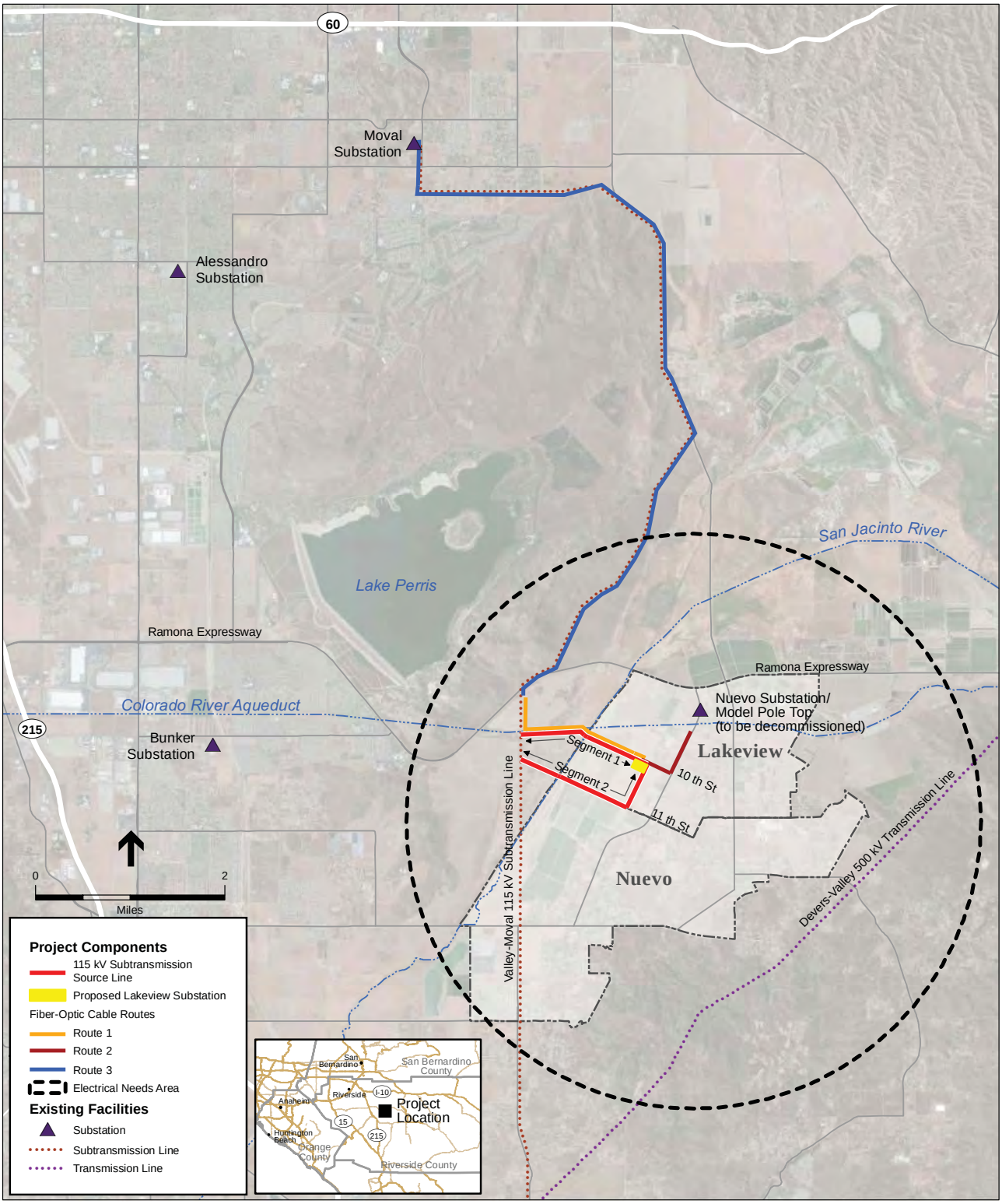
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lakeview/index.html.

This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft EIR may be requested by telephone at (415) 896-5900 or by e-mail at lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com.

Project information repositories include the following branches:

Nuview Branch Library 29990 Lakeview Avenue Nuevo, CA 92567 Phone: (951) 928-0769	Moreno Valley City Library 25480 Alessandro Boulevard Moreno Valley, CA 92553 Phone: (951) 413-3880	Perris Branch Library 163 E. San Jacinto Avenue Perris, CA 92570 Phone: (951) 657-2358

REMINDER: Draft EIR comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through February 27, 2012. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.



SOURCE: SCE, 2010

Lakeview Substation Project . 207584.08

Figure 1
Electrical Needs Area

APPENDIX B

Draft EIR Newspaper Legal Advertisements

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Printed at: 2:42 pm
on: Wednesday, Jan 18, 2012
Ad #: 0000716897
Order Taker: Maria Tinajero

enterprise media
Classified Advertising
Proof

3450 Fourteenth St.
Riverside, CA 92501-3878
(800) 514-7253
(951) 684-1200
(951) 368-9006 Fax

Account Information

Phone #:	(415) 896-5900
Name:	ESA / COMMUNITY DEVELOF
Address:	225 BUSH STREET, ,SUITE 1700 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 USA
Account #	100166170
Client:	
Placed By:	Cory Barringhaus
Fax #:	(415) 896-0332

Ad Information

Classification:	EN CLS Legals
Publication:	PE.com, Press Enterprise
Start Date:	01/20/2012
Stop Date:	01/21/2012
Insertions:	2 print / 2 online
Rate code:	LGL PE Any
Ad type:	CLS 10 Liner
Size:	2.0 X 37 Li
Bill Size:	
Amount Due:	**$262.80**

Ad Copy:

California Public Utilities Commission
Public Notification for Release of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Comment Meeting for the Lakeview Substation Project

Notice is hereby given that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has released a Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Lakeview Substation Project (Project), for public review and comment. The DEIR addresses environmental impacts of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and alternatives. Information to be included in the Final EIR also will be based on comments received during the 45-day comment period that is open from January 12, 2012, until 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2012. The Draft EIR is available for public review on the Project website at:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lakeview/index.html
The website includes further information on the environmental review process for this Project and will be updated during the review process. Public comments may be submitted in writing to: Mr. Michael Rosauer, Lakeview Substation Project, c/o ESA, 225 Bush St., Suite 1700, San Francisco, CA 94104; by fax to (415) 896-0332; or by email to lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com.
Additionally, the CPUC will hold a Public Meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, at the Eastern Municipal Water District, 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, California 92570 to accept comments on the DEIR. All members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting. 1/20, 1/21

APPENDIX C

CPUC Project Website

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project

(Application A.10-09-016, filed September 17, 2010)

Welcome to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) website for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of proposed construction of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Lakeview Substation Project. An application for this project was submitted to the CPUC on September 17, 2010 (Application A.10-09-016). This site provides access to public documents and information relevant to the CEQA review process.

Files linked on this page are in Portable Document Format (PDF). To view them, you will need to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader if it is not already installed on your PC. Note: For best results in displaying the largest files (see sizes shown in parentheses below for files larger than 3.0 MB), right-click the file's link, click "Save Target As" to download the file to a folder on your hard drive, then browse to that folder and double-click the downloaded file to open it in Acrobat.

Background

The CPUC is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Lakeview Substation Project, and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. SCE seeks a permit to construct (PTC) the Lakeview Substation, which includes the following major elements:

- Construction of a new 115/12 kV substation (Lakeview Substation). The Lakeview Substation would be an unattended, automated, low-profile substation constructed and operated on an approximately 5.4-acre site in the unincorporated Riverside County community of Lakeview;
- Installation of two new 115 kV subtransmission source line segments to connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the existing Valley-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line. One segment would be approximately 1.8 miles in length to form the new Valley-Lakeview 115 kV subtransmission line; the other would be approximately 1.5 miles in length to form the new Lakeview-Moval 115 kV subtransmission line.;
- Construction of two new underground 12 kV distribution getaways;
- Installation of telecommunications facilities at the proposed Lakeview Substation, including telecommunication cable (overhead and underground) to connect the proposed Lakeview Substation to the SCE telecommunications network, and upgrades to the telecommunications equipment at the various substations; and
- Decommissioning of two existing substations: the Nuevo Substation and the Model Pole Top Substation.

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to serve the current and projected demand for electricity, and enhance reliability and system operational flexibility in the developing areas of Lakeview, Nuevo and adjacent areas in unincorporated western Riverside County.

Environmental Review

Approximate CEQA Process Schedule	
Notice of Preparation to solicit written input from agencies and the public	December 9, 2010 - January 24, 2011
Agency consultation meetings	December 2010 - January 2011
Public Information (Scoping) Meeting	January 13, 2011
Publication of Draft EIR for agency and public review	January 12, 2012
Public and agency review period (45 days from release of Draft EIR)	January - February 2012
A public comment meeting will be held in the project area	February 9, 2012
Consider and respond to comments, publish Final EIR	Spring 2012

Public Scoping Period

On December 9, 2010 the CPUC published a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016). Click here to view the NOP.

Educational Workshop and Scoping Meeting

In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the EIR, a meeting was held during the NOP scoping period at:

Thursday, January 13, 2011
Mountain Shadows Middle School
30401 Reservoir Avenue
Nuevo, CA

Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)

To view the Application or PEA prepared by SCE for the project click a link below:

- Application
- PEA Volume 1 [26.8mb]
- PEA Volume 2 - Appendices [33.8mb]

To go to the SCE website for the project click here.

Data Requests

The EIR Team submits Data Requests to SCE and other entities when it needs specific information to support EIR preparation. The following are the data requests submitted to date:

Data Request Letter No. 1 (January 3, 2011), click here to view. Responses may be viewed by clicking here.

Response to Verbal Data Request (May 13, 2011) may be viewed by clicking here.

Data Request Letter No. 3 (July 25, 2011), click here to view. Responses may be viewed by clicking here.

DEIR

Public Comment on the Draft EIR

On January 12, 2012 the CPUC published a Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Lakeview Substation Project (A.10-09-016). Click here to view the NOA.

The Draft EIR is available for a 45-day public comment period (January 12, 2012 through February 27, 2012). The public may present comments and concerns regarding the Project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than February 27, 2012. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

- To view the complete DEIR, click here (5.94mb).
- To view the Appendices for the DEIR, click here (9.98mb).

Written comments on the DEIR should be sent to:

Mr. Michael Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project c/o ESA
225 Bush St., Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 896-5900
Fax: (415) 896-0332
Email: lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

Public Meeting

On Thursday February 9, 2012 at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, the CPUC will hold a public comment meeting at Eastern Municipal Water District, 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, CA 92570, to receive oral and written comments from interested parties. Following the end of the public comment period, responses to all comments received on the Draft EIR and submitted within the specified 45-day review period will be prepared by the CPUC and included in a response to comments document, which together with the Draft EIR, will constitute the Final EIR for the Proposed Project.

Availability of Draft EIR

Copies of the Draft EIR will be available for public review at the Nuview Branch Library, Moreno Valley City Library, Perris Branch Library, and on the project website. This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce any upcoming public meetings. Hard copies or CD copies of the Draft EIR may be requested by telephone at (415) 896-5900 or by e-mail at lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com.

Project information repositories include the following libraries:

Repository Sites		
Site	Location	Phone
Nuview Branch Library	29990 Lakeview Avenue Nuevo, CA 92567	(951) 928-0769
Moreno Valley City Library	25480 Alessandro Boulevard Moreno Valley, CA 92553	(951) 413-3880
Perris Branch Library	163 E. San Jacinto Avenue Perris, CA 92570	(951) 657-2358

REMINDER: Draft EIR comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or postmark through February 27, 2012. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.

For Additional Information

The CPUC, through its Environmental Review Team, manages environmental review of the project. To request additional information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact us by email, fax, or phone, as follows:

Project email: lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com
Project fax: (415) 896-0332

WEBINFO

This page contains tables and is best viewed with Firefox or Internet Explorer.
Please report any problems to the Energy Division web coordinator.

APPENDIX D

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheets

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Southern California Edison's Lakeview Substation Project
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report
Public Meeting
Hosted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Meeting Location: Eastern Municipal Water District, 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, CA 92570

Date/Time: Thursday, February 9, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Name	Affiliation	Address	Email address
TOMY BARROLA	LAND OWNER	1015 ALEXANDRIA DR SAN DIEGO CA 92107	TOMYBARROLA@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Sue Nash	public.	P.O. Box 4036 Idyllwild, CA 92549	snesh22@earthlink.net
Tom Paulek	Friends of Northern San Jacinto Valley	P.O. Box 4036 Idyllwild, CA 92549	atpaul44@earthlink.net

APPENDIX E

Public Meeting Presentation

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California Public Utilities Commission CEQA Public Comment Meeting

E-3

Southern California Edison Lakeview Substation Project

February 9, 2012

Eastern Municipal Water District Office

2270 Trumble Road, Perris, California

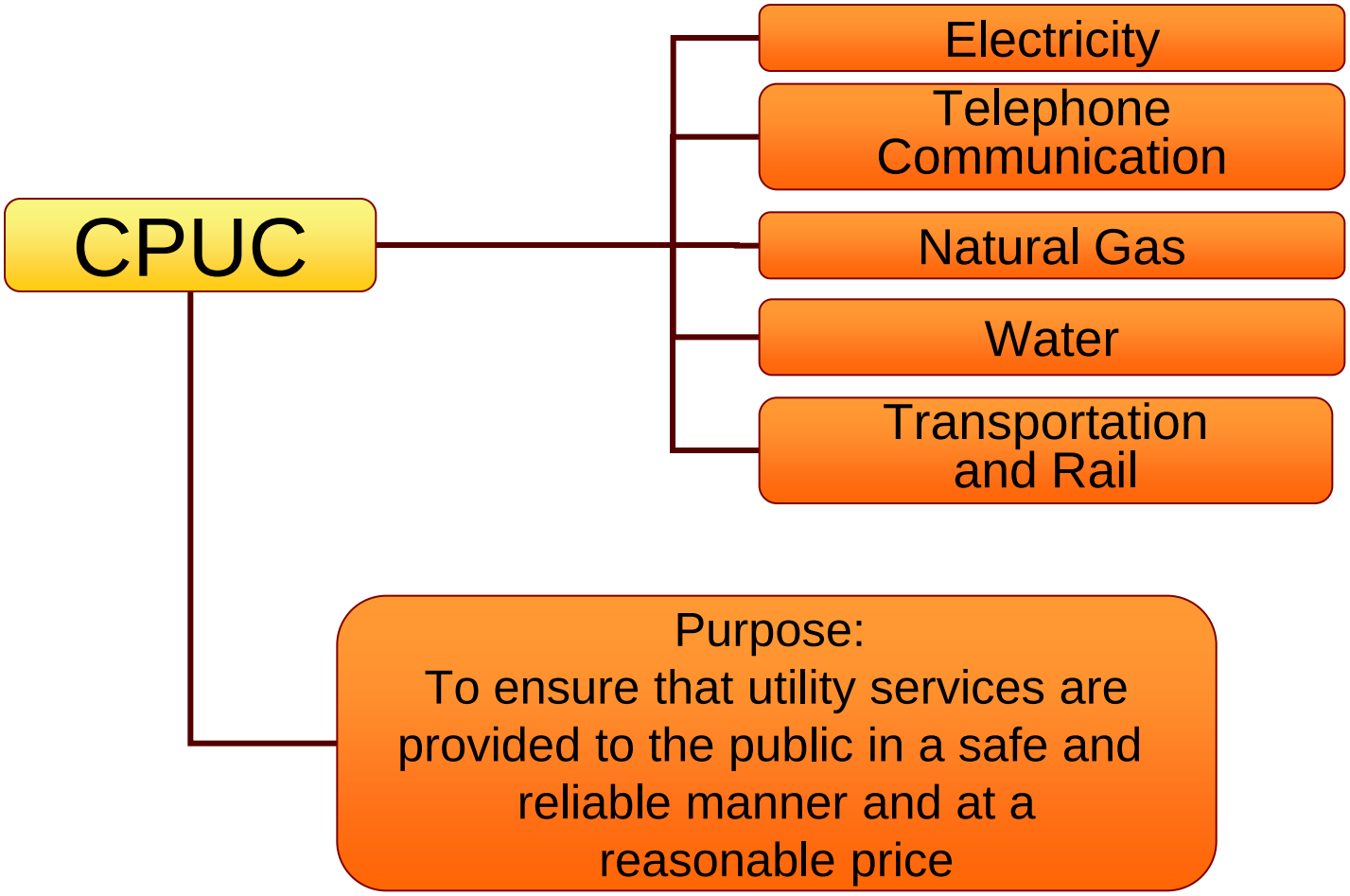
Participants and their Roles

- CPUC: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency
- SCE: Project Applicant
- Public Agencies, Organizations, and Members of the Public

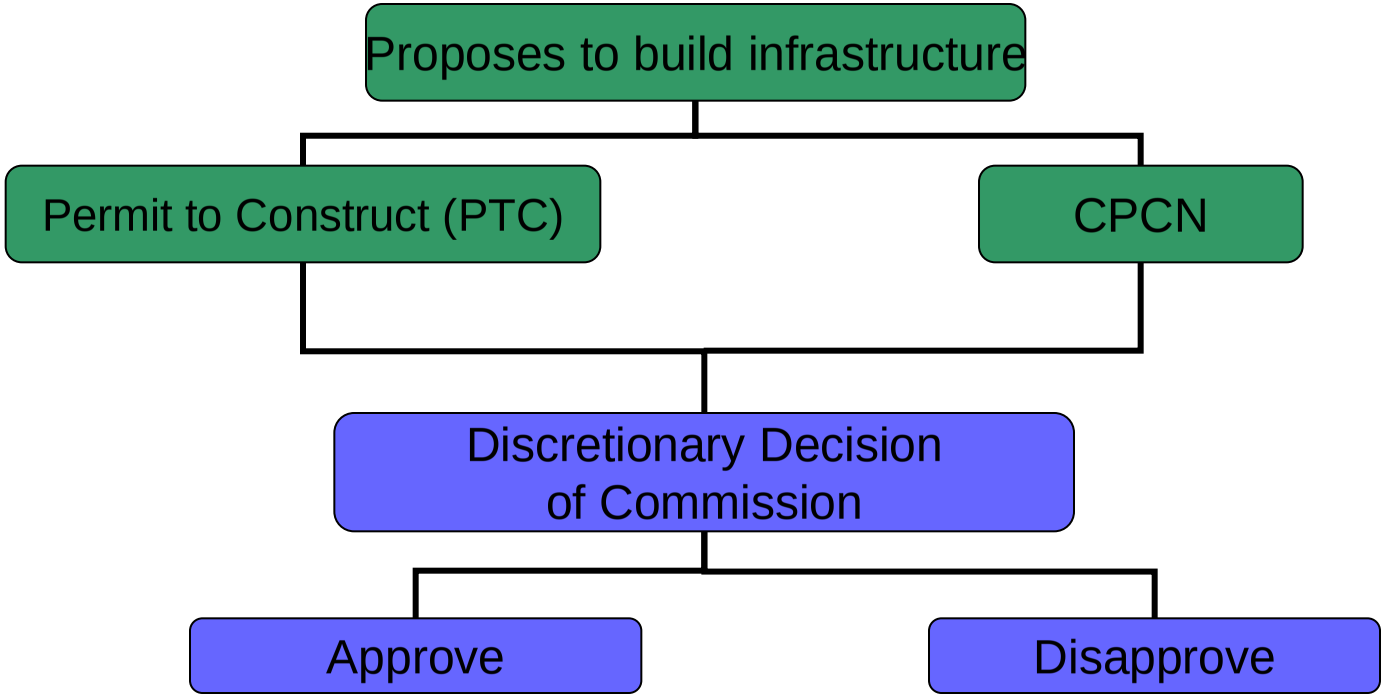
Meeting Agenda

- Overview of the CPUC's Decision and Review Processes
  - Environmental Evaluation
  - General Proceeding
  - Decision-making
- Summary of the CEQA Context
- Description of the Project
- Overview of the Draft EIR for the Project
- Public Comments

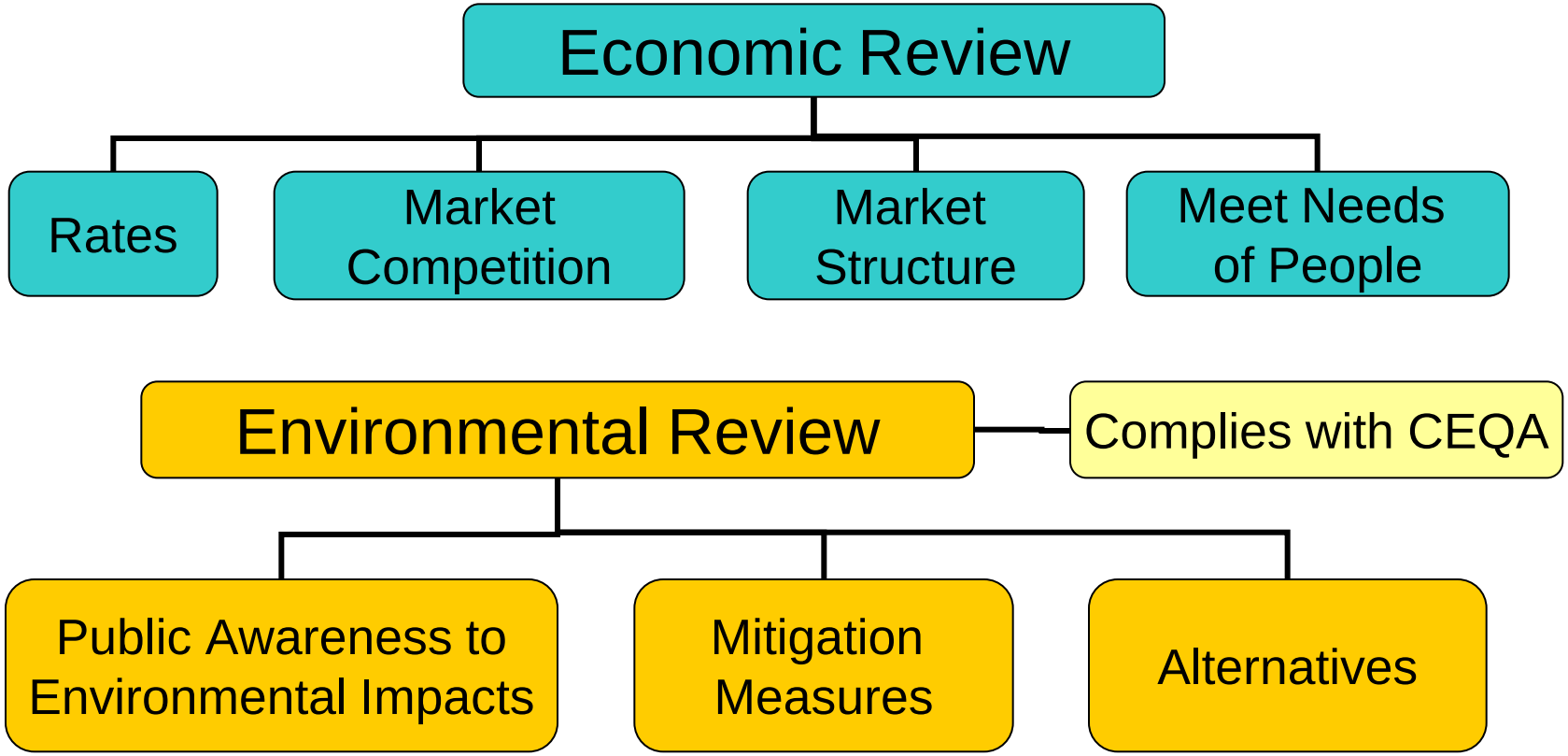
Who does the CPUC regulate?



Permit to Construct



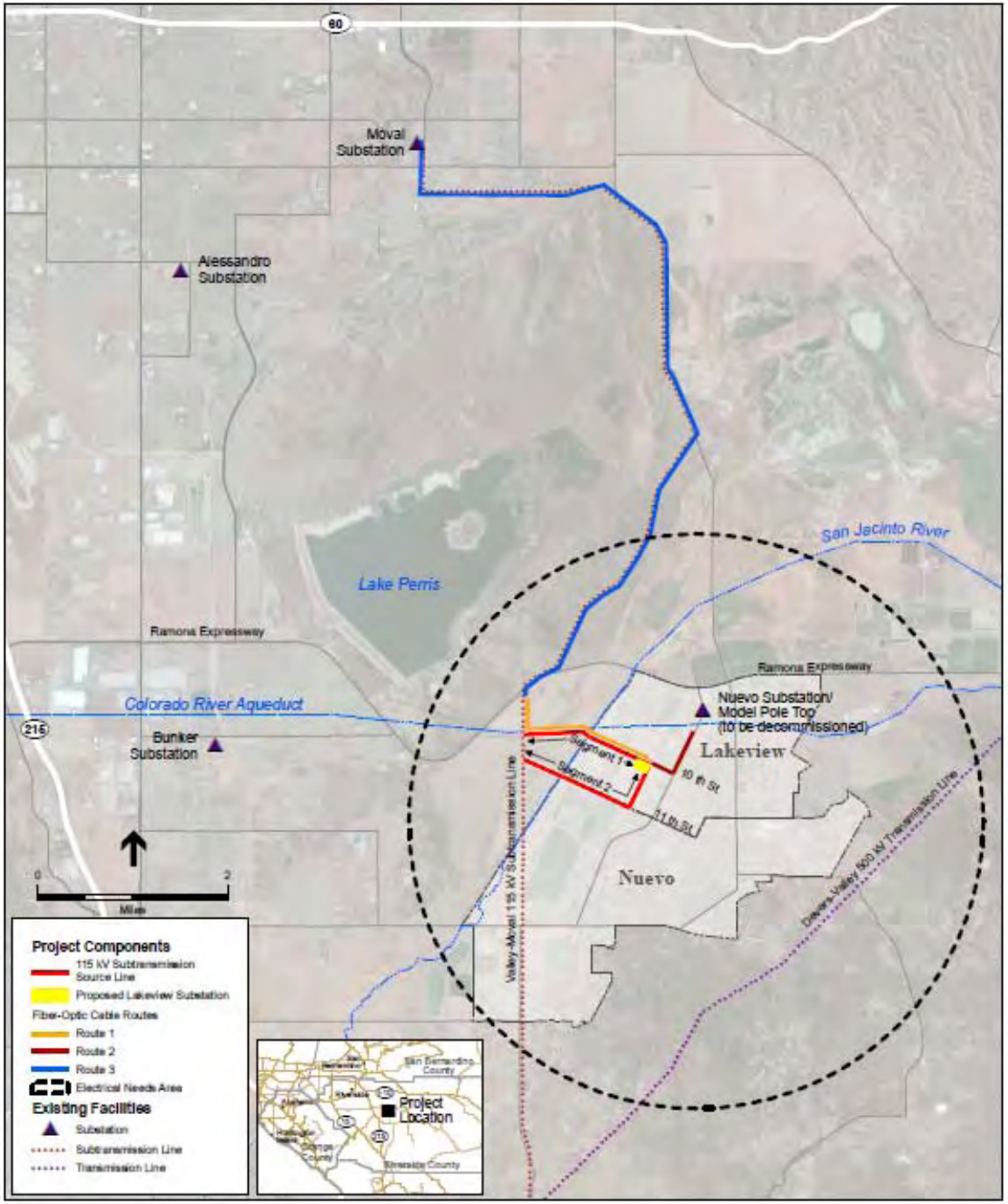
CPUC Review Process



CEQA Context

- CEQA Purposes and Objectives
- What CEQA Does and Does Not Do
- What is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?
- Public Participation Process

Proposed Project Location



Project Description

- Purpose and Need
- Components
  - One new 115/12 kilovolt (kV) substation
  - Two new underground 12 kV distribution "getaways"
  - Two new 115 kV subtransmission line segments to serve the new substation
  - New and upgraded fiber optics to connect the substation to SCE's existing system
  - Decommissioning the Nuevo Substation and Model Pole Top

Lakeview Substation Draft EIR

- Organization
- Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Project Alternatives

How to Comment on the Draft EIR

Mr. Mike Rosauer
Lakeview Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Fax: (415) 896-0332
E-mail: lakeviewsubstation@esassoc.com

Website:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/lakeview/index.html

Deadline: February 27, 2012

Public Comments

E-14

APPENDIX F

Air Quality Calculation Revisions

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Revised Table 8
Substation Construction Emissions
Grading

Emissions Summary

Source	VOC[a] (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)	CO2e (MT)[a]
Construction Equipment Exhaust	4.02	17.22	32.87	0.04	1.69	1.55	143.3
Onsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.03	0.11	0.30	0.00	0.01	0.01	1.7
Onsite Motor Vechicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	9.63	0.96	--
Earthwork Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	17.57	3.65	--
Onsite Total	**4.05**	**17.33**	**33.17**	**0.04**	**28.90**	**6.17**	**145.03**
Offsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	7.62	34.83	84.74	0.12	4.16	3.56	510.4
Offsite Motor Vehicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	2.93	0.00	--
Offsite Total	**7.62**	**34.83**	**84.74**	**0.12**	**7.09**	**3.56**	**510.42**
Total	**11.66**	**52.17**	**117.90**	**0.16**	**35.99**	**9.73**	**655.45**

Motor Vehicle Usage

Vehicle	Number[a]	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day	Miles Used/ Vel.
Onsite				
Water Truck	1	90	N/A	5
Tool Truck	1	90	N/A	1
Pickup 4x4	1	90	N/A	1
Dump Truck	45	90	N/A	0.1
Offsite				
Water Truck	1	90	N/A	19
Tool Truck	1	90	N/A	14
Pickup 4x4	1	90	N/A	14
Dump Truck	45	90	N/A	60
Worker Commute	15	90	N/A	60

[a] Dump trucks based on 40,000 CY import/export over 90 days and 10 CY/truck = 40,000 / 90 / 10 = 44.4

Motor Vehicle Exhaust Emission Factors

Vehicle	Category	VOC (lb/mile)	CO (lb/mile)	NOX (lb/mile)	SOX (lb/mile)	PM10 (lb/mile)	PM2.5 (lb/mile)	CO2 (lb/mile)	CH4 (lb/mile)
Onsite									
Water Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Tool Truck	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05
Pickup 4x4	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05
Dump Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Offsite									
Water Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Tool Truck	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05
Dump Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Worker Commute	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05

[a] From Table 49 or Table 50.

Motor Vehicle Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Vehicle	VOC[a] (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Onsite						
Water Truck	0.01	0.05	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.01
Tool Truck	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pickup 4x4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dump Truck	0.01	0.05	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.01
Onsite Total	**0.03**	**0.11**	**0.30**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**0.01**
Offsite						
Water Truck	0.05	0.19	0.59	0.00	0.03	0.02
Tool Truck	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pickup 4x4	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dump Truck	6.83	27.54	83.43	0.11	4.05	3.48
Worker Commute	0.72	6.89	0.70	0.01	0.08	0.05
Offsite Total	**7.62**	**34.83**	**84.74**	**0.12**	**4.16**	**3.56**
Total	**7.64**	**34.95**	**85.03**	**0.12**	**4.18**	**3.57**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 8
Substation Construction Emissions
Grading

Motor Vehicle Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Vehicle	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[a]
Onsite			
Water Truck	0.9	0.0	0.9
Tool Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pickup 4x4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dump Truck	0.8	0.0	0.8
Onsite Total	**1.7**	**0.0**	**1.7**
Offsite			
Water Truck	3.3	0.0	3.3
Tool Truck	0.6	0.0	0.6
Pickup 4x4	0.6	0.0	0.6
Dump Truck	465.1	0.0	465.4
Worker Commute	40.4	0.0	40.5
Offsite Total	**510.1**	**0.0**	**510.4**
Total	**511.8**	**0.0**	**512.2**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/mile] x miles/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] /1,000,000 [g/MT]. Emission factors are in Table 49 and Table 50.
[b] CO2-equivalent (CO2e) emission factors are CO2 emissions plus 21 x CH4 emissions, based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf.

Motor Vehicle Fugitive Particulate Matter Emissions

Vehicle	Number	Road Type	Miles/ Day/ Vehicle	PM10 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM2.5 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM10 Emissions (lb/day)[b]	PM2.5 Emissions (lb/day)[b]
Onsite							
Water Truck	1	Unpaved	5	0.922	0.092	4.61	0.46
Tool Truck	1	Unpaved	1	0.435	0.043	0.44	0.04
Pickup 4x4	1	Unpaved	1	0.435	0.043	0.44	0.04
Dump Truck	45	Unpaved	0.1	0.922	0.092	4.15	0.41
Onsite Total						**9.63**	**0.96**
Offsite							
Water Truck	1	Paved	19	0.001	0.000	0.02	0.00
Tool Truck	1	Paved	14	0.001	0.000	0.01	0.00
Pickup 4x4	1	Paved	14	0.001	0.000	0.01	0.00
Dump Truck	45	Paved	60	0.001	0.000	2.16	0.00
Worker Commute	15	Paved	60	0.001	0.000	0.72	0.00
Offsite Total						**2.93**	**0.00**
Total						**12.56**	**0.96**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 37
Telecommunications Construction
Overhead Cable Installation

Emissions Summary

Source	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)	CO2e (MT)[a]
Construction Equipment Exhaust	2.27	8.66	27.78	0.04	0.86	0.79	24.2
Onsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onsite Motor Vechicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.00	0.00	--
Earthwork Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.00	0.00	--
Onsite Total	**2.27**	**8.66**	**27.78**	**0.04**	**0.86**	**0.79**	**24.16**
Offsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.58	4.46	2.97	0.01	0.15	0.12	5.4
Offsite Motor Vehicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	12.74	1.24	--
Offsite Total	**0.58**	**4.46**	**2.97**	**0.01**	**12.88**	**1.36**	**5.43**
Total	**2.85**	**13.13**	**30.75**	**0.04**	**13.75**	**2.15**	**29.59**

Construction Equipment Summary

Equipment	Horse-power	Number	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day
Bucket Truck	350	2	15	8
Splice Lab Truck	16	1	15	8

Construction Equipment Exhaust Emission Factors

Equipment	Horse-power	VOC (lb/hr)[a]	CO (lb/hr)[a]	NOX (lb/hr)[a]	SOX (lb/hr)[a]	PM10 (lb/hr)[a]	PM2.5 (lb/hr)[b]	CO2 (lb/hr)[a]	CH4 (lb/hr)[a]	Category
Bucket Truck	350	0.128	0.494	1.655	0.002	0.049	0.045	212.856	0.012	Aerial Lifts
Splice Lab Truck	16	0.028	0.095	0.163	0.000	0.01	0.009	17.631	0.002	Generator Sets

[a] From Table 48.

[b] Diesel PM2.5 emission factor [lb/hr] = PM10 emission factor [lb/hr] x PM2.5 fraction of PM10.

PM2.5 Fraction 0.920

From Appendix A, Final-Methodology to Calculate Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and PM2.5 Significance Thresholds, SCAQMD, October 2006, http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2.5_5.html

Revised Table 37
Telecommunications Construction
Overhead Cable Installation

Construction Equipment Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Equipment	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Bucket Truck	2.05	7.90	26.48	0.03	0.78	0.72
Splice Lab Truck	0.22	0.76	1.30	0.00	0.08	0.07
Total	**2.27**	**8.66**	**27.78**	**0.04**	**0.86**	**0.79**

Emissions (lb/day) = number x hours/day x emission factor [lb/hr].

Construction Equipment Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Equipment	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[b]
Bucket Truck	23.2	0.0	23.2
Splice Lab Truck	1.0	0.0	1.0
Total	**24.1**	**0.0**	**24.2**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/hr] x hours/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] / 1,000,000 [g/MT].
Emission factors are in Table 48

[b] CO_2-equivalent (CO_2e) emission factors are CO_2 emissions plus 21 x CH_4 emissions , based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf

Motor Vehicle Usage

Vehicle	Number[a]	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day	Miles Used/ Vel.
Onsite				
None				
Offsite				
Bucket Truck	2	15	N/A	21
Splice Lab Truck	1	15	N/A	21
Water Truck	1	15	N/A	40
Crew Truck	1	15	N/A	21
Worker Commute	6	15	N/A	60

Revised Table 37
Telecommunications Construction
Overhead Cable Installation

Motor Vehicle Exhaust Emission Factors

Vehicle	Category	VOC (lb/mile)	CO (lb/mile)	NOX (lb/mile)	SOX (lb/mile)	PM10 (lb/mile)	PM2.5 (lb/mile)	CO2 (lb/mile)	CH4 (lb/mile)
Onsite									
None									
Offsite									
Bucket Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Splice Lab Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Crew Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Water Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Worker Commute	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05

[a] From Table 49 or Table 50.

Motor Vehicle Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Vehicle	VOC[a] (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Onsite						
None						
Offsite						
Bucket Truck	0.09	0.65	0.73	0.00	0.03	0.02
Splice Lab Truck	0.05	0.33	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.01
Crew Truck	0.05	0.33	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.01
Water Truck	0.10	0.41	1.24	0.00	0.06	0.05
Worker Commute	0.29	2.75	0.28	0.00	0.03	0.02
Offsite Total	**0.58**	**4.46**	**2.97**	**0.01**	**0.15**	**0.12**
Total	**0.58**	**4.46**	**2.97**	**0.01**	**0.15**	**0.12**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 37
Telecommunications Construction
Overhead Cable Installation

Motor Vehicle Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Vehicle	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[a]
Onsite			
None			
Offsite			
Bucket Truck	0.8	0.0	0.8
Splice Lab Truck	0.4	0.0	0.4
Crew Truck	0.4	0.0	0.4
Water Truck	1.1	0.0	1.1
Worker Commute	2.7	0.0	2.7
Offsite Total	**5.4**	**0.0**	**5.4**
Total	**5.4**	**0.0**	**5.4**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/mile] x miles/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] /1,000,000 [g/MT]. Emission factors are in Table 49 and Table 50.

[b] CO2-equivalent (CO2e) emission factors are CO2 emissions plus 21 x CH4 emissions, based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf.

Motor Vehicle Fugitive Particulate Matter Emissions

Vehicle	Number	Road Type	Miles/ Day/ Vehicle	PM10 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM2.5 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM10 Emissions (lb/day)[b]	PM2.5 Emissions (lb/day)[b]
Onsite							
None							
Offsite							
Bucket Truck	2	Unpaved	4	0.922	0.092	7.38	0.74
Splice Lab Truck	1	Unpaved	4	0.726	0.073	2.90	0.29
Crew Truck	1	Unpaved	4	0.532	0.053	2.13	0.21
Water Truck	1	Paved	40	0.001	0.000	0.04	0.00
Worker Commute	6	Paved	60	0.001	0.000	0.29	0.00
Offsite Total						**12.74**	**1.24**
Total						**12.74**	**1.24**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 38
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Facility Installation

Emissions Summary

Source	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)	CO2e (MT)[a]
Construction Equipment Exhaust	2.66	10.91	21.87	0.04	1.18	1.09	5.61
Onsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onsite Motor Vechicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.00	0.00	--
Earthwork Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.05	0.01	--
Onsite Total	**2.66**	**10.91**	**21.87**	**0.04**	**1.23**	**1.10**	**5.61**
Offsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.30	2.81	0.38	0.00	0.04	0.02	3.2
Offsite Motor Vehicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.29	0.00	--
Offsite Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.33**	**0.02**	**3.17**
Total	**2.95**	**13.71**	**22.24**	**0.04**	**1.56**	**1.12**	**8.77**

Construction Equipment Summary

Equipment	Horse-power	Number	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day
Backhoe	79	1	16	8
Concrete Mixer	25	1	16	8
Generator*	85	1	1	13
Bore/Drill Rig*	213	1	1	13

*It is assumed that the bore rig and generator would not operate on the same day as the other equipment.

Revised Table 38
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Facility Installation

Construction Equipment Exhaust Emission Factors

Equipment	Horse-power	VOC (lb/hr)[a]	CO (lb/hr)[a]	NOX (lb/hr)[a]	SOX (lb/hr)[a]	PM10 (lb/hr)[a]	PM2.5 (lb/hr)[b]	CO2 (lb/hr)[a]	CH4 (lb/hr)[a]	Category
Backhoe	79	0.076	0.356	0.491	0.001	0.043	0.040	51.728	0.007	Tracktors/Loaders/Backhoes
Concrete Mixer	25	0.029	0.085	0.155	0.000	0.009	0.008	17.556	0.003	Cement and Mortar Mixers
Generator	85	0.1206	0.4956	0.8099	0.0009	0.064	0.059	77.9	0.0109	Generator Sets
Bore Rig	213	0.084	0.344	0.872	0.002	0.027	0.025	188.000	0.008	Bore/Drill Rig

[a] From Table 48.

[b] Diesel PM2.5 emission factor [lb/hr] = PM10 emission factor [lb/hr] x PM2.5 fraction of PM10.

PM2.5 Fraction 0.920

From Appendix A, Final-Methodology to Calculate Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and PM2.5 Significance Thresholds, SCAQMD, October 2006, http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2.5_5.html

Construction Equipment Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Equipment	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Backhoe	0.61	2.85	3.93	0.01	0.34	0.32
Concrete Mixer	0.23	0.68	1.24	0.00	0.07	0.07
Trench and Pit Const. T	**0.84**	**3.53**	**5.17**	**0.01**	**0.42**	**0.38**
Generator*	1.57	6.44	10.53	0.01	0.83	0.77
Bore/Drill Rig*	1.09	4.47	11.34	0.03	0.35	0.32
Bore Const. Total (Max	**2.66**	**10.91**	**21.87**	**0.04**	**1.18**	**1.09**

*It is assumed that the bore rig and generator would not operate on the same day as the other equipment.

Emissions (lb/day) = number x hours/day x emission factor [lb/hr].

Construction Equipment Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Equipment	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[b]
Backhoe	3.0	0.0	3.0
Concrete Mixer	1.0	0.0	1.0
Generator	0.5	0.0	0.5
Bore/Drill Rig	1.1	0.0	1.1
Total	**5.6**	**0.0**	**5.6**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/hr] x hours/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] / 1,000,000 [g/MT].

Emission factors are in Table 48

[b] CO_2-equivalent (CO_2e) emission factors are CO_2 emissions plus 21 x CH_4 emissions , based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf

Revised Table 38
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Facility Installation

Motor Vehicle Usage

Vehicle	Number[a]	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day	Miles Used/ Vel.
Onsite				
None				
Offsite				
Crew Truck	2	17	N/A	1
Flatbed Truck	1	17	N/A	1
Stake Truck	1	17	N/A	1
Worker Commute	6	17	N/A	60

Motor Vehicle Exhaust Emission Factors

Vehicle	Category	VOC (lb/mile)	CO (lb/mile)	NOX (lb/mile)	SOX (lb/mile)	PM10 (lb/mile)	PM2.5 (lb/mile)	CO2 (lb/mile)	CH4 (lb/mile)
Onsite									
None									
Offsite									
Crew Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Flatbed Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Stake Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Worker Commute	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05

[a] From Table 49 or Table 50.

Motor Vehicle Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Vehicle	VOC[a] (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Onsite						
None						
Offsite						
Crew Truck	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flatbed Truck	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stake Truck	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Commute	0.29	2.75	0.28	0.00	0.03	0.02
Offsite Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.04**	**0.02**
Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.04**	**0.02**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 38
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Facility Installation

Motor Vehicle Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Vehicle	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[a]
Onsite			
None			
Offsite			
Crew Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flatbed Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stake Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Worker Commute	3.1	0.0	3.1
Offsite Total	**3.2**	**0.0**	**3.2**
Total	**3.2**	**0.0**	**3.2**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/mile] x miles/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] /1,000,000 [g/MT]. Emission factors are in Table 49 and Table 50.

[b] CO2-equivalent (CO2e) emission factors are CO2 emissions plus 21 x CH4 emissions, based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf.

Motor Vehicle Fugitive Particulate Matter Emissions

Vehicle	Number	Road Type	Miles/ Day/ Vehicle	PM10 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM2.5 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM10 Emissions (lb/day)[b]	PM2.5 Emissions (lb/day)[b]
Onsite							
None							
Offsite							
Crew Truck	2	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Flatbed Truck	1	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Stake Truck	1	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Worker Commute	6	Paved	60	0.001	0.000	0.29	0.00
Offsite Total						**0.29**	**0.00**
Total						**0.29**	**0.00**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Table 39
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Cable Installation

Emissions Summary

Source	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)	CO2e (MT)[a]
Construction Equipment Exhaust	2.66	9.45	27.82	0.03	0.96	0.87	19.11
Onsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onsite Motor Vechicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.00	0.00	--
Earthwork Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.05	0.01	--
Onsite Total	**2.66**	**9.45**	**27.82**	**0.03**	**1.01**	**0.88**	**19.11**
Offsite Motor Vehicle Exhaust	0.30	2.81	0.38	0.00	0.04	0.02	1.9
Offsite Motor Vehicle Fugitive PM	--	--	--	--	0.29	0.00	--
Offsite Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.33**	**0.02**	**1.86**
Total	**2.95**	**12.25**	**28.19**	**0.04**	**1.34**	**0.91**	**20.98**

Construction Equipment Summary

Equipment	Horse-power	Number	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day
Reel Truck	210	2	10	8
Splice Lab Truck	16	1	10	8

Construction Equipment Exhaust Emission Factors

Equipment	Horse-power	VOC (lb/hr)[a]	CO (lb/hr)[a]	NOX (lb/hr)[a]	SOX (lb/hr)[a]	PM10 (lb/hr)[a]	PM2.5 (lb/hr)[b]	CO2 (lb/hr)[a]	CH4 (lb/hr)[a]	Category
Reel Truck	210	0.152	0.543	1.657	0.002	0.055	0.050	254.238	0.014	Other Construction Equip.
Splice Lab Truck	16	0.028	0.095	0.163	0.000	0.01	0.009	17.631	0.002	Generator Sets

[a] From Table 48.

[b] Diesel PM2.5 emission factor [lb/hr] = PM10 emission factor [lb/hr] x PM2.5 fraction of PM10.

PM2.5 Fraction 0.920

From Appendix A, Final-Methodology to Calculate Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and PM2.5 Significance Thresholds, SCAQMD, October 2006, http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2.5_5.html

Revised Table 39
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Cable Installation

Construction Equipment Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Equipment	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Reel Truck	2.43	8.69	26.51	0.03	0.88	0.80
Splice Lab Truck	0.22	0.76	1.30	0.00	0.08	0.07
Trench and Pit Const. T	**2.66**	**9.45**	**27.82**	**0.03**	**0.96**	**0.87**

Emissions (lb/day) = number x hours/day x emission factor [lb/hr].

Construction Equipment Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Equipment	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[b]
Reel Truck	18.5	0.0	18.5
Splice Lab Truck	0.6	0.0	0.6
Total	**19.1**	**0.0**	**19.1**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/hr] x hours/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] / 1,000,000 [g/MT].

Emission factors are in Table 48

[b] CO_2-equivalent (CO_2e) emission factors are CO_2 emissions plus 21 x CH_4 emissions , based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf

Motor Vehicle Usage

Vehicle	Number[a]	Days Used	Hours Used/ Day	Miles Used/ Vel.
Onsite				
None				
Offsite				
Reel Truck	2	10	N/A	1
Crew Truck	1	10	N/A	1
Splice Lab Truck	1	10	N/A	1
Worker Commute	6	10	N/A	60

Motor Vehicle Exhaust Emission Factors

Vehicle	Category	VOC (lb/mile)	CO (lb/mile)	NOX (lb/mile)	SOX (lb/mile)	PM10 (lb/mile)	PM2.5 (lb/mile)	CO2 (lb/mile)	CH4 (lb/mile)
Onsite									
None									
Offsite									
Reel Truck	HHDT	2.53E-03	1.02E-02	3.09E-02	4.04E-05	1.50E-03	1.29E-03	4.22E+00	1.17E-04
Crew Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Splice Lab Truck	Delivery	2.24E-03	1.55E-02	1.73E-02	2.67E-05	6.50E-04	5.50E-04	2.77E+00	1.07E-04
Worker Commute	Passenger	7.96E-04	7.65E-03	7.76E-04	1.07E-05	8.98E-05	5.75E-05	1.10E+00	7.17E-05

[a] From Table 49 or Table 50.

Revised Table 39
Telecommunications Construction
Underground Cable Installation

Motor Vehicle Daily Criteria Pollutant Exhaust Emissions

Vehicle	VOC[a] (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	NOX (lb/day)	SOX (lb/day)	PM10 (lb/day)	PM2.5 (lb/day)
Onsite						
None						
Offsite						
Reel Truck	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crew Truck	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Splice Lab Truck	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Commute	0.29	2.75	0.28	0.00	0.03	0.02
Offsite Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.04**	**0.02**
Total	**0.30**	**2.81**	**0.38**	**0.00**	**0.04**	**0.02**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Motor Vehicle Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Vehicle	CO2 (MT)[a]	CH4 (MT)[a]	CO2e (MT)[a]
Onsite			
None			
Offsite			
Crew Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flatbed Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stake Truck	0.0	0.0	0.0
Worker Commute	1.8	0.0	1.8
Offsite Total	**1.9**	**0.0**	**1.9**
Total	**1.9**	**0.0**	**1.9**

[a] Emissions [metric tons, MT] = emission factor [lb/mile] x miles/day x Number x days used x 453.6 [g/lb] /1,000,000 [g/MT]. Emission factors are in Table 49 and Table 50.

[b] CO2-equivalent (CO2e) emission factors are CO2 emissions plus 21 x CH4 emissions, based on Table C.1 from California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 3.0, April 2008, http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_V3_April2008_FINAL.pdf.

Motor Vehicle Fugitive Particulate Matter Emissions

Vehicle	Number	Road Type	Miles/ Day/ Vehicle	PM10 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM2.5 Emission Factor (lb/mi)[a]	PM10 Emissions (lb/day)[b]	PM2.5 Emissions (lb/day)[b]
Onsite							
None							
Offsite							
Crew Truck	2	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Flatbed Truck	1	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Stake Truck	1	Paved	1	0.001	0.000	0.00	0.00
Worker Commute	6	Paved	60	0.001	0.000	0.29	0.00
Offsite Total						**0.29**	**0.00**
Total						**0.29**	**0.00**

[a] Emissions [lb/day] = number x emission factor [lb/mi].

Revised Annual Onsite Greenhouse Gas Emissions Due to Fugitive SF6

SF6 for 115 kV circuit breakers (pounds)	SF6 GWP	Leak Factor	C02e metric tons
384	23,900	0.01	41.6

Sources: For pounds of SF6: SCE comment letter on Draft EIR; for SF6 GWP: CCAR, 2009.
For leak rate: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 2006. SF6 Leak Rates from High Voltage Circuit Breakers – U.S. EPA Investigates Potential Greenhouse Gas Emissions Source. IEEE Power Engineering Society General Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, June 2006

Revised Indirect Water Usage Emissions

Project Water Demand

16.2 Short-term construction demand (million gallons)

Use and Emission Factors

Water energy use factor* (CEC, 2005)

10,200 kW-hr/MG

Electricity use emission factors (CCAR, 2009)

	CO2	CH4	N2O
lbs/MW-hr	724.12	0.0302	0.0081

Project Indirect Electricity Usage

MW-hr/year 164.87571

Indirect Emission Assoc. with Electricity Use (metric tons/year)

	CO2	CH4	N2O	**CO2e**
Emissions	54.155	0.002	0.001	**54.391**

Notes: Global Warming Potential for CH4 = 25; GWP for N2O = 296.

* Water energy use factor includes supply, conveyance, treatment, and distribution.

Construction water demand assumes a daily use of 62,000 gallons.

References:

California Energy Commission (CEC), 2005. California's Water - Energy Relationship Prepared in Suppot of the 2005 Integrated Energy Policy Report Proceeding (04-IEPR-01E), November 2005 (Table 1-3, page 11).

California Climate Action Registry, 2009. General Reporting Protocol, Reporting Entity-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Version 3.1, January 2009.Tables C.4 and C.7.

APPENDIX G

Jurisdictional Delineation Report

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Jurisdictional Delineation Report

Lakeview Substation Project, Riverside County, California

Prepared for

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May 2012

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Jurisdictional Delineation Report (report) was prepared for Southern California Edison (SCE) to provide baseline data concerning the type and extent of resources under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for the Lakeview Substation Project (hereinafter referred to as "the proposed project"). This Jurisdictional Delineation Report is based on the jurisdictional delineation survey performed on March 20, 2012.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is located in unincorporated western Riverside County, near the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo (Exhibit 1). It is located primarily on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS') Perris 7.5-minute quadrangle map, with the terminus of fiber-optic cable route 2 on the Lakeview quadrangle (Exhibit 2). Land uses in the vicinity of the proposed project are primarily agricultural and residential; Lake Perris is located to the northwest.

The proposed project has the following components: a 115/12 kilovolt (kV) substation (i.e., the Lakeview Substation); two 115-kV Subtransmission source line segments (Segments 1 and 2); 2 underground vaults (also referred to as 12-kV distribution getaways); telecommunications (fiber-optic) infrastructure work (Routes 1 and 2, and work within the vicinity of the Alessandro Substation); and the decommissioning of two existing substations (Nuevo and Model Pole Top Substations). The survey area analyzed in this report includes the proposed substation (Lakeview Substation) and a 200-foot buffer around the 115-kV Subtransmission source line (Segments 1 and 2), fiber-optic cable routes (Routes 1 and 2), and access roads. Based on a literature review of the USGS' quadrangles, color aerial photography provided by Google Earth, and the National Wetlands Inventory Wetland Mapper (USFWS 2012), the Alessandro Substation, Nuevo Substation, and Model Pole Top Substation were not surveyed in the field due to the lack of mapped jurisdictional resources within these three substations.

1.2 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

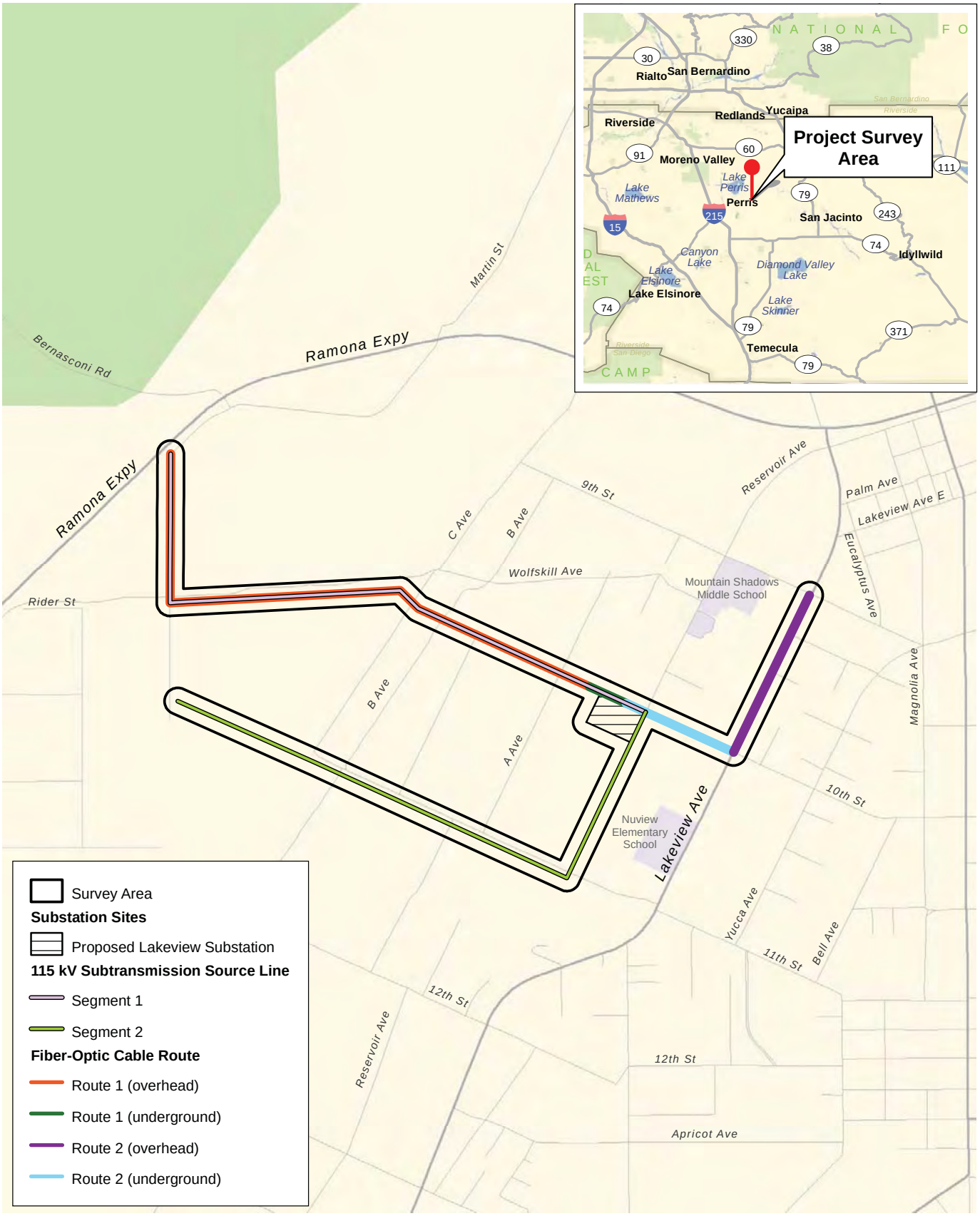
1.2.1 Summary of Regulations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE Regulatory Branch regulates activities that discharge dredged or fill materials into "Waters of the U.S." under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. This permitting authority applies to all "Waters of the U.S." where the material (1) replaces any portion of a "Waters of the U.S." with dry land or (2) changes the bottom elevation of any portion of any "Waters of the U.S.". These fill materials would include sand, rock, clay, construction debris, wood chips, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in these Waters. The selection of disposal sites for dredged or fill material is done in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, which were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Waters of the United States

"Waters of the U.S." can be divided into three categories: territorial seas, tidal waters, or non-tidal waters. The term "Waters of the U.S." is defined by the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR, Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters; Part 328, Definition of Waters of the United States; Section 328.3, Definitions) and includes:



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Project Survey Area

Figure 1

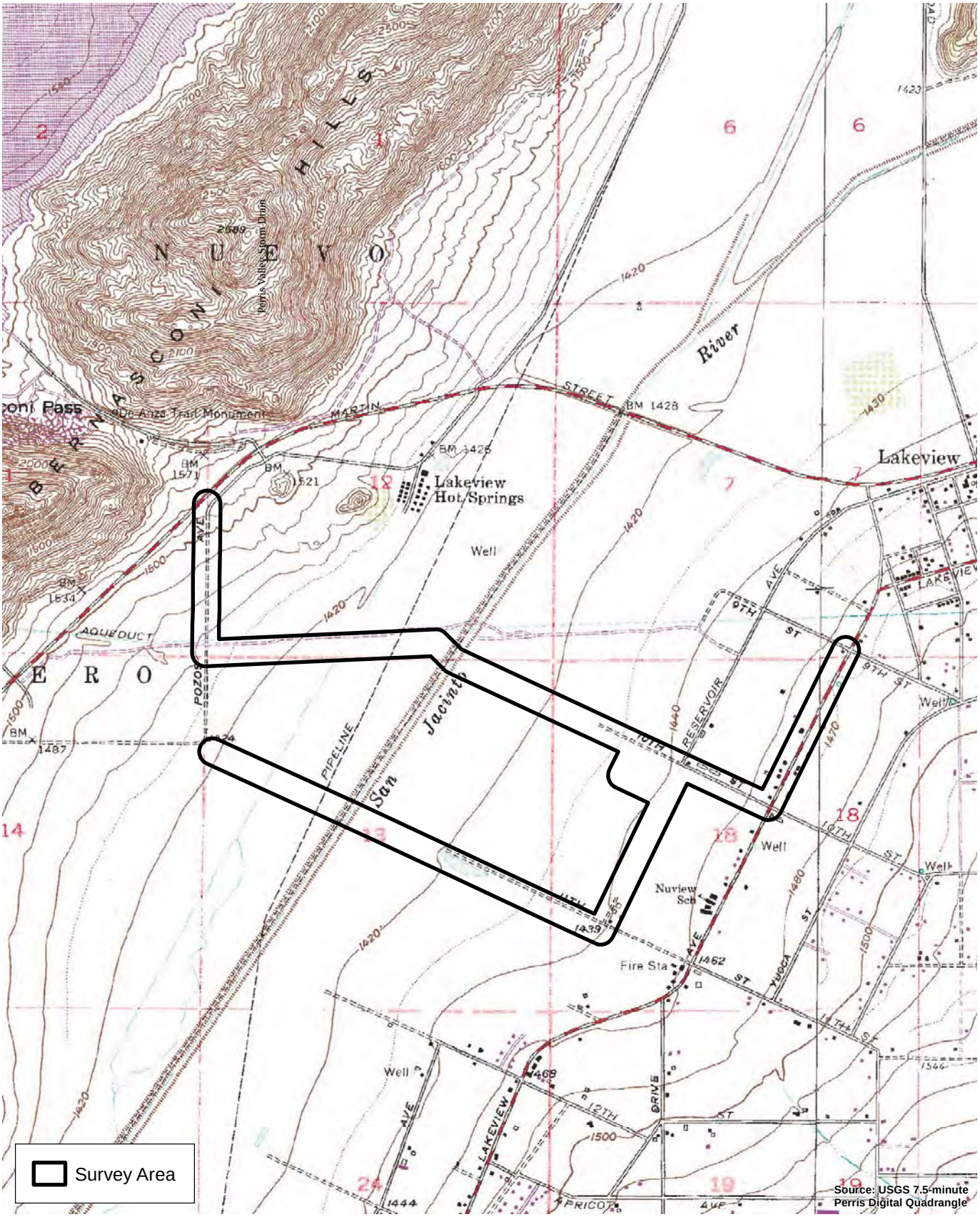
Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex1_LV_RL.pdf



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USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle

Figure 2

Lakeview Substation Project

N
W E
S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000
Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex2_LV_USGS.pdf

1. All waters that have, are, or may be used in interstate or foreign commerce (including sightseeing or hunting), including all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, or streams (including intermittent streams); mudflats; sand flats; wetlands; sloughs; prairie potholes; wet meadows; playa lakes; or natural ponds where the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce;
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as "Waters of the U.S." under the definition;
5. All tributaries of waters identified above;
6. The territorial seas; and
7. All wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified above.

Ordinary High Water Mark

The landward limit of tidal "Waters of the U.S." is the high-tide line. In non-tidal waters where adjacent wetlands are absent, jurisdiction extends to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). In the absence of wetlands in non-tidal waters, the extent of jurisdictional limits is determined by the OHWM. The OHWM is defined as "that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas" (33 CFR §328.3[e]).

Wetlands

A wetland is a subset of jurisdictional waters and is defined by the USACE and the USEPA as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR §328.3[b]). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and areas containing similar features. The definition and methodology for identifying wetland resources can be found in the USACE's *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE 2008c), a supplement to the USACE's *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987). The methodology contained in this supplement was used to identify the type and extent of wetland resources along the project alignment.

On June 19, 2006, a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court overturned two Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decisions, finding that certain wetlands constituted "Waters of the U.S." under the CWA. Justice Scalia argued that "Waters of the U.S." should not include channels through which water flows intermittently or ephemerally, or channels that periodically provide drainage for rainfall. He also stated that a wetland may not be considered "adjacent to" remote "Waters of the U.S." based on a mere hydrologic connection. On June 5, 2007, the USACE published a memorandum that provides guidance to both the USEPA regions and the USACE districts that implement the Supreme Court's decision in the Rapanos cases (which address the jurisdiction over "Waters of the U.S." under the CWA).[1] The memorandum includes a chart that summarizes

[1] Consolidated cases: Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States refer to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision concerning USACE jurisdiction over waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

its key points, which is intended to be used as a reference tool along with a complete discussion of issues and guidance furnished throughout the memorandum.

In summary, the USACE and the USEPA will assert jurisdiction over the following waters: (1) traditional navigable waters (TNW); (2) wetlands adjacent to a TNW; (3) relatively permanent, non-navigable tributaries of a TNW that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically three months); and (4) wetlands that directly abut such tributaries.

The USACE and the USEPA will decide jurisdiction over the following waters based on a fact-specific analysis to determine whether they have a significant nexus with a TNW: (1) non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent; (2) wetlands adjacent to non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent; and (3) wetlands adjacent to but that do not directly abut a relatively permanent, non-navigable tributary.

The USACE and the USEPA generally will not assert jurisdiction over the following features: (1) swales or erosional features (e.g., gullies or small washes characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow) and (2) ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly within and draining only uplands and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water.

The USACE and the USEPA will apply the significant nexus standard defined as follows:

1. A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by all wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of downstream TNWs.
2. A significant nexus includes consideration of hydrologic and ecological factors.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The RWQCB is the primary agency responsible for protecting water quality within California through the regulation of discharges to surface waters under the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act). The RWQCB's jurisdiction extends to all "Waters of the State" and to all "Waters of the U.S.", including wetlands (isolated and non-isolated).

Section 401 of the CWA provides the RWQCB with the authority to regulate, through a Water Quality Certification, any proposed, federally permitted activity that may affect water quality. Among such activities are discharges of dredged or fill material permitted by the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. Section 401 requires the RWQCB to provide "certification that there is reasonable assurance that an activity which may result in the discharge to 'Waters of the U.S.' will not violate water quality standards". Water Quality Certification must be based on a finding that the proposed discharge will comply with water quality standards, which contain numeric and narrative objectives that can be found in each of the nine RWQCBs' Basin Plans.

The Porter-Cologne Act provides the State with very broad authority to regulate "Waters of the State" (which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters). The Porter-Cologne Act has become an important tool in the post-SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook Counties vs. Unites States Corps of Engineers) and Rapanos era with respect to the State's authority over isolated waters. Generally, any person proposing to discharge waste into a water body that could affect its water quality must file a "Report of Waste Discharge" (ROWD) when there is no federal nexus, such as under Section 404(b)(1) of the

CWA. Although “waste” is partially defined as any waste substance associated with human habitation, the RWQCB interprets this to include fill discharge into water bodies.

Santa Ana River Basin Plan

There are nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards in California. The project site is located within Regional Water Quality Control Board Region 8, the Santa Ana Region. The State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have adopted a Water Quality Control Plan (or “Basin Plan”) for the upper and lower Santa Ana River watersheds, the San Jacinto River watershed, and several other small drainage areas. The Basin Plan contains goals and policies, descriptions of conditions, and proposed solutions to surface and groundwater issues. The Basin Plan also establishes water quality standards for surface and groundwater resources and includes beneficial uses and levels of water quality that must be met and maintained to protect these uses. These water quality standards are implemented through various regulatory permits pursuant to CWA Section 401 for Water Quality Certifications and Section 402 for Report of Waste Discharge permits.

The Basin Plan indicates that the survey area is located within the San Jacinto Valley Hydrologic Unit, Lakeview Hydrologic Subarea (HSA) 802.14. Table 4-1, Water Quality Objectives for Inland Surface Streams, of the Basin Plan, indicates that the water quality objective for the San Jacinto River (Reach 4 – Nuevo Road to North-South Mid-Section Line, Township 4S Range 1 Section 38) is 500 milligrams/liter of total dissolved solids (RWQCB 1995).

The Basin Plan identifies a number of beneficial uses, some or all of which may apply to a specific HSA, including Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN) waters; Agricultural Supply (AGR) waters; Industrial Service Supply waters (IND); Industrial Process Supply (PROC) waters; Groundwater Recharge (GWR) waters; Navigation (NAV) waters; Hydropower Generation (POW) waters; Water Contact Recreation (REC 1) waters; Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC 2) waters; Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) waters; Warm Fresh Water Habitat (WARM) waters; Limited Warm Water Habitat (LWARM) waters; Cold Fresh Water Habitat (COLD) waters; Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL) waters; Wildlife Habitat (WILD) waters; Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species (RARE) waters; Marine Habitat (MAR) waters; Shellfish Harvesting (SHEL) waters; and Estuarine Habitat (EST) waters.

Table 3.1 of the Basin Plan identifies the following intermittent beneficial uses for the San Jacinto River (Reach 4) that would likely need to be addressed as part of the request for a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification: AGR, GWR, REC1, REC2, WARM, WILD (RWQCB 1995).

AGR waters are used for farming, horticulture, or ranching. These uses may include, but are not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, and support of vegetation for range grazing. Crop lands surround the San Jacinto River in the survey area, and a herd of sheep was observed adjacent to the river during the delineation. Water is pumped into two impoundment areas in the survey area.

GWR waters are used for natural or artificial recharge of groundwater for purposes that may include, but are not limited to, future extraction, maintaining water quality or halting saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers.

REC1 waters are used for recreational activities involving body contact with water where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses may include, but are not limited to,

swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, whitewater activities, fishing and use of natural hot springs. Please note that while this beneficial use designation is assigned to surface water bodies in this Region, it should not be construed as encouraging recreational activities. Surface water was not present in the San Jacinto River at the time of the survey and flow is likely to occur primarily in the rainy season. REC1 uses are not likely to occur in the vicinity of the survey area due to the heavy agricultural uses.

REC2 waters are used for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving bodily contact with water where ingestion of water would be reasonably possible. These uses may include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tide pool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, and aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities. Please note that while this beneficial use designation is assigned to surface water bodies in this Region, it should not be construed as encouraging recreational activities. REC2 uses are not likely to occur in the vicinity of the survey area due to the heavy agricultural uses.

WARM waters support warm water ecosystems that may include, but are not limited to, preservation and enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish and wildlife, including invertebrates. The San Jacinto River is expected to provide only limited aquatic habitat due to the lack of surface water most of the year.

WILD waters support wildlife habitats that may include, but are not limited to, the preservation and enhancement of vegetation and prey species used by waterfowl and other wildlife. The San Jacinto River supports suitable habitat for a variety of common bird species. Trees present along the river have the potential to support nesting birds and raptors; an active raptor nest was incidentally observed during the delineation.

California Department of Fish and Game

The CDFG has jurisdictional authority over wetland resources associated with rivers, streams, and lakes pursuant to *California Fish and Game Code* (§§1600–1616). Activities of State and local agencies as well as public utilities that are project proponents are regulated by the CDFG under Section 1602 of the *California Fish and Game Code;* this section regulates any work that will (1) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (2) substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or (3) deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

Because the CDFG includes streamside habitats under its jurisdiction that, under the federal definition, may not qualify as wetlands on a particular project site, its jurisdiction may be broader than that of the USACE. Riparian forests in California often lie outside the plain of ordinary high water regulated under Section 404 of the CWA, and often do not have all three parameters (wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils) sufficiently present to be regulated as a wetland. However, riparian forests are frequently within CDFG regulatory jurisdiction under Section 1602 of the *California Fish and Game Code.*

The CDFG enters into a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) with a project proponent and can impose conditions on the agreement. The notification process involves the completion of the applications which will serve as the basis for the CDFG's issuance of a Section 1602 SAA. Section 1602 of the *California Fish and Game Code* applies to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes in the State.

The CDFG jurisdictional limits are not as clearly defined by regulation as those of the USACE. While they closely resemble the limits described by USACE regulations, they include riparian

habitat supported by a river, stream, or lake regardless of the presence or absence of hydric and saturated soils conditions. In general, the CDFG takes jurisdiction from the top of a stream bank or to the outer limits of the adjacent riparian vegetation (outer drip line), whichever is greater. Notification is generally required for any project that will take place within or in the vicinity of a river, stream, lake, or their tributaries. This includes rivers or streams that flow at least periodically or permanently through a bed or channel with banks that support fish and other aquatic plant and/or wildlife species, and watercourses that have a surface or subsurface flow that support or have supported riparian vegetation.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The three-parameter approach used to identify USACE wetlands is summarized in Sections 2.1 through 2.3; literature reviewed for the preparation of the delineation is outlined in Section 2.4; and the field delineation is outlined in Section 2.5.

2.1 VEGETATION

Hydrophytic vegetation (or hydrophytes) is defined as any macrophytic plant that is typically adapted to and subsequently grows within water or that is on a substrate at least periodically deficient in oxygen; this oxygen deficiency can be a result of excessive saturation conditions that range from open water to periodically saturated soils. Specifically, these plant species are specialized and can survive in permanently saturated to periodically saturated soils where oxygen levels are very low or the soils are anaerobic. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has identified approximately 2,000 plant species of this type within the State of California (i.e., Zone 0) and nearly 5,000 species throughout the U.S. (Reed 1988). The wetland indicator categories reflect the range of estimated probabilities (expressed as a frequency of occurrence) that a species occurs in wetlands versus non-wetlands. Therefore, a frequency of 67 percent to 99 percent means that 67 percent to 99 percent of sample plots containing the species randomly selected across the range of the species would be a wetland. A positive (+) or negative (-) sign is used with the wetland indicator categories to more specifically define the regional frequency of a species' occurrence in wetlands (Reed 1988). The positive sign indicates a frequency toward the higher end of the category (i.e., more frequently found in wetlands), and a negative sign indicates a frequency toward the lower end of the category (less frequently found in wetlands). The positive and negative modifiers are eliminated from the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* when determining if an area meets the hydrophytic plant criterion for a wetland. Species not listed by Reed (1988) are considered to be upland (UPL).

Plant indicator status categories are as follows:

- ***Obligate Wetland (OBL):*** Plants that occur almost always (estimated probability 99 percent) in wetlands under natural conditions, but which may also occur rarely (estimated probability 1 percent) in non-wetlands (e.g., cattails [*Typha* spp.] or common water hyacinth [*Eichhornia crassipes*]).
- ***Facultative Wetlands (FACW):*** Plants that occur usually (estimated probability 67-99 percent) in wetlands, but also occur (estimated probability 1–33 percent) in non-wetlands (e.g., mule fat [*Baccharis salicifolia*] or arroyo willow [*Salix lasiolepis*]).
- ***Facultative (FAC):*** Plants with similar likelihood (estimated probability 34–66 percent) of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands (e.g., California orach [*Atriplex californica*]).
- ***Facultative Upland (FACU):*** Plants that occur sometimes (estimated probability 1-33 percent) in wetlands, but occur more often (estimated probability 67–99 percent) in non-wetlands (e.g., giant wild rye [*Elymus condensatus*]).

- ***Obligate Upland (UPL):*** Plants that occur rarely (estimated probability 1 percent) in wetlands, but occur almost always (estimated probability 99 percent) in non-wetlands under natural conditions (e.g., coast live oak [*Quercus agrifolia*]).

The following are three procedures for determining hydrophytic vegetation: Indicator 1, "Dominance Test", using the "50/20 Rule"; Indicator 2, "Prevalence Index"; or Indicator 3, "Morphological Adaptation", as identified in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE 2008c). Hydrophytic vegetation is present if any indicator is satisfied. If none of the indicators are satisfied, then hydrophytic vegetation is absent unless (1) indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology are present and (2) the site meets the requirements for a problematic wetland situation.

Dominance Test: Vegetative cover is estimated and is ranked according to its dominance. Dominant species are the most abundant species for each stratum of the community (i.e., tree, sapling/shrub, herb, or woody vine) that individually or collectively amount to 50 percent of the total coverage of vegetation plus any other species that, by itself, accounts for 20 percent of the total vegetation cover (also known as the "50/20 Rule"). These species are recorded on the "Wetland Determination Data Form – Arid West Region". The wetlands indicator status of each species is also recorded on the data forms based on the *National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands* (Reed 1988). If greater than 50 percent of the dominant species across all strata are OBL, FACW or FAC species, the criterion for wetland vegetation is considered to be met.

Prevalence Index: The prevalence index considers all plant species in a community, not just the dominant ones. The prevalence index is the average of the wetland indicator status of all plant species in a sampling plot. Each indicator status category is given a numeric code (OBL=1, FACW=2, FAC=3, FACU=4, and UPL=5) and is weighted by the species' abundance (percent cover). Hydrophytic vegetation is present if the prevalence index is 3.0 or less.

Morphological Adaptation: Morphological adaptations, such as adventitious roots (i.e., roots that take advantage of the wet conditions) and shallow root systems, must be observed on more than 50 percent of the individuals of a FACU species for the hydrophytic vegetation wetland criterion to be met.

2.2 SOILS

The National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) defines a hydric soil as a soil that is formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding that occurs long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions (or conditions of limited oxygen) at or near the soil surface and that favor the establishment of hydrophytic vegetation (USDA NRCS 2008). It should be noted that hydric soils created under artificial conditions of flooding and inundation sufficient for the establishment of hydrophytic vegetation would also meet this hydric soils indicator.

The soil conditions are verified by digging test pits along each transect to a depth of at least 20 inches (except where a restrictive layer occurs in areas containing hard pan, cobble, or solid rock). It should be noted that at some sites, it may be necessary to make exploratory soil test pits up to 40 inches in depth to more accurately document and understand the variability in soil properties and hydrologic relationships on the site. Soil test pit locations are usually dug within the drainage invert or at the edge of a drainage course within vegetated areas. Soil extracted from each soil test pit is then examined for texture and color using the standard plates within the Munsell Soil Color Chart (1994) and recorded on the Data Form. The Munsell Soil Color Chart aids in designating soils by color labels based on gradations of three simple

variables: hue, value, and chroma. Any indicators of hydric soils such as the following are also recorded on the Data Form: redoximorphic features (i.e., areas where iron is reduced under anaerobic conditions and oxidized following a return to aerobic conditions); buried organic matter; organic streaking; reduced soil conditions; gleyed (i.e., soils having a characteristic bluish-gray or greenish-gray in color) or low-chroma soils; or sulfuric odor. If hydric soils are found, progressive pits are dug along the transect moving laterally away from the active channel area until hydric soil features are no longer present within the top 20 inches of the soil.

2.3 HYDROLOGY

Wetlands hydrology is represented by either (1) all of the hydrological elements or characteristics of areas permanently or periodically inundated or (2) areas containing soils that are saturated for a sufficient duration of time to create hydric soils suitable for the establishment of plant species that are typically adapted to anaerobic soil conditions. The presence of wetland hydrology is evaluated at each intersect by recording the extent of observed surface flows, the depth of inundation, the depth to saturated soils, and the depth to free water in soil test pits. In instances where stream flow is divided into multiple channels with intervening sandbars, the entire area between the channels is considered within the OHWM. Therefore, an area containing these features would meet the indicator requirements for wetland hydrology.

2.4 LITERATURE

Prior to conducting the delineation, BonTerra Consulting reviewed the following documents to identify areas that may fall under agency jurisdiction: the USGS' Perris and Lakeview 7.5-minute quadrangles; color aerial photography provided by Google Earth (imagery dated March 10, 2011); the Report and General Soil Maps for Western Riverside Area, California (USDA NRCS 1974); the National Hydric Soils List (USDA NRCS 2012); and the National Wetlands Inventory's Wetland Mapper (USFWS 2012). A description of this literature is provided below.

USGS Topographic Quadrangle. USGS quadrangle maps show geological formations and their characteristics; they describe the physical settings of an area through topographic contour lines and other major surface features. These features include lakes, streams, rivers, buildings, roadways, landmarks, and other features that may fall under the jurisdiction of one or more regulatory agencies. In addition, the USGS maps provide topographic information that is useful in determining elevations, latitude and longitude, and Universal Transverse Mercator Grid coordinates for a project site.

The San Jacinto River is shown crossing Segments 1 and 2 of the Subtransmission Source Line and fiber-optic cable Route 1. An unnamed blueline stream also crosses these project components west of the San Jacinto River; it joins the San Jacinto River downstream of the survey area. The San Jacinto River gently meanders southwest to the Railroad Canyon Reservoir, approximately 12 river miles (11 aerial miles) from the survey area, and then empties into Lake Elsinore, approximately 18 river miles (15 aerial miles) from the survey area. An isolated, intermittent pond is shown near the middle of Segment 2. The Colorado River Aqueduct runs parallel to and north of the portion of Segment 1 west of the San Jacinto River.

The Perris Valley Storm Drain runs adjacent to the eastern side of the Alessandro Substation; it joins the San Jacinto River approximately 9 river miles (9 aerial miles) downstream of the substation.

Color Aerial Photography. BonTerra Consulting reviewed an existing color aerial photograph prior to the March 20, 2012, site visit to identify the extent of any drainages and riparian vegetation occurring on the project site.

Areas of standing water are visible in the San Jacinto River in the aerial imagery. Herbaceous vegetation and scattered shrubs or trees are also visible. Where it crosses the survey area, the river is straight and confined. The unnamed blueline stream appears confined to a channel downstream of the survey area; however, it appears indistinct where it crosses the survey area in an agricultural field. An area of standing water is visible where the blueline stream crosses Segment 2. Inundation is visible in both the larger and smaller impoundments in the middle of Segment 2, with vegetation present along the margins. The Colorado River Aqueduct is not apparent on the aerial imagery. A partially-lined and unvegetated trapezoidal channel is visible running parallel to and north of 11th Street.

The Perris Valley Storm Drain appears to be a concrete-lined trapezoidal channel in the vicinity of the Alessandro Substation.

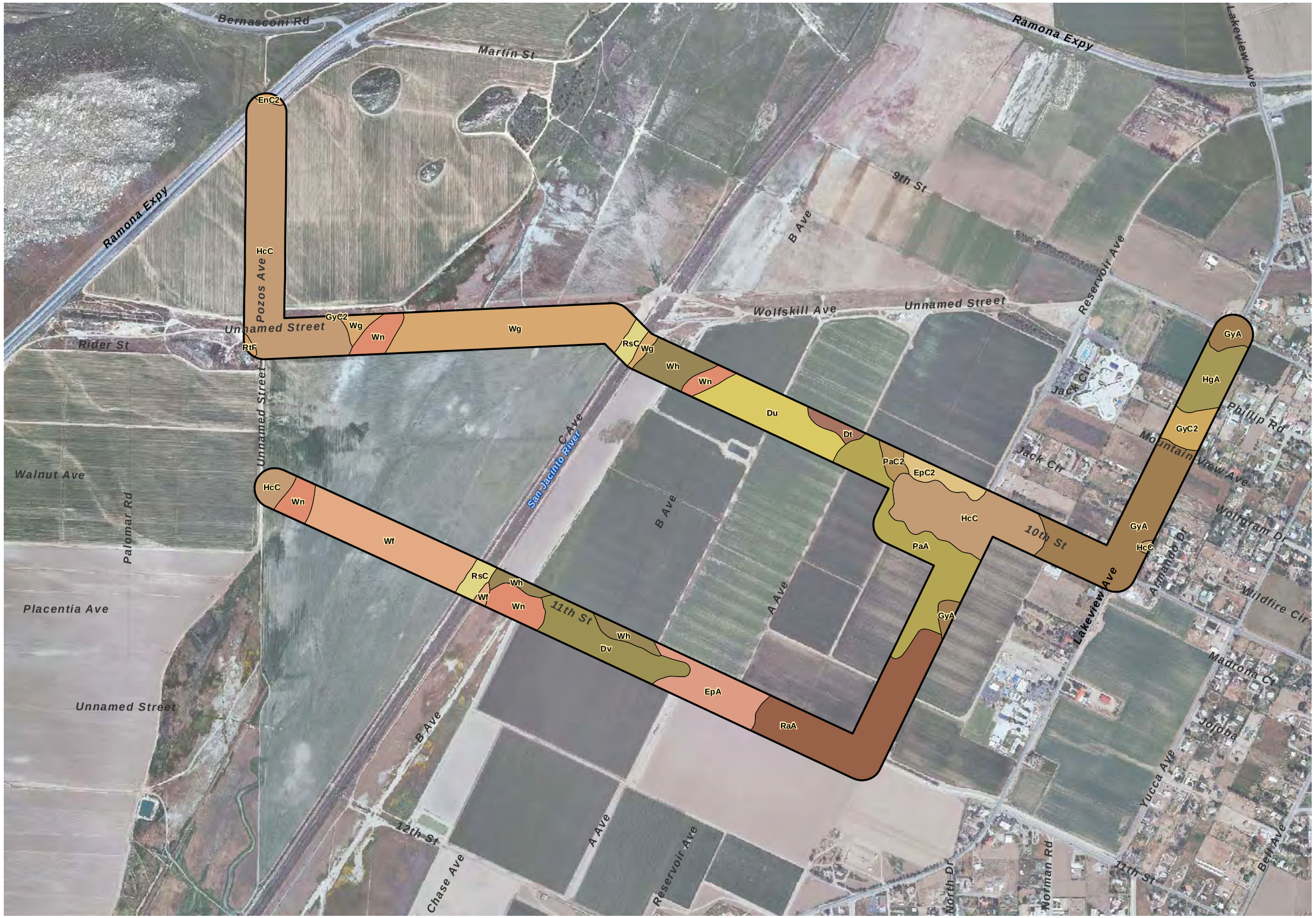
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The presence of hydric soils is one of the chief indicators of jurisdictional wetlands. BonTerra Consulting reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil data for the project alignment (USDA NRCS 1974).

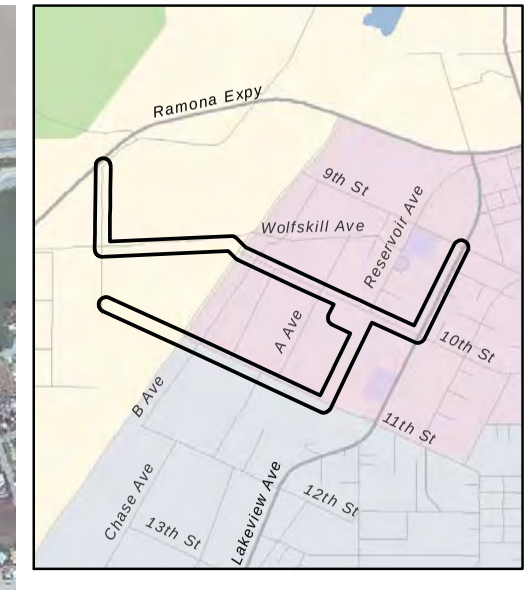
The following soil types are mapped in the survey area: Domino fine sandy loam, saline-alkali; Domino silt loam; Domino silt loam, saline-alkaline; Exeter sandy loam (2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded); Exeter sandy loam, deep (0 to 2 percent slopes); Exeter sandy loam, deep (2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded); Greenfield sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes); Greenfield sandy loam (2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded); Hanford coarse sandy loam (2 to 8 percent slopes); Hanford fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes); Pachappa fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes); Pachappa fine sandy loam (2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded); Ramona sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes); Willows silty clay; Willows silty clay, saline-alkali; Willows silty clay, strongly saline-alkali; and Willows silty clay, deep, strongly saline-alkali; riverwash and rockland have also been mapped (Exhibit 3). None of these soils are listed as “hydric” on the National Hydric Soils List for the soil survey area (USDA NRCS 2012). A brief description of the soil types mapped in the survey area is provided in Attachment A of this report.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory: The Wetlands Mapper shows wetland resources available from the Wetlands Spatial Data Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (USFWS 2012). This resource provides the classification of known wetlands following the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al. 1979). This classification system is arranged in a hierarchy of (1) Systems that share the influence of similar hydrologic, geomorphologic, chemical, or biological factors (i.e., Marine, Estuarine, Riverine, Lacustrine, and Palustrine); (2) Subsystems (i.e., Subtidal and Intertidal; Tidal, Lower Perennial, Upper Perennial, and Intermittent; or Littoral and Limnetic); (3) Classes, which are based on substrate material and flooding regime or on vegetative life forms; (4) Subclasses; and (5) Dominance Types, which are named for the dominant plant or wildlife forms. In addition, there are modifying terms applied to Classes or Subclasses.

Within the survey area, the San Jacinto River is mapped as PSSY (current USFWS naming convention classifies this as PSSC) and the larger detention basin is mapped as POWKY (currently classified as PUBK) (Exhibit 4). The Perris Valley Storm Drain is mapped as R4SBW (currently classified as R4SBA). The description for these codes is as follows:

- ***P: System PALUSTRINE.*** The Palustrine System includes all non-tidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, mosses, or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 parts per trillion (ppt). Wetlands lacking such vegetation are also included if they exhibit all of the following characteristics: (1) are less than 8 hectares (20 acres); (2) do not have an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature; (3) have a low water depth of less than





Survey Area

Soil Types

- Dt - Domino fine sandy loam, saline-alkali
- Du - Domino silt loam
- Dv - Domino silt loam, saline-alkali
- EnC2 - Exeter sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- EpA - Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- EpC2 - Exeter sandy loam, deep, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- GyA - Greenfield sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- GyC2 - Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- HcC - Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- HgA - Hanford fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- PaA - Pachappa fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- PaC2 - Pachappa fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- RaA - Ramona sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- RsC - Riverwash
- RtF - Rockland
- Wf - Willows silty clay
- Wg - Willows silty clay, saline-alkali
- Wh - Willows silty clay, strongly saline-alkali
- Wn - Willows silty clay, deep, strongly saline-alkali

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Soil Types

Figure 3

Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

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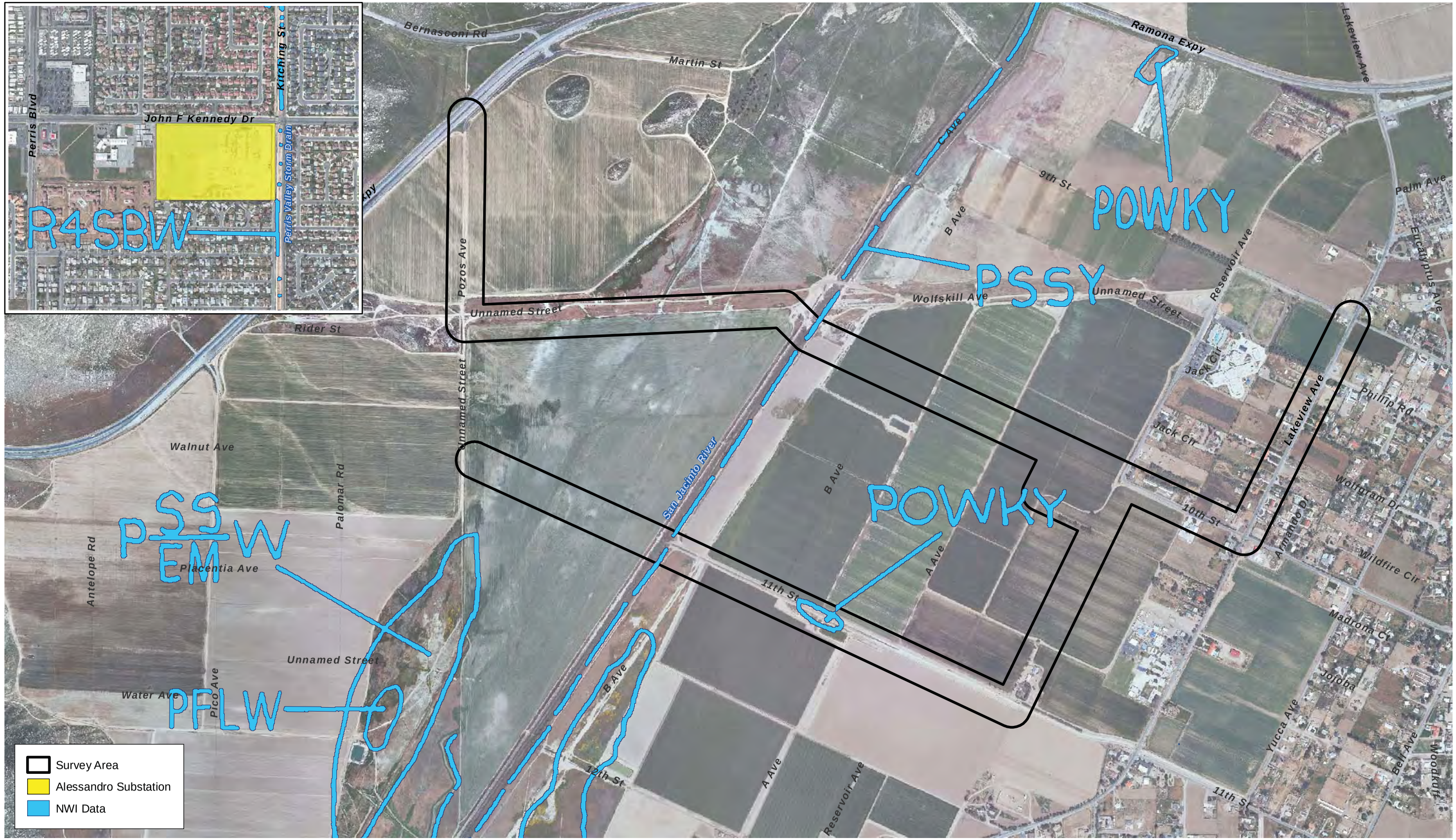

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National Wetlands Inventory

Figure 4

Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-14-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex4_NWI.pdf

2 meters (6.6 feet) in the deepest part of the basin; (4) have a salinity due to ocean-derived salts of less than 0.5 ppt.

- ***SS: Class SCRUB-SHRUB.*** This class includes areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. The species include true shrubs, young trees (saplings), and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.
  - ***C:* Water Regime SEASONALLY FLOODED.** Surface water is present for extended periods, especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is variable, extending from saturated to the surface to a water table well below the ground surface.
- ***UB: Class UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM.*** This class includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats with at least a 25 percent cover of particles smaller than stones (less than 6–7 centimeters), and a vegetative cover less than 30 percent.
  - ***K:* Water Regime ARTIFICIALLY FLOODED.** The amount and duration of flooding is controlled by means of pumps or siphons in combination with dikes or dams. The vegetation growing in these areas cannot be considered a reliable indicator of water regime. The Artificially Flooded modifier should be used with water and wastewater treatment facilities. Neither wetlands within or resulting from leakage from man-made impoundments, nor irrigated pasture lands supplied by diversion ditches or artesian wells are included under this modifier. The K water regime should not be used in the Riverine System as more applicable special modifiers such as “impounded”, “excavated”, or “artificial” better describe artificial flooding conditions in riverine channels.

- ***R: System RIVERINE.*** The Riverine System includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats contained in natural or artificial channels periodically or continuously containing flowing water or which forms a connecting link between the two bodies of standing water. Upland islands or Palustrine wetlands may occur in the channel, but they are not part of the Riverine System.
  - ***4: Subsystem INTERMITTENT.*** This Subsystem includes channels that contain flowing water only part of the year, but may contain isolated pools when the flow stops.
    - ***SB: Class STREAMBED.*** Includes all wetlands contained within the Intermittent Subsystem of the Riverine System and all channels of the Estuarine System or of the Tidal Subsystem of the Riverine System that are completely dewatered at low tide.
      - ***A:* Water Regime TEMPORARY FLOODED.** Surface water is present for brief periods during growing season, but the water table usually lies well below the soil surface for most of the growing season. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands may be characteristic of this water regime.

2.5 JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION

In September 2008, the USACE issued the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region.* This regional supplement is designed for use with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987). Both the 1987 Wetlands Manual and the Arid West Supplement to the manual provide technical methods and guidelines for determining the presence of “Waters of the U.S.” and wetland resources. A three-parameter approach is used to identify wetlands and requires evidence of wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils. Wetlands generally include

swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. In order to be considered a wetland, an area must exhibit at least minimal hydric characteristics within the three parameters. However, problem areas may periodically or permanently lack certain indicators due to seasonal or annual variability of the nature of the soils or plant species on site. Atypical wetlands lack certain indicators due to recent human activities or natural events. Guidance for determining the presence of wetlands in these situations is presented in the regional supplement. Non-wetland "Waters of the U.S." are delineated based on the limits of the OHWM, which can be determined by a number of factors including erosion, the deposition of vegetation or debris, and changes in vegetation.

It should be noted that the RWQCB shares USACE jurisdiction unless isolated conditions are present. If isolated waters conditions are present, the RWQCB takes jurisdiction using the USACE's definition of the OHWM and/or the three-parameter wetlands methodology pursuant to the 1987 Wetlands Manual. The CDFG's jurisdiction is defined as the top of the bank to the top of the bank of the stream, channel, or basin or to the outer limit of riparian vegetation located within or immediately adjacent to the river, stream, creek, pond, or lake or other impoundment.

The analysis contained in this report uses the results of a field survey conducted by BonTerra Consulting Biologist/Regulatory Technician Allison Rudalevige and Biologist Jason Mintzer on March 20, 2012. Jurisdictional features were delineated using a 1 inch equals 200 feet (1″ = 200′) scale aerial photograph. The field survey included the collection of vegetation, soils, and hydrologic data from one sampling point in the survey area; this information was recorded on Wetland Determination Data Form (Attachment B). Representative photographs of the project site are included in Attachment C.

3.0 RESULTS

Jurisdictional resources delineated in the survey area include portions of the San Jacinto River, an unnamed blueline stream, a trapezoidal channel, and two impoundment areas. One sampling point was assessed within the San Jacinto River.

The proposed work at Alessandro Substation will include installing new underground conduit west across Kitching Street to approximately 200 feet to the east of the perimeter fence of the substation. In order to install the new conduit, a directional bore will be required to bore under the existing concrete lined storm drain (Perris Valley Storm Drain) that runs north and south between Kitching Street and the substation. This proposed work will not impact the adjacent Perris Valley Storm Drain; therefore, no impacts on this jurisdictional resource will occur. The existing Nuevo Substation and existing temporary Model Pole Top Substation would also be decommissioned. Each substation would be retired and underground and overhead facilities removed from the site. This proposed work will not impact jurisdictional resources, as well.

3.1 VEGETATION

The San Jacinto River contains scattered patches of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) within the survey area. The remainder of the bed and banks are dominated by non-native grass. Sampling Point 1 occurs adjacent to a patch of mule fat. The dominance test was passed and the Prevalence Index was less than 3.0 for this sampling point; therefore, the hydrophytic vegetation criterion for wetlands was met in this area.

The unnamed blueline stream appeared to contain non-native upland vegetation. The trapezoidal channel was entirely unvegetated. It was concrete-lined to the east and soft bottom to the west. The impoundments contained less than five percent vegetative cover.

3.2 SOILS

Soils in the San Jacinto River consist of sandy clay. No indicators of hydric soil were present in Sampling Point 1; therefore, the hydric soil criterion for wetlands was not met in this area.

3.3 HYDROLOGY

The survey area is within the 1,680-square-mile Santa Ana River watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 8070203). Stream gauge data from 2000 to 2011 indicate that the San Jacinto River (as measured at the Ramona Expressway) experiences low average monthly discharge (between 0.04 and 0.58 cubic feet per second) throughout the year, with slightly higher discharge in late winter/early spring (USGS 2012). The 2011 water-data report states that there is no flow for many days in most years, with flow possibly decreased by sand and gravel operations upstream and natural storage in the Mystic Lake area (USGS 2011). Therefore, flow in the survey area is likely ephemeral, with water conducted only during and immediately flowing precipitation events or by releases of reclaimed water upstream.

The following indicators of wetland hydrology were observed within the San Jacinto River in the vicinity of Sampling Point 1: surface water (a primary indicator) and riverine drift deposits (a secondary indicator); the water table was present at 20 inches. Therefore, the hydrophytic vegetation criterion for wetlands was met in this area.

The unnamed blueline stream had sediment (a secondary indicator of wetland hydrology) built up in the pipe culvert. The trapezoidal channel exhibited drainage patterns (a secondary indicator) in the sediment. Surface water (a primary indicator) was present in both impoundments. The smaller impoundment to the east receives water from the adjacent agricultural operation via a pipe. Pipes are in place to pump water from the smaller impoundment into the larger impoundment to the west.

4.0 JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION

4.1 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DETERMINATION

"Waters of the U.S." (Non-Wetland) Determination. The two impoundments in the survey area are artificially created in an upland area and separated from the trapezoidal channel by a berm and dirt road; therefore, the USACE may consider these features to be isolated and non-jurisdictional.

In addition, an unnamed blueline stream as shown on the USGS quadrangle map covers this site. However, there is currently no evidence of bed, bank, OHWM, hydrophytic vegetation, or hydric soils indicators in the areas downstream of the existing pipe culvert due to manipulation of the landscape by long-term agricultural operations. The concave topography generally coincides with location of the USGS blue-line stream designation which is visible on the current color aerial imagery of the survey area. The area also contains a disturbed agricultural road that appears to be used for access for agricultural operations. Storm flows appear to sheet-flow across the agricultural field areas from the current terminus of the existing channel. In consideration of these factors, this area was determined to meet the definition of a problematic condition for wetland hydrology in accordance with the provisions of the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (1987 Manual) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Supplement (USACE 2008). This area is shown as a "problematic drainage" on Exhibits 5A–5C. The USACE may concur that this area contains problematic conditions for wetlands hydrology. However, in the absence of evidence of an OHWM, it is not possible to determine the limits of jurisdictional waters for avoidance or to calculate impacts to these resources resulting from the creation of a service road through an

area containing problematic conditions that is already being used for access to the adjacent agricultural areas. That is, this problematic area that will likely continue to be modified by existing and future agricultural activities. Therefore, the project is not expected to create any new impacts to "waters of the U.S." over this area.

Given that flows within the San Jacinto River are ephemeral, these waters would be considered non-navigable and likely not relatively permanent. The USACE would take jurisdiction over these waters if they have a significant nexus with a TNW (that is, have a chemical, physical, and biological effect on a TNW). The San Jacinto River flows into Lake Elsinore, which is used for sightseeing, fishing, and boating by the public. It would be considered a TNW because its waters contribute to interstate or foreign commerce (including sightseeing, boating, and fishing). Therefore, the San Jacinto River has met the significant nexus criteria and the definition of "Waters of the U.S.". The trapezoidal channel has a direct connection to the San Jacinto River; therefore, the USACE may also take jurisdiction over this feature.

The lateral limits of the "Waters of the U.S." were defined by the presence of the OHWM. The OHWM was indicated by evidence of bed and bank; by a change in the vegetation community within the San Jacinto River; and by water staining within the trapezoidal channel. Based on the field observations and data collected, approximately 3.58 acres of non-wetland "Waters of the U.S." occur in the survey area (Exhibit 5A–5F; Table 1).

Wetlands Determination. As previously described in Section 2.0 of this report, an area must exhibit all three wetland parameters, as described in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE 2008c) and the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) in order to be considered a jurisdictional wetland. Hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology were present in the San Jacinto River, but hydric soils were not present. Therefore, no wetland "Waters of the U.S." occur in the survey area.

TABLE 1
ISOLATED WATERS, USACE JURISDICTIONAL "WATERS OF THE U.S.", AND CDFG JURISDICTIONAL "WATERS OF THE STATE" IN THE SURVEY AREA

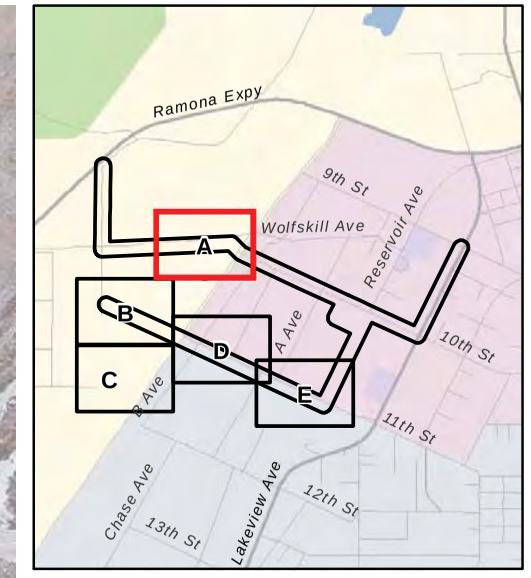
Jurisdiction	Existing (Acres)				
	San Jacinto River	Unnamed Blueline Stream	Impoundments	Trapezoidal Channel	Total
Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."	1.39	0.01	N/A	2.18	**3.58**
"Waters of the State"	2.34	0.01	1.15	3.78	**7.28**

4.2 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD DETERMINATION

The RWQCB jurisdictional boundaries are defined as those determined for the USACE under "Waters of the U.S.". However, the RWQCB takes jurisdiction over both connected and isolated waters. Therefore, the RWQCB would take jurisdiction over the San Jacinto River, the unnamed blueline stream, the two impoundments, and the trapezoidal channel. Based on the field observations and data collected, approximately 4.73 acres under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB occur in the survey area (Exhibits 5A–5F; Table 1).

4.3 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DETERMINATION

The CDFG jurisdiction extends from the top of the bank to the top of the bank, except where there is adjacent riparian vegetation. Based on field observations and data collected,



Survey Area

115 kV Subtransmission Source Line

Segment 1

Segment 2

Fiber-Optic Cable Route

Route 1 (overhead)

USACE

Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."

Problematic Drainage

CDFG

"Waters of the State"

Impoundment

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Jurisdictional Resources

Figure 5A

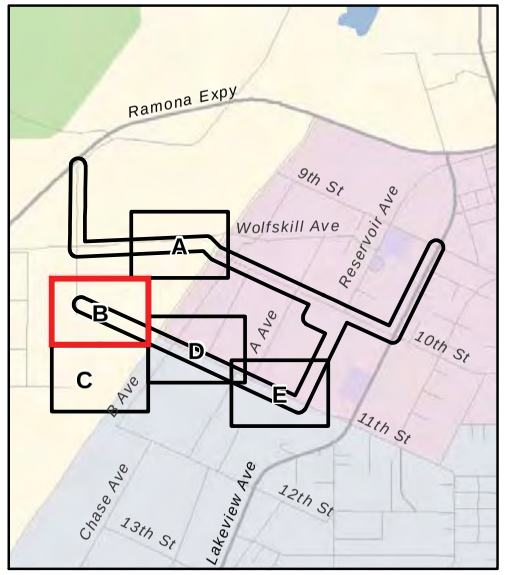
Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex5_JD.pdf



Survey Area

115 kV Subtransmission Source Line

Segment 1

Segment 2

Fiber-Optic Cable Route

Route 1 (overhead)

USACE

Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."

Problematic Drainage

CDFG

"Waters of the State"

Impoundment

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Jurisdictional Resources

Figure 5B

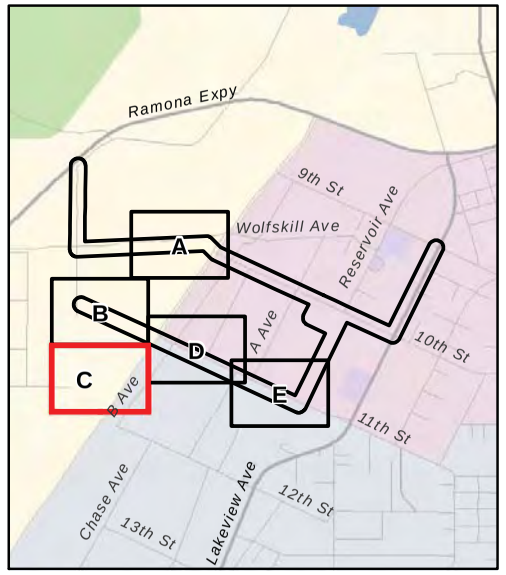
Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex5_JD.pdf



Survey Area

115 kV Subtransmission Source Line

Segment 1

Segment 2

Fiber-Optic Cable Route

Route 1 (overhead)

USACE

Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."

Problematic Drainage

CDFG

"Waters of the State"

Impoundment

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Jurisdictional Resources

Figure 5C

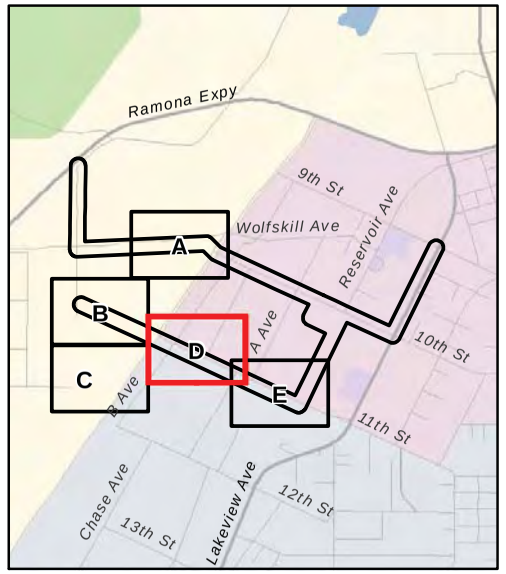
Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex5_JD.pdf



Survey Area

115 kV Subtransmission Source Line

Segment 1

Segment 2

Fiber-Optic Cable Route

Route 1 (overhead)

USACE

Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."

Problematic Drainage

CDFG

"Waters of the State"

Impoundment

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Jurisdictional Resources

Figure 5D

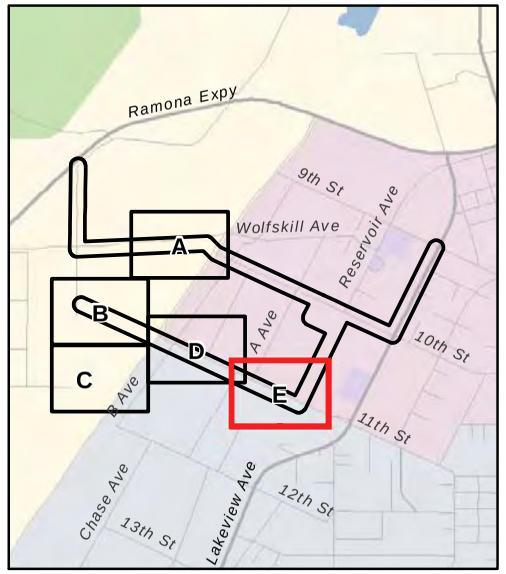
Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex5_JD.pdf



Survey Area

115 kV Subtransmission Source Line

Segment 1

Segment 2

Fiber-Optic Cable Route

Route 1 (overhead)

USACE

Non-Wetland "Waters of the U.S."

Problematic Drainage

CDFG

"Waters of the State"

Impoundment

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Jurisdictional Resources

Figure 5E

Lakeview Substation Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 5-23-2012 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\Ex5_JD.pdf

approximately 7.28 acres of "Waters of the State" under CDFG jurisdiction (pursuant to Section 1602 of the *California Fish and Game Code*) occur in the survey area (Exhibits 5A–5F; Table 1).

5.0 CONCLUSION OF REGULATORY APPROVAL PROCESS

5.1 REGULATORY PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Based on the project description, it was determined that project implementation would not impact resources under the jurisdiction of the USACE, the RWQCB, and the CDFG. Therefore, based on our best professional judgment, no regulatory permit authorizations would be required. If the agencies take jurisdiction over these features and there are project impacts to these features, then the following permits will be required:

- USACE Section 404 Permit;
- RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and
- CDFG Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement.

It should be noted that the USACE and the RWQCB applications can be processed concurrently. The USACE permit would be issued subject to the receipt of the RWQCB's Section 401 Water Quality Certification. There is no filing fee for the Section 404 Permit. The Section 401 Water Quality Certification filing fee has a $944 base fee with additional fees based on the size of the dredge or fill unless the project qualifies for a flat fee. For low impact discharges (e.g., discharge of less than 0.1 acre, 200 linear feet, and 25 cubic yards), there is no charge above the base fee. For fill and excavation discharges, there is a rate of $4,059 per acre of discharge. For dredging discharges, there is a rate of $0.15 per cubic yard of dredge volume. For discharges to isolated waters the applicable fee is doubled, except for restoration projects.

The CDFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement filing fee is based on project cost and length of permit authorization. For projects lasting five years or less, the maximum fee is $4,482.75 for projects costing $500,000 or more; the fee decreases as cost decreases. For projects lasting longer than five years, there is a base fee of $2,689.50 plus a maximum of $4,482.75. The current fee schedule can be found on the CDFG website at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html. The CDFG application submittal will not be deemed complete by the CDFG until the application fees have been paid and the agency is provided with a certified California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document and a signed copy of the receipt of County Clerk filing fees for the Notice of Determination (NOD). In addition, land use jurisdictions can no longer make "de minimis" findings if they determine that the project will not impact resources under the CDFG's jurisdiction. Therefore, the finding of "No Impact" to the CDFG jurisdictional resources must now be made by the CDFG prior to the payment of CDFG fees.

A detailed explanation of the regulatory permitting requirements for impacts to jurisdictional resources is provided in Sections 5.2 through 5.5.

5.2 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Regulatory authorization in the form of an NWP is provided for certain categories of activities (e.g., repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of a structure or fill which was previously authorized; utility line placement; bank stabilization). These permits are valid only if the conditions applicable to the permits are met; if the conditions cannot be met, an Individual Permit (IP) will be required. "Waters of the U.S." temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction are not included in the

measurement of loss of “Waters of the U.S.”. The appropriate permit authorization will be based on the amount of impacts to “Waters of the U.S.”, as determined by the USACE.

Please note that the 2007 NWP program expired on March 18, 2012. The new set of NWPs became effective on March 19, 2012. These new permits are far more restrictive with respect to maximum thresholds such as linear feet and acreage impacts to wetlands and other “Waters of the U.S.”. The new NWPs also include provisions that require that waivers to these thresholds be approved by the USACE, the USEPA, the CDFG, the USFWS, the RWQCB, and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

5.2.1 Jurisdictional Determinations

Pursuant to USACE Regulatory Guidance Letter (RGL) 08-02 (dated June 26, 2008), the USACE can issue two types of jurisdictional determinations to implement Section 404 of the CWA: Approved Jurisdictional Determinations (JDs) and Preliminary JDs (USACE 2008a). An Approved JD is an official USACE determination that jurisdictional “Waters of the U.S.”, “Navigable Waters of the U.S.”, or both are either present or absent on a site. An Approved JD also identifies the precise limits of jurisdictional waters within a project site.

The USACE will provide an Approved Jurisdictional Determination when (1) an applicant requests an official jurisdictional determination; (2) an applicant contests jurisdiction over a particular water body or wetland; or (3) when the USACE determines that jurisdiction does not exist over a particular water body or wetland. The Approved Jurisdictional Determination then becomes the USACE’s official determination that can then be relied upon over a five-year period to request regulatory authorization as part of the permit application.

In addition, an Applicant may decline to request an Approved Jurisdictional Determination and instead obtain a USACE IP or General Permit Authorization based on a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination or, in certain circumstances (e.g., authorizations by non-reporting nationwide general permits), with no Jurisdictional Determination.

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determinations are non-binding, advisory in nature, and may not be appealed. They indicate that there may be “Waters of the U.S.” on a project site. An applicant may elect to use a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination to voluntarily waive or set aside questions regarding CWA jurisdiction over a site, usually in the interest of allowing the applicant to move ahead expeditiously with the permitting process. The USACE will determine what form of Jurisdictional Determination is appropriate for a particular project site. Given the type and extent of project impacts and duration of construction, the USACE will likely approve the Jurisdictional Delineation Report through a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination.

On January 31, 2007, the USACE published a memorandum clarifying the Interim Guidance for amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) implementing regulations (USACE 2007). The Interim Guidance applies to all Department of the Army requests for authorization/verification, including Individual Permits (standard permits and letters of permission) and all Regional General Permits (RGPs) and NWPs. The State or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO) has 30 days to respond to a determination that a proposed activity, that otherwise qualifies for an NWP or RGP, has no effect or no adverse effect on a historic property. If the SHPO/THPO does not respond within 30 days of notification, the Los Angeles District may proceed with verification. If the SHPO/THPO disagrees with the District’s determination, the District may work with the SHPO/THPO to resolve the disagreement or request an opinion from the ACHP. The USACE will submit the Draft Jurisdictional Delineation Report to the SHPO/THPO for review prior to initiating the actual regulatory process.

The USACE Regulatory Branch Offices will coordinate with the USEPA Regional Office and USACE Headquarters (HQ), as outlined in its January 28, 2008, memorandum entitled the "Process for Coordinating Jurisdictional Delineations Conducted Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in Light of the *Rapanos* and *SWANCC* Supreme Court Decisions" (USACE 2008b). The guidance provided in this memorandum is quoted as follows:

1. Effective immediately, unless and until paragraph 5(b) of the June 5, 2007, Rapanos guidance coordination memorandum is modified by a joint memorandum from Army and EPA, we will follow these procedures:

    a. For jurisdictional determinations involving significant nexus determinations, USACE districts will send copies of draft jurisdictional delineations via e-mail to appropriate EPA regional offices. The EPA regional office will have 15 calendar days to decide whether to take the draft jurisdictional delineation as a special case under the January 19, 1989, "Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of the Army and the USEPA Concerning the Determination of the Section 404 Program and the Application of the Exceptions under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act." If the EPA regional office does not respond to the district within 15 days, the district will finalize the jurisdictional determination.

    b. For jurisdictional determinations involving isolated waters determinations, the agencies will continue to follow the procedure in paragraph 5(b) of June 5, 2007, coordination memorandum, until a new coordination memorandum is signed by USACE and EPA. (In accordance with paragraph 6 of the June 5, 2007, coordination memorandum, this is a 21-day timeline that can only be changed through a joint memorandum between agencies).

2. Approved JDs are not required for non-reporting NWPs, unless the project proponent specifically requests an approved JD. For proposed activities that may qualify for authorization under a State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) or RGP, an approved JD is not required unless requested by the project proponent.

3. The USACE will continue to work with EPA to resolve the JDs involving significant nexus and isolated waters determinations that are currently in the elevation process.

4. USACE districts will continue posting completed Approved JD Forms on their web pages.

Please note that if the USACE determines that the channels are jurisdictional and would be impacted by project implementation, the Applicant will be required to obtain a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB before the USACE will issue the Section 404 permit. That is, the USACE may issue a "Denial Without Prejudice" as part of the issuance of the Section 404 permit that makes the permit valid once the Section 401 Water Quality Certification is issued. If the USACE determines that the impacted drainage is not jurisdictional, the Applicant will be required to obtain RWQCB authorization under the provisions of a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD).

Please also note that the USACE has prepared Draft Guidelines on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act (Act) to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions concerning the extent of waters covered by the Act (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. USACE* [SWANCC] and *Rapanos v. United States* [Rapanos]). The review period for the draft guidelines ended in July, 2011. The Environmental Protection Agency and the USACE will now consider comments received on the draft guidelines, make revisions where appropriate, finalize and undertake rulemaking consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act. The result will be a "nonbinding guidance" for the identification of resources under the jurisdiction of the

USACE. The final guidance will not affect jurisdictional delineations that have already received approval from the USACE.

5.3 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

As noted above, issuance of the USACE Section 404 permit would be contingent upon the approval of a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Santa Ana RWQCB. Also, the RWQCB requires certification of the project's CEQA documentation before it will approve the Section 401 Water Quality Certification or ROWD. The RWQCB, as a responsible agency, will use the project's CEQA document to satisfy its own CEQA-compliance requirements.

Upon acceptance of a complete permit application, the RWQCB has between 60 days and 1 year to make a decision regarding the permit request. That is, USACE regulations indicate that the RWQCB has 60 days from the date of receipt of a completed application that requests water quality certification to make a decision (33 CFR §325.2[b][1][ii]). The USACE District Engineer may specify a longer time (up to one year) or shorter time based on his/her determination of a reasonable processing time (33 CFR §325.2[b][1][ii]). If the RWQCB determines that more than 60 days are needed to process the request, it has the option of requesting additional time from the USACE. Also, the RWQCB has the option of issuing a "Denial Without Prejudice", which does not mean that the request is denied, but that it requires more information in order to make a decision. This effectively stops the processing clock until this information is provided.

The RWQCB is required under *California Code of Regulations* (CCR) (Title 23, §3858[a]) to have a "minimum 21 day public comment period" before any action can be taken on the Section 401 application. This period closes when the RWQCB acts on the application. Since projects often change or are revised during the Section 401 permit process, the comment period can remain open. The public comment period starts as soon as an application has been received. Generally, the RWQCB Section 401, USACE Section 404, and CDFG Section 1602 permit applications are submitted at the same time. However, the RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification may take longer to process.

The RWQCB requires the Applicant to address urban storm water runoff during and after construction in the form of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs are intended to address the treatment of pollutants carried by storm water runoff and are required in all complete applications. The notification/application for a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification must also address compliance with the Basin Plan. Please note that the application would also require the payment of an application fee, which would be based on project impacts.

5.4 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The CDFG regulates all work (including initial construction and ongoing operation and maintenance) that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake through its Streambed Alteration Program. An Applicant must enter into an agreement with the CDFG to ensure no net loss of wetland values and acreages.

Impacts resulting from Project implementation will require a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. The Streambed Alteration Agreement must address the initial construction and long-term operation and maintenance of any structures within areas identified as "Waters of the State" (such as a culvert or a desilting basin) that may require periodic maintenance if these are included in the project design.

Prior to construction, a notification (Streambed Alteration Agreement application) must be submitted to the CDFG that describes any proposed streambed alteration contemplated by the proposed project. In addition to the formal application materials and the fee, a copy of the appropriate environmental document (e.g., MND) should be included in the submittal, consistent with CEQA requirements. The CDFG will prepare a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement, which will include standard measures to protect sensitive plant and wildlife resources during project construction and during ongoing operation and maintenance of any project element that occurs within a CDFG jurisdictional area.

If a Streambed Alteration Agreement is required, the CDFG may want to conduct an on-site inspection. The CDFG then prepares a draft agreement, which will include measures to protect fish and wildlife resources that will be directly or indirectly impacted by project construction. The draft agreement will be transmitted to the Applicant within 60 calendar days of the CDFG's determination that the notification is complete. It should be noted that the 60-day timeframe may not apply to long-range agreements.

The Applicant has 30 calendar days to notify the CDFG concerning the acceptability of the proposed terms, conditions, and measures. If the Applicant agrees with these terms, conditions, and measures, the agreement must be signed and returned to the CDFG. The agreement becomes final once the CDFG executes it and a Streambed Alteration Agreement is issued. Please note that all application fees must be paid and the final certified CEQA documentation must be provided prior to the CDFG's execution of the agreement.

If the CDFG does not respond in writing concerning the completeness of the Notification within 30 days of its submittal, the Notification automatically becomes complete. If the CDFG does not submit a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement to the Applicant within 60 days of the determination of a completed Notification package, the CDFG will issue a letter that either (1) identifies the final date to transmit a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement or (2) indicates that a Streambed Alteration Agreement was not required. The CDFG will also indicate that it was unable to meet this mandated compliance date and that by law the Applicant is authorized to complete the project without a Streambed Alteration Agreement as long as the applicant constructs the project as proposed and complies with all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures described in the submitted Notification package. Please note that if the project requires revisions to the design or project construction, CDFG may require submittal of a new notification/application with an additional 90-day permit process.

6.0 REFERENCES

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ATTACHMENT A

SOIL SURVEY

The Official Soil Series Descriptions identified below were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.[2]

Domino Series

The domino series is a fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, thermic Xeric Petrocalcid. It consists of moderately deep, moderately well drained soils over lime-cemented hardpans. Domino soils are in basin areas and have slopes up to two percent. The mean annual precipitation is about 12 inches and the annual air temperature is about 63 degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

Range in Characteristics:

Depth to the indurated lime hardpan ranges from 20 to 40 inches. The soils are usually dry from early May to sometime in December. They are moist in some parts of the moisture control section (4 to 12 inches depth) all the remaining time. The mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches is 59 to 71°F. The control section is dominantly heavy silt loam, light silty clay loam or heavy loam. The fine sand and coarser fraction exceeds 15 percent. The CaCO3 equivalent in the control section is 15 to 40 percent. The pH ranges from 8.0 to 8.8.

The A horizon is grayish brown, light brownish gray or pale brown in 10YR or 2.5Y. It ranges from fine sandy loam to silt loam and may be saline.

The Ccam horizon contains few to many fractures that are commonly filled with carbonates. A sequence of hard and soft horizons may be repeated. The hardest layers do no slake in water and dry soil is not penetrated by spade. Lower C horizons are saline and are strongly alkaline in some pedons.

Drainage and Permeability:

Domino soils are moderately well drained; have slow runoff; and have slow permeability.

Exeter Series

The Exeter series is a fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, thermic Typic Durixeralf. It consists of moderately deep to a duripan, moderately well drained soils that formed in alluvium mainly from granitic sources. Exeter soils are on alluvial fans and stream terraces and have slopes of 0 to 9 percent. The mean annual precipitation is about 11 inches and the mean annual air temperature is about 64 °F.

Range in Characteristics:

The mean annual soil temperature is 60 to 66°F and the soil temperature usually is not below 47°F at any time. The depth to duripan is 20 to 40 inches. Rock fragments are 0 to 10 percent throughout the solum.

The A horizon has a color of 10YR 4/4, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 5/6, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4, 6/4, or 7/4 dry (10YR 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4; 7.5YR 3/4, 4/4, 5/4 moist). The soil texture is sandy loam, very fine sandy loam, sandy clay loam, or loam. Soils are slightly acid to moderately alkaline.

[2] U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS). 2010 (September). Official Soil Series Descriptions. Fort Worth, TX: USDA, NRCS. http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/osd/index.html.

The Bt horizon has a color of 10YR 5/4, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4, 5/6, 6/6; 5YR 4/3, 4/4, 5/3, 5/4, and 5/6 dry (moist colors are generally 1 or 2 units of value less and are the same or are 1 unit of chroma less than dry colors). The soil texture is loam, sandy clay loam, or clay loam. Clay content is 18 to 35 percent clay. Soils are neutral to moderately alkaline.

The Bqm horizon has a color of 10YR 5/3, 5/4, 5/6, 6/3; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4, 5/6, 6/6; 5YR 5/3, 5/4 or 5/6 dry (moist colors are generally 1 or 2 units of value less and are the same or are 1 unit of chroma less than dry colors). In some pedons, the duripan is capped with a thin layer of carbonates or the carbonates may be segregated as few, fine seams or filaments in fine fractures, but the duripan matrix is always noncalcareous.

The 2C1 and 2C2 horizons are variable. They usually consist of sand or gravelly sand underlain by stratified layers of sandy loam to silt loam. Some pedons have buried 2Bt and 2Btk horizons underlying the duripan that are stratified very gravelly loamy coarse sand to loam with 15 to 50 percent pebbles and 2 to 15 percent clay. Carbonates may be present in these horizons as few soft masses or disseminated.

Drainage and Permeability:

Exeter soils are moderately well drained; have very slow to medium runoff; and have moderately slow permeability above the duripan. Permeability of the duripan is very slow.

Greenfield Series

The Greenfield series is a coarse-loamy, mixed, active, thermic Typic Haploxeralf. It consists of deep, well drained soils that formed in moderately coarse and coarse textured alluvium derived from granitic and mixed rock sources. Greenfield soils are on alluvial fans and terraces and have slopes of 0 to 30 percent. The mean annual precipitation is about 15 inches and the mean annual air temperature is about 62°F.

Range in Characteristics:

The mean annual soil temperature is 59 to 65°F and the soil temperature is not below 47°F at any time for more than a few days all of the time from late April or May until November or early December and usually is moist in some or all parts of the moisture control section all the rest of the year. Rock fragments range from less than 1 to 25 percent in the A and B horizons. Coarse and very coarse sand average more than 20 percent.

The A horizon is pale brown, light brownish gray, grayish brown, brown, light yellowish brown, dark yellowish brown, yellowish brown, pinkish gray or light brown (10YR 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 4/3, 4/4; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4, 6/2, 6/4). It is loamy sand, sandy loam, fine sandy loam or gravelly equivalents of each. This horizon contains less than 1 percent organic matter in all parts. It is slightly acid to mildly alkaline. The lower boundary is gradual or clear.

The B2t horizon is pale brown , brown, light brown, light gray, light yellowish brown, yellowish brown, dark yellowish brown, grayish brown, reddish yellow, pink or brownish yellow (10YR 6/1, 6/3, 5/3, 6/4, 6/6, 5/4, 5/6, 5/8, 4/4, 4/6, 7/4, 7/6, 5/2; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4, 4/2, 4/4, 6/4, 6/6, or 7/4). It is heavy sandy loam, heavy fine sandy loam, or gravelly equivalents of each and has 3 to 6 percent more clay than the A horizon. This horizon is slightly acid to mildly alkaline.

The C horizon is light yellowish brown, very pale brown, yellowish brown, pale brown, light brownish yellow (10YR 6/4, 5/4, 5/6, 5/8, 6/3, 6/2, 6/6, 6/8, 7/3, 7/4, 4/2, 4/4) or brown (7.5YR 4/4, 4/2). It is loamy sand, coarse sandy loam, sandy loam, fine sandy loam or gravelly equivalents of each. This horizon is neutral to moderately alkaline. Some pedons have silica cementation or contrasting soil material or more than 35 percent gravel, all below 40 inches.

Drainage and Permeability:

Greenfield soils are well drained; have slow to medium runoff; and have moderately rapid permeability.

Hanford Series

The Hanford series is a coarse-loamy, mixed, superactive, nonacid, thermic Typic Xerorthent. It consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in moderately coarse textured alluvium dominantly from granite. Hanford soils are on stream bottoms, floodplains, and alluvial fans and have slopes of 0 to 15 percent. The mean annual precipitation is about 12 inches and the mean annual air temperature is about 63°F.

Range in Characteristics:

The mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches is about 59 to 68°F, and the soil temperature is not below 47°F for any significant period. Soil between the depths of about 8 to 24 inches usually is dry all of the time from late April or May until November or early December and usually is moist in some or all parts of this section all the rest of the year. The 10 to 40 inch control section averages sandy loam, coarse sandy loam, fine sandy loam or gravelly equivalents of each. The coarse fragments range from 0 to 35 percent. The particle size control section has little or no stratification. Clay content usually averages 6 to 18 percent. Organic matter is less than 1 percent and decreases regularly with increasing depth. Below a depth of 40 inches some pedons have marked stratification. The soils are medium acid to slightly alkaline and usually become more alkaline with depth. Secondary free carbonates do not occur above a depth of 40 inches. In some cases carbonates have been added to the soil by farmers which results in slight effervescence in the surface layers.

The A horizon is pale brown or light brownish gray (10YR 5/2, 5/3, 6/3, 6/2).

The C horizon is very pale brown, pale brown or light yellowish brown (10YR 5/3, 6/3, 6/4, 7/3, 7/4).

Drainage and Permeability:

Hanford soils are well drained; have negligible to low runoff; and have moderately rapid permeability.

Pachappa Series

The Pachappa series is a coarse-loamy, mixed, active, thermic Mollic Haploxeralf. It consists of well drained (minimal) noncalcic brown soils developed from moderately coarse textured alluvium. They occur on gently sloping alluvial fans and flood plains under annual grass-herb vegetation. Characteristically the Pachappa soils have grayish brown, slightly acid A1 horizons and brown, slightly finer textured, neutral B2 horizons that overlie moderately alkaline, slightly calcareous B3ca horizons and very slightly calcareous, stratified C horizons.

Range in Characteristics:

The A1 horizons range in color from brown (10YR 5/3) to pale brown (10YR 6/3) or grayish brown (10YR 5/2), in texture from fine sand to loam, and in reaction from slightly acid to mildly alkaline. The lighter or paler colors are generally associated with coarser texture. The B2 horizons are characteristically noncalcareous and weakly developed. Lime occurs in the B3ca horizon but is not always distinctly segregated. The C horizon is variable in color and texture, being pale brown (10YR 6/3), brown (10YR 5/3), light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) or light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) fine sandy loam, sandy loams, loamy sands, or sands. In places the soils rest on older finer textured marly deposits within a depth of 5 feet. Variable amounts of excess soluble salts and exchangeable sodium also occur, principally below the A1 horizon but may be present in the surface layer as well. In a few areas an unconforming lime-silica hardpan occurs at depths of 2 1/2 feet or more.

Drainage and Permeability:

General drainage in good. Surface runoff is very slow, and permeability is moderate. In places the soil is subject to occasional overflow and high water table. The soils appear to have developed under conditions of occasional high water table. Most areas are no longer so affected, but excess salts and exchangeable sodium are still present in places.

Ramona Series

The Ramona series is a fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, thermic Typic Haploxeralf. It is a member of the fine-loamy, mixed, thermic family of Typic Haploxeralfs. Typically, Ramona soils have brown, slightly and medium acid, sandy loam and fine sandy loam A horizons, reddish brown and yellowish red, slightly acid, sandy clay loam B2t horizons, and strong brown, neutral, fine sandy loam C horizons.

Range in Characteristics:

The mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches is 59 degrees to 65°F and the soil temperature usually is not below 47°F or is below 47 °F for only a few days in January. Soil between the depth of about 5 and 15 inches usually is moist in some or all parts from November or early December until late April or May and is dry all the rest of the year. The A and B horizons have more than 15 percent combined coarse and very coarse sand and 5 to 35 percent fine rock fragments of 2 to 5mm size. Rock fragments larger than 5mm are less than 5 percent. The C horizons are variable as to coarse sand, fine gravel, and rock fragments larger than 5mm but in general are more coarse than the A and B horizons.

The A horizon is light brownish gray to dark grayish brown or yellowish brown (10YR 6/2, 5/2, 4/2, 6/3, 5/3, 4/3, 5/4; 7.5YR 5/2, 5/4) when dry. It is course sandy loam, sandy loam, fine sandy loam or light loam and has less than 1 percent organic matter. After considerable cultivation or cattle trampling some or all of the A horizon is hard or very hard and massive when dry. It is neutral to moderately acid. The lower boundary is gradual or there is an A3 horizon or a B1 horizon or both horizons are present.

The B2t horizon is dark brown, strong brown, brown or light brown in 7.5YR hue or reddish brown or yellowish red in 5YR hue in yellowish in 10YR hue in the lower part. It is heavy sandy loam, sandy clay loam or loam with 18 to 27 percent clay. Total clay content is 3 to 12 percent more in the B2t horizon than in the A horizon. The B2t horizon is slightly acid or neutral in all parts or in some pedons it is slightly alkaline in the lower part. It has weak or moderate angular blocky or prismatic structure. In pedons having a B3 or B3t horizon, color of the transitional

horizon is similar to the B2t horizon or it has a hue 1/4 letter interval less red. It is slightly acid to moderately alkaline.

The C horizon is coarse sandy loam, fine sandy loam or loam and is neutral to moderately alkaline. In some pedons it is calcareous in some part with a small amount of segregated or disseminated lime.

Drainage and Permeability:

Ramona soils are well-drained; have slow to rapid runoff; and have moderately slow permeability.

Riverwash

Riverwash consists of areas of unconsolidated alluvium, generally stratified and varying widely in texture, recently deposited by intermittent streams, and subject to frequent changes through stream overflow. These are sandy, gravelly, cobbly, and bouldery deposits that support little or no vegetation. Runoff is generally rapid, and the erosion hazard is high. Deposition and removal of fresh alluvium are common. Riverwash has little or no agricultural value. Present use is watercourses, ground water recharge, sand and gravel pits, and wildlife habitat.

Rockland

Rockland consists of residuum derived from mixed sources. The typical profile is unweathered bedrock from 0 to 60 inches in depth.

Willows Series

The Willow series is a fine, smectitic, thermic Sodic Endoaquert. It consists of very deep, poorly to very poorly drained sodic soils formed in alluvium from mixed rock sources. Willows soils are in basins. Slope ranges from 0 to 2 percent. The mean annual precipitation is about 16 inches and the mean annual temperature is about 60°F.

Range in Characteristics:

The mean annual soil temperature is about 60 degrees to 62 °F. The soils have cracks more than 1mm wide to a depth of 20 inches or more and the cracks remain open through summer and autumn (unless irrigated) and are closed during winter and spring. Some or all of the lower part of the A horizon has slickensides that intersect and the upper part of some Bk horizons have slickensides. Exchangeable sodium content is greater than 15 percent within 40 inches of the surface.

The A horizon has dry color of 10YR 6/2, 6/1, 5/2 5/1, 4/1; N5/0, N4/0; 5Y 5/1, 4/1 or 4/2; 2.5Y 5/2, 4/2. Moist colors are 10YR 3/2, 3/1; N3/0; 5Y 3/1; 2.5Y 3/2, 3/1. Some part of or all of the A horizon has distinct or prominent mottles. The A horizon ranges from clay to silty clay. The uppermost part of the A horizon usually has granular or fine blocky structure; the remainder of the A horizon usually has weak to strong coarse prismatic structure or weak to moderate coarse blocky structure. The A horizon is slightly acid to very strongly alkaline and except where the soil has been plowed and mixed is least acid at the surface and increases sharply as depth increases. The lower part has exchangeable sodium of more than 15 percent.

The Bssk horizons have dry color of 10YR 6/4, 6/3, 5/4, 5/3; 2.5Y 6/2, 5/2; N6/0, N5/0; 5Y 6/4, 6/3, 6/2, 6/1, 5/2, 5/1 or 4/2; 2.5Y 6/4. Moist colors are 10YR 4/4, 4/3, 3/4, 3/3; 2.5Y 4/4, 4/2, 3/2; N4/0, N3/0; 5Y 4/2, 4/1, 3/2 or 3/1. Some part of the Bssk horizons usually contains distinct or prominent mottles but they may be lacking where the soil has olive colors. The Bssk horizons are clay or silty clay to a depth of 40 inches or more. Reaction is usually strongly alkaline and the pH ranges from a little less than 8.5 to a little more than 9.0. Exchangeable sodium is more than 15 percent. All parts are weakly to strongly calcareous and usually calcium carbonate concretions are in the upper part. Gypsum or salt crystals or both are common.

The Bss horizons have similar colors and textures as the Bssk horizons and may be lacking in some pedons.

Drainage and Permeability:

Willows soils are poorly drained; runoff is slow; and permeability is very slow. Intermittent water tables are at depths of 24 to 60 inches. In some areas the water tables have been lowered by drainage and water control structures. Unless protected this soil receives runoff from other areas.

ATTACHMENT B

WETLAND DATA FORMS

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: Edison J045 - Lakeview Substation City/County: Riverside County Sampling Date: 3/20/2012

Applicant/Owner: Southern California Edison State: CA Sampling Point: 1

Investigator(s): Allison Rudalevige, Jason Mintzer Section, Township, Range: 13, T4S, R3W

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): riverine Local relief (concave, convex, none): none Slope (%): 0-1

Subregion (LRR): CA Lat: 33.82411212 Long: -117.14903181 Datum: NAD 83

Soil Map Unit Name: Riverwash NWI classification: PSSY

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✓ No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ✓ No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ✓	No _____	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** _____ **No** ✓
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes _____	No ✓	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ✓	No _____	

Remarks:

Sampling point in the bed of the San Jacinto River.

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30')	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. Baccharis salicifolia (viminea)	50	yes	FACW
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	50 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. non-native grass	1	no	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	1 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1.			
2.			
	0 = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 99 % Cover of Biotic Crust 0

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	50	x 2 =	100
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	0	x 4 =	0
UPL species	1	x 5 =	5
Column Totals:	51 (A)		105 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 2.06

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

✓ Dominance Test is >50%

✓ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ✓ **No** _____

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: 1

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-24	10YR 3/2	100					sandy clay	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** ✓

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- ✓ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ✓ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ✓ No ___ Depth (inches): 0

Water Table Present? Yes ✓ No ___ Depth (inches): 20

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No ✓ Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ✓ **No** ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

ATTACHMENT C

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Facing southwest. San Jacinto River near 11th Street.

Facing northeast. Sampling Point 1 in the San Jacinto River.

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Site Photographs

Attachment C-1

Lakeview Substation Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

(04/06/12 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\exAttC-1_SP.pdf

Facing southwest. San Jacinto River near 10th Street.

Facing southeast. Trapezoidal channel parallel to 11th Street.

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Site Photographs

Attachment C-2

Lakeview Substation Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

(04/06/12 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\exAttC-2_SP.pdf

Facing north. Unnamed blueline stream near eastern end of Segment 1 of the Subtransmission Source Line.

Facing north. Partially blocked pipe culvert at the terminus of the unnamed blueline stream; there is no evidence of bed or bank downstream of the pipe culvert.

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Site Photographs

Attachment C-3

Lakeview Substation Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

(04/06/12 JCD) Projects\Edison\J025\Graphics\JD\exAttC-3_SP.pdf

Facing northwest. Southeast Impoundment adjacent to 11th Street.

Facing northwest. Northwest Impoundment adjacent to 11th Street.

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Site Photographs

Attachment C-4

Lakeview Substation Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

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CHAPTER H

Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance Program

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING, AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S
LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT
(APPLICATION NO. A.10-09-016)

INTRODUCTION

This document describes the mitigation monitoring, reporting, and compliance program (MMRCP) for ensuring the effective implementation of the mitigation measures required for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC, or Commission) approval of the Southern California Edison's (SCE) application to construct, operate and maintain the Project. All mitigation measures are presented in Table 9-1 provided at the end of this MMRCP. If the Project is approved, this MMRCP would serve as a self-contained general reference for the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program adopted by the Commission for the Project. If and when the Project is approved by the Commission, the CPUC will compile the Final MMRCP based on this Appendix H to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and any revisions to it that the CPUC may make during its EIR certification and permit approval processes.

California Public Utilities Commission – MMRCP Authority

The California Public Utilities Code in numerous places confers authority upon the CPUC to regulate the terms of service and the safety, practices and equipment of utilities subject to its jurisdiction. It is the standard practice of the CPUC, pursuant to its statutory responsibility to protect the environment, to require that mitigation measures stipulated as conditions of approval be implemented properly, monitored, and reported on. In 1989, this requirement was codified statewide as section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code. Section 21081.6 requires a public agency to adopt a MMRCP when it approves a project that is subject to preparation of an EIR and where the EIR for the project identifies potentially significant environmental effects. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15097 was added in 1999 to further clarify agency requirements for mitigation monitoring and reporting.

The purpose of a MMRCP is to ensure that measures adopted to mitigate or avoid significant impacts of a project are implemented. The CPUC views the MMRCP as a working guide to facilitate not only the implementation of mitigation measures by the project proponent, but also the monitoring, compliance, and reporting activities of the CPUC and any monitors it may designate.

The Commission will address its responsibility under Public Resources Code section 21081.6 when it takes action on SCE's applications. If the Commission approves the applications, it will also adopt a MMRCP that includes the mitigation measures ultimately made a condition of approval by the Commission.

Because the CPUC must decide whether or not to approve the SCE application and because the application may cause either direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect effects on the environment, CEQA requires the CPUC to consider the potential environmental impacts that could occur as the result of its decisions and to consider mitigation for any identified significant environmental impacts.

If the CPUC approves SCE's application for authority to construct and operate the substation, subtransmission source lines, distribution getaways, and telecommunications facilities and to decommission the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations, SCE would be responsible for implementation of any mitigation measures governing both construction and future operation of the Project. Though other state and local agencies would have permit and approval authority over construction of the subtransmission line, the CPUC would continue to act as the lead agency for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures required by this EIR. All approvals and permits obtained by SCE would be submitted to the CPUC for mitigation compliance prior to commencing the activity for which the permits and approvals were obtained.

In accordance with CEQA, the CPUC reviewed the impacts that would result from approval of the application. The activities considered include the construction and operation of the new Lakeview Substation, subtransmission source line segments, distribution getaways, and telecommunications facilities, and the decommissioning of the existing Nuevo and temporary Model Pole Top Substations. The CPUC review concluded that Project implementation could result in significant unmitigable impacts on Air Quality. All other potential impacts could be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. SCE has agreed to incorporate all the proposed mitigation measures into the Project. The CPUC has included the stipulated mitigation measures as conditions of approval of the applications and has circulated a Draft EIR.

The attached EIR presents and analyzes potential environmental impacts that would result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project, and proposes mitigation measures as appropriate. Based on the EIR, approval of the application would have no impact or less-than-significant impacts in the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Energy Conservation
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR indicates that approval of the application would result in potentially significant impacts in the areas of:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic

The EIR indicates that approval of the application would result in significant unmitigable impacts in the in the area of:

- Air Quality

Roles and Responsibilities

As the lead agency under CEQA, the CPUC is required to monitor this project to ensure that the required mitigation measures and any Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) are implemented. The CPUC will be responsible for ensuring full compliance with the provisions of this MMRCP and has primary responsibility for implementation of the monitoring program. The purpose of the monitoring program is to document that the mitigation measures required by the CPUC are implemented and that mitigated environmental impacts are reduced to the level identified in the Program. The CPUC has the authority to halt any activity associated with the Project if the activity is determined to be a deviation from the approved project or the adopted mitigation measures.

The CPUC may delegate duties and responsibilities for monitoring to other mitigation monitors or consultants as deemed necessary. The CPUC will ensure that the person(s) delegated any duties or responsibilities are qualified to monitor compliance.

The CPUC, along with its mitigation monitor, will ensure that any variance process, which will be designed specifically for the Project, or deviation from the procedures identified under the monitoring program is consistent with CEQA requirements; no Project variance will be approved by the CPUC if it creates new significant environmental impacts. As defined in this MMRCP, a variance should be strictly limited to minor Project changes that will not trigger other permit requirements, that does not increase the severity of an impact or create a new impact, and that clearly and strictly complies with the intent of the mitigation measure. A proposed Project change that has the potential for creating significant environmental effects will be evaluated to determine whether supplemental CEQA review is required. Any proposed deviation from the approved Project and adopted mitigation measures, including correction of such deviation, shall be reported immediately to the CPUC and the mitigation monitor assigned to the construction for their review and approval. In some cases, a variance may also require approval by a CEQA responsible agency.

Enforcement and Responsibility

The CPUC is responsible for enforcing the procedures for monitoring through the environmental monitor. The environmental monitor shall note problems with monitoring, notify appropriate agencies or individuals about any problems, and report the problems to the CPUC. The CPUC has the authority to halt any construction, operation, or maintenance activity associated with the

Project if the activity is determined to be a deviation from the approved Project or adopted mitigation measures. The CPUC may assign its authority to its environmental monitor.

Mitigation Compliance Responsibility

SCE is responsible for successfully implementing all the adopted mitigation measures in this MMRCP. The MMRCP contains criteria that define whether mitigation is successful. Standards for successful mitigation also are implicit in many mitigation measures that include such requirements as obtaining permits or avoiding a specific impact entirely. Additional mitigation success thresholds will be established by applicable agencies with jurisdiction through the permit process and through the review and approval of specific plans for the implementation of mitigation measures.

SCE shall inform the CPUC and its mitigation monitor in writing of any mitigation measures that are not or cannot be successfully implemented. The CPUC in coordination with its mitigation monitor will assess whether alternative mitigation is appropriate and specify to SCE the subsequent actions required.

Dispute Resolution Process

This MMRCP is expected to reduce or eliminate many of the potential disputes concerning the implementation of the adopted measures. However, in the event that a dispute occurs, the following procedure will be observed:

- **Step 1.** Disputes and complaints (including those of the public) should be directed first to the CPUC's designated Project Manager for resolution. The Project Manager will attempt to resolve the dispute.

- **Step 2.** Should this informal process fail, the CPUC Project Manager may initiate enforcement or compliance action to address deviations from the proposed Project or adopted MMRCP.

- **Step 3**. If a dispute or complaint regarding the implementation or evaluation of the MMRCP or the mitigation measures cannot be resolved informally or through enforcement or compliance action by the CPUC, any affected participant in the dispute or complaint may file a written "notice of dispute" with the CPUC's Executive Director. This notice should be filed in order to resolve the dispute in a timely manner, with copies concurrently served on other affected participants. Within 10 days of receipt, the Executive Director or designee(s) shall meet or confer with the filer and other affected participants for purposes of resolving the dispute. The Executive Director shall issue an Executive Resolution describing his/her decision, and serve it on the filer and other affected participants.

- **Step 4.** If one or more of the affected parties is not satisfied with the decision as described in the Resolution, such party(ies) may appeal it to the Commission via a procedure to be specified by the Commission.

Parties may also seek review by the Commission through existing procedures specified in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure for formal and expedited relief.

General Monitoring Procedures

Mitigation Monitor

Many of the monitoring procedures will be conducted during the construction phase of the Project. The CPUC and the mitigation monitor are responsible for integrating the mitigation monitoring procedures into the construction process in coordination with SCE. To oversee the monitoring procedures and to ensure success, the mitigation monitor assigned to the construction must be on site during that portion of construction that has the potential to create a significant environmental impact or other impact for which mitigation is required. The mitigation monitor is responsible for ensuring that all procedures specified in the monitoring program are followed.

Construction Personnel

A key feature contributing to the success of mitigation monitoring will be obtaining the full cooperation of construction personnel and supervisors. Many of the mitigation measures require action on the part of the construction supervisors or crews for successful implementation. To ensure success, the following actions, detailed in specific mitigation measures included in the MMRCP, will be taken:

- Procedures to be followed by construction companies hired to do the work will be written into contracts between SCE and any construction contractors. Procedures to be followed by construction crews will be written into a separate agreement that all construction personnel will be asked to sign, denoting agreement.

- One or more pre-construction meetings will be held to inform all and train construction personnel about the requirements of the MMRCP.

- A written summary of mitigation monitoring procedures will be provided to construction supervisors for all mitigation measures requiring their attention.

General Reporting Procedures

Site visits and specified monitoring procedures performed by other individuals will be reported to the mitigation monitor assigned to the construction. A monitoring record form will be submitted to the mitigation monitor by the individual conducting the visit or procedure so that details of the visit can be recorded and progress tracked by the mitigation monitor. A checklist will be developed and maintained by the mitigation monitor to track all procedures required for each mitigation measure and to ensure that the timing specified for the procedures is adhered to. The mitigation monitor will note any problems that may occur and take appropriate action to rectify the problems. SCE shall provide the CPUC with written quarterly reports of the Project, which shall include progress of construction, resulting impacts, mitigation implemented, and all other

noteworthy elements of the Project. Quarterly reports shall be required as long as mitigation measures are applicable.

Public Access to Records

The public is allowed access to records and reports used to track the monitoring program. Monitoring records and reports will be made available for public inspection by the CPUC on request. The CPUC and SCE will develop a filing and tracking system.

Condition Effectiveness Review

In order to fulfill its statutory mandates to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment and to design a MMRCP to ensure compliance during Project implementation (CEQA Guidelines §21081.6):

- The CPUC may conduct a comprehensive review of conditions which are not effectively mitigating impacts at any time it deems appropriate, including as a result of the Dispute Resolution procedure outlined above; and

- If in either review, the CPUC determines that any conditions are not adequately mitigating significant environmental impacts caused by the project, or that recent proven technological advances could provide more effective mitigation, then the CPUC may impose additional reasonable conditions to effectively mitigate these impacts.

These reviews will be conducted in a manner consistent with the CPUC's rules and practices.

Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program

The table attached to this program presents a compilation of APMs and the mitigation measures in the EIR. The purpose of the table is to provide a single comprehensive list of impacts, mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting requirements, and timing.

SCE proposed the following APMs to minimize impacts on aesthetic resources, biological resources, and paleontological resources from Project implementation. The impact analysis in this EIR assumed that these APMs would be implemented as part of the Project.

> **APM-Aesthetics-1:** Prepare a Landscaping Plan. SCE will prepare a landscaping plan consistent with Riverside County standards, as well as SCE standards to filter views of the substation for the surrounding community and other potential sensitive receptors.
>
> **APM-Bio-1:** Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds/Raptors. To minimize potential impacts to selected nesting special-status birds, raptors, or other MBTA bird species, planned vegetation clearing will take place during the non-breeding season (between September 1 and January 31) to the extent feasible. This will discourage the species from nesting within the work area. Existing trees, shrubs, or other vegetation that would provide suitable structure for nesting would be removed. If vegetation clearing must take place during nesting season (February 1–August 31), a biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys prior to clearing for the sites that have potential to support nesting

birds/raptors. If the biologist finds an active nest within or adjacent to the construction area and determines that there may be impacts to the nest, s/he will delineate an appropriate buffer zone around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the type of construction activity. Only construction activities (if any) approved by the biologist will take place within the buffer zone until the nest is vacated. If nests are found and cannot be avoided by the project activities, or if work is scheduled to take place near an active nest, SCE shall coordinate with the CDFG and USFWS and obtain written concurrence prior to moving the nest.

APM-Bio-2: Preconstruction Surveys and Construction Monitoring. Pre-construction biological clearance surveys shall be performed at the Project Site to minimize impacts on special-status wildlife. If special-status species are present, biological monitors would be on site, as needed during project implementation in suitable habitat areas and shall aid crews in implementing avoidance measures during project construction. If adequate avoidance cannot be established, SCE shall consider enrollment in the MSHCP as a Participating Special Entity or shall coordinate with the USFWS and the CDFG for further guidance as appropriate. Any significant findings during pre-construction surveys would be added to the WEAP training described in Section 3.9 of Chapter 3 of the PEA.

APM-Bio-3: Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. A habitat assessment for Stephens' kangaroo rat was conducted for the entire Proposed Project. Protocol level trapping was conducted along Subtransmission Segments One and Two. Stephens' kangaroo rat was detected along Segment One. The proposed project is in a Stephens' kangaroo rat fee area; therefore, to mitigate for potential impacts to this species, SCE will pay a fee in coordination with the Regional Habitat Conservation Authority.

APM-Bio-4: Riverside Fairy Shrimp. If Riverside fairy shrimp are found, SCE shall consider (1) avoidance measures, (2) enrollment in the MSHCP as a Participating Special Entity, or (3) approvals through the USFWS. Appropriate avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures may be required. Impacts to Riverside fairy shrimp habitat will be avoided to the extent feasible in the final Project Design. Habitat areas will be marked as "off limits" in construction plans and specifications. If significant impacts to habitat are unavoidable, focused surveys will need to be conducted prior to construction activities. Riverside fairy shrimp surveys require either a wet season survey, followed by a consecutive dry season survey, or two wet season surveys done within a five-year period (USFWS, 1996). If no Riverside fairy shrimp are found in this area during the focused surveys, no additional action is warranted.

APM-Bio-5: Burrowing Owl. Any active burrow found during survey efforts shall be mapped. If no active burrows are found, no further mitigation would be required. If nesting activity is present at an active burrow, the burrow shall be protected until nesting activity has ended. Nesting activity for burrowing owl in the region normally occurs between March and August. To protect the active burrow, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until the burrow is no longer active as determined by a biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a biologist and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the active burrow shall only be allowed if the biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction can proceed when the biologist has determined that fledglings have left the

nest. If an active burrow is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site will be monitored by a biologist and, when the owl is away from the nest, the biologist will either actively or passively relocate the burrowing owl. The biologist will then remove the burrow so the burrowing owl cannot return to the burrow.

APM-Bio-6: Native or Special Status Vegetation and Special Status Plant Populations Avoidance. Potential impacts to native vegetation types, vegetation that may support special-status species, and known populations of Special Status Plants will be avoided to the extent feasible in the final project design. Native vegetation and Special Status Plant populations will be marked as "off limits" in construction plans and specifications. If significant impacts to native vegetation and/or Special Status Plants are unavoidable, a biologist will be selected to prepare and implement a mitigation plan, which will include detailed descriptions of maintenance appropriate for the mitigation site, monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements, and will have the full authority to suspend any operation which is, in the biologist's opinion, not consistent with the mitigation plan. This plan will be submitted for review to the appropriate agencies. In lieu of preparing the abovementioned plan, SCE may participate in the MSHCP.

APM-Bio-7: Avoidance of San Jacinto Valley Crownscale Populations. In order to avoid potential impacts to known populations of San Jacinto Valley crownscale populations, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be developed prior to construction to the extent feasible in the final Project Design (Figure 4.4-5). If impacts to San Jacinto Valley crownscale are unavoidable, SCE would seek inclusion in the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to this species.

APM PA-1: Paleontological Monitoring Plan. SCE would monitor excavation of rock units having high potential to contain significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. SCE would develop a paleontological monitoring plan describing paleontological monitoring activities.

TABLE 9-1
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING, AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Aesthetics				
Less than Significant	None Required	--	--	--
Agriculture and Forestry Resources				
Impact 4.2-1: Construction activities would result in temporary impacts to designated Farmland.	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a:** SCE and/or its contractors shall ensure that the following measures are taken, during construction of the Project: • Replace soils in a manner that shall minimize any negative impacts on crop productivity. The surface and subsurface layers shall be stockpiled separately and returned to their appropriate locations in the soil profile; alternately, SCE may work with individual property owners to develop a different method for the disposition of any soils that are impacted on private property, assuming a mutual agreement may be reached. • To avoid over-compaction of the top layers of soil, monitor pre-construction soil densities and return the surface soil (approximately the top 3 feet) to within 5 percent of original density, except where higher soil density is necessary to meet engineering requirements. • Where necessary, the top soil layers shall be ripped to achieve the appropriate soil density. Ripping may also be used in areas where vehicle and equipment traffic have compacted the top soil layers. • Avoid working or traveling unnecessarily on wet soil to minimize compaction and loss of soil structure. • Remove all construction-related debris from the soil surface. This shall prevent rock, gravel, and construction debris from interfering with agricultural activities. • Remove topsoil before excavating in fields. Return it to top of fields to avoid detrimental inversion of soil profiles.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement of and during construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Agriculture and Forestry Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.2-1 (cont.)	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-1b:** SCE and/or its contractors shall incorporate the following measures into the Project construction plans and specifications specific to lands designated as Farmland: Coordinate construction scheduling as practicable so as to minimize disruption of agricultural operations by scheduling excavation to occur before or after the growing season. • Either supply replacement crops and trees, or financial compensation for the value of replacement crops and trees, to the landowner at a mitigation ratio of one to one (1:1), upon completion of construction.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement and upon completion of construction.
Impact 4.2-2: The Project would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural use.	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-2:** SCE shall obtain permanent agricultural conservation easements at a one to one (1:1) ratio for each acre of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance that is permanently converted by the Project. Conservation easements shall be on land of at least equal quality and size as land disturbed by the Project. Preference shall be given to easements within Riverside County, though comparable or better arrangements may be made if Riverside County easements are unavailable. Mitigation via agricultural conservation easement shall be satisfied under the following conditions: 1. SCE shall acquire farmland and shall establish an easement for the portion of the land that will no longer be used for agricultural land equal to the acreage converted (i.e., 7.9 acres). This land shall be in an area designated for long-term future agricultural use; or 2. SCE shall pay a fee equal to or greater than the value of a previous farmland conversion transaction in the planning area plus the estimated cost of legal appraisal and other costs, including staff time, to acquire property for agricultural mitigation. The fee shall be used for farmland mitigation purposes, with priority given to lands with prime agricultural soils and habitat value.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to provide evidence of easement and fee payment to CPUC.	Prior to commencement of construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Agriculture and Forestry Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.2-3: The Project could involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural land.	**Mitigation Measure 4.2-3:** SCE and/or its contractors shall incorporate the following measures into the project construction plans and specifications specific to lands designated as Farmland: • Ensure that existing drainage systems at Project sites that are needed for farming activities function as necessary per coordination with the landowner, so that agricultural uses are not disrupted. • Coordinate with landowners to ensure that construction does not impact irrigation and/or other ancillary farming systems to a degree that farming practices cannot be maintained. • Maintain existing levels of water available to farmers via the current irrigation system including, but not be limited to, implementing re-routing and/or temporary irrigation systems. In lieu of implementing the above requirements, SCE shall have the option of negotiating agreements with any affected landowner(s) that shall enable the landowner(s), to the extent practicable, to effect their own irrigation and/or drainage system changes in a manner consistent with the landowner's farming practices and plans.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to provide construction plans to CPUC.	Prior to commencement of construction activities.
Air Quality				
Impact 4.3-1: Project construction activities would generate NO_x and PM10 emissions that could contribute substantially to violations of ozone and PM air quality standards.	**Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a:** For diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment of more than 50 horsepower, SCE shall make a good faith effort to use available construction equipment that meets the highest USEPA-certified tiered emission standards. SCE shall also make a good faith effort to use 2010 and newer diesel haul trucks. An Exhaust Emissions Control Plan that identifies each off-road unit's certified tier specification, Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and the CARB or SCAQMD operating permit number (if applicable), as well as the model year of all haul trucks to be used on the Project that are under direct control of SCE or its construction contractor shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit Exhaust Emissions Control Plan to CPUC for review and approval. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC and obtain CPUC approval prior to commencement of construction activities. Implement plan during construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Air Quality (cont.)				
Impact 4.3-1 (cont.)	commencement of construction activities. Construction activities cannot commence until the plan has been approved. For all pieces of equipment that would not meet Tier 3 emission standards, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation from two local heavy construction equipment rental companies that indicates that the companies do not have access to higher-tiered equipment for the given class of equipment. In the event that 2010 or newer diesel haul trucks are not available for the Project, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall document that a good faith effort to obtain such haul trucks has been made. During construction of the Lakeview Substation, SCE and/or its construction contractor(s) shall use electricity from the regional power grid where feasible rather than diesel or gasoline power generators. In the event that SCE determines that this would not be feasible, the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan shall include documentation to support the determination.			
	Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b: SCE shall develop a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that specifically describes how compliance with each of SCAQMD Rule 403 Best Available Control Measures (BACMs) shall be achieved. If it is determined that any of the BACMs are not applicable to construction of the Project, the plan shall present rational as to why the BACMs are not applicable and would not be implemented. This plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval and the approved plan shall be distributed to all employees and construction contractors prior to commencement of construction activities. The Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following specific control measures as applicable: • Limit soil disturbance to the amounts analyzed in the air quality analysis; • Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials;	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit Fugitive Dust Control Plan to CPUC for review and approval. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC and obtain CPUC approval prior to commencement of construction activities. Implement plan during construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Air Quality (cont.)				
Impact 4.3-1 (cont.)	• Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip; • Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more); • Suspend all excavating and grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph; • Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads shall not exceed 15 mph; • Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more); • Replace ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible; • Apply water three times daily, or non-toxic soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications, to all unpaved parking or staging areas or unpaved road surfaces; • Sweep streets adjacent to the construction site at the end of the day if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public paved roads (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water); and • Appoint a construction relations officer to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity including resolution of issues related to PM10 generation.			
Impact 4.3-3: Construction activities would generate emissions of criteria pollutants that would be considered cumulatively considerable.	**Mitigation Measure 4.3-3:** Implement Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a (Exhaust Emissions Control Plan) and 4.3-1b (Fugitive Dust Control Plan).	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Air Quality (cont.)				
Impact 4.3-4: The Project would generate emissions of PM10, potentially exposing sensitive receptors to harmful pollutant concentrations.	**Mitigation Measure 4.3-4:** Implement Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a (Exhaust Emissions Control Plan) and 4.3-1b (Fugitive Dust Control Plan).	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.	See Mitigation Measures 4.3-1a and 1b.
Biological Resources				
Impact 4.4-1: Construction activities could result in adverse impacts to special-status plant species may occur in unsurveyed portions of the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3.	**Mitigation Measure 4.4-1:** SCE and/or its contractors shall complete focused, in-season botanical surveys for Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 consistent with the most recent CDFG survey guidance (e.g., CDFG, 2009) to document the presence or absence or special-status plants. SCE shall coordinate survey findings with CDFG and/or USFWS, as appropriate depending upon the listing status of identified species (e.g., federal- or state-listed).	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit survey results and documentation demonstrating how final project design shall minimize impacts on known special-status plant populations to CPUC for review. CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance at least once per week.	Prior to commencement of construction activities. During all phases of construction activities.
Impact 4.4-2: Construction activities associated with the Project could result in adverse impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat as well as non-listed special status species.	**Mitigation Measure 4.4-2**: SCE shall implement measures to reduce Project impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles Pocket mouse in the San Jacinto River corridor as follows: SCE shall implement a Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse trapping and relocation effort only if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. Habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse within Project area grasslands (such as those identified in BonTerra, 2011) shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone to be approved by the USFWS and CDFG. SCE shall stake, flag, fence, or otherwise clearly delineate the construction right-of-way that restricts the limits of construction to the minimum necessary to implement the Project that also would avoid and minimize impacts on the Stephens' kangaroo rat. Where avoidance of confirmed Stephens' kangaroo rat precincts is infeasible and unavoidable, and if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency,	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to implement a trapping and relocation effort if approved by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. SCE to establish non-disturbance buffer zones subject to approval by the USFWS and CDFG. CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance at least once per week.	Prior to commencement of construction activities. During all phases of construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Biological Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.4-2 (cont.)	SCE shall install silt fence or other impermeable barrier to Stephens' kangaroo rat to exclude Stephens' kangaroo rat from entering the active work areas.			
Impact 4.4-4: Operation of new transmission lines could impact raptors as a result of electrocution or collision.	**Mitigation Measure 4.4-4:** SCE shall follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee guidelines for avian protection on powerlines. SCE shall use current guidelines to reduce bird mortality from interactions with powerlines. The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC, 2006) and USFWS recommend the following: • Provide 60-inch minimum horizontal separation between energized conductors or energized conductors and grounded hardware; • Insulate hardware or conductors against simultaneous contact if adequate spacing is not possible; and • Use pole designs that minimize impacts to birds	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
Cultural Resources				
Impact 4.5-1: Project construction could cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource [inclusive of archaeological resources] which is either listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or a local register of historic resources.	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a:** SCE and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeology (Department of the Interior, 2008), to carry out all mitigation measures related to archaeological resources.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit resume of qualified archaeologist to CPUC. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement of construction activities. During all phases of construction activities.
	Mitigation Measure 4.5-1b: SCE and/or its contractors shall avoid all impacts to archaeological resources P-33-00525, P-33-00526, P-33-00608, P-33-02951, CWA63-4, CWA63-5, and CWA63-6. If any Project-related construction activity would occur within 50 feet of these archaeological sites, the sites shall be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas to ensure avoidance. Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be established in coordination with the qualified archaeologist and shall follow the recorded site boundaries of each significant historical resource. Protective fencing or other markers shall be erected around Environmentally Sensitive Areas	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Cultural Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.5-1 (cont.)	prior to any ground disturbing activities; however, such Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall not be identified specifically as cultural resources, in order to protect sensitive information and to discourage unauthorized disturbance or collection of artifacts.			
	Mitigation Measure 4.5-1c: If archaeological resources are encountered during Project-related activity, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If the archaeologist determines that the resources are significant, the archaeologist shall notify the CPUC and the resource shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is infeasible, a Treatment Plan that documents the research approach and methods for data recovery shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with CPUC and with appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature). Work may proceed on other parts of the Project area while treatment is being carried out.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit site Treatment Plan to CPUC. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Submit plan to CPUC and obtain CPUC approval prior to commencement of construction activities. Implement plan during construction activities.
Impact 4.5-2: Project construction could adversely impact a unique archaeological resource.	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-2a:** Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor shall be retained and contracted by SCE and/or its contractors to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including brush clearance and grubbing. The archaeological monitor shall work under the supervision of the qualified archaeologist. The Native American monitor shall be selected from the list of Native American groups demonstrating affiliation with the Project area and demonstrating interest in the Project. Initially, all ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored. However, the qualified archaeologist, based on observations of soil stratigraphy or other factors, and in consultation with the Native American monitor and the lead agency, may reduce the level of monitoring as warranted. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological and Native American monitors shall be	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit resume of archaeological monitor to CPUC. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement and during all phases of construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Cultural Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.5-2 (cont.)	empowered to halt or redirect ground-disturbing activities away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated and appropriate treatment determined. Arrangements for the appropriate curation of any cultural materials encountered during Project implementation shall be made prior to the issuance of grading permits and in coordination with the Native American group selected for monitoring. Contingency funding and time in the construction schedule should be made available to appropriately manage the unanticipated discovery of cultural resources.			
	Mitigation Measure 4.5-2b: If archaeological resources are encountered at any point during Project implementation, SCE and/or its contractors shall cease all activity within 100 feet of the find until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and appropriate Native American representatives (if the resources are prehistoric or Native American in nature). Preservation in place shall be the preferred means of mitigating impacts to cultural resources. If the archaeologist determines that the resources may be significant, and if avoidance is determined to be infeasible, the archaeologist shall notify the lead agency and shall prepare a treatment plan, in consultation with the lead agency and with appropriate Native American representatives.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	If necessary, SCE to submit treatment plan to CPUC. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
Impact 4.5-3: Project implementation would have a potentially significant impact on a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature.	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-3:** Prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall contract with a qualified professional paleontologist or a California Registered Professional Geologist (California RPG) with appropriate paleontological expertise, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (SVP 1995 Guidelines) to develop WEAP training for construction workers and implement a paleontological monitoring program. The qualified paleontologist shall be available "on-call" to SCE and/or its contractors throughout the duration of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the scope of services shall include:	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit resume of paleontologist and copy of paleontological assessment to CPUC. SCE to submit Paleontological Resources Treatment and Monitoring Plan to CPUC (if applicable). CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement of and during construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Cultural Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.5-3 (cont.)	• *Preparation of a preconstruction paleontological assessment based on final project design*. The preconstruction assessment shall include a review of information presented in this EIR, existing fossil localities in the region, Project grading plans and all geological/geotechnical reports developed to date to determine with greater precision the depth and extent of geologic units of high paleontological potential (e.g. older alluvial fan deposits) within the areas to be excavated. The results will be documented in a report along with recommendations for appropriate and feasible measures to avoid or minimize damage to any paleontological resources present. Based on the volume, depth and extent of soil excavations and the professional judgment of the paleontologist, he or she shall make recommendations regarding the locations/phases of project construction activity where paleontological monitoring of ground-disturbing activities would be needed. The county geologist shall review and approve the report in consultation with SCE and/or its contractors. • *Paleontological resources training.* Paleontological resources training. All construction forepersons and field supervisors shall be trained regarding the potential to encounter fossil materials prior to the initiation of any site preparation or start of construction. Training on paleontological resources shall also be provided to all other construction workers, but may include videotape of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by the qualified paleontologist. The training shall convey procedures to follow if potential fossil materials are encountered by construction crews in the course of earthwork, excavation, or grading, as described below. • *Assessment and salvage of potential fossil finds*. If potential fossils are discovered by construction crews, all earthwork or other types of ground disturbance within 50 feet of the find shall stop immediately until the qualified professional paleontologist can assess the			

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Cultural Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.5-3 (cont.)	nature and importance of the find. Based on the scientific value or uniqueness of the find, the monitor may record the find and allow work to continue, or recommend salvage and recovery of the fossil. The monitor may also propose modifications to the stop-work radius based on the nature of the find, site geology, and the activities occurring on the site. If treatment and salvage is required, recommendations will be consistent with SVP guidelines (SVP, 1995; SVP, 1996) and currently accepted scientific practice, and shall be subject to review and approval by the county geologist or designee. If required, treatment for fossil remains may include preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection, and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds. SCE and/or its contractors will be responsible for ensuring that treatment is implemented and report to Riverside County. If no report is required, SCE and/or its contractors will nonetheless ensure that information on the nature, location, and depth of all finds is readily available to the scientific community through university curation or other appropriate means. • *Active monitoring of construction sites for paleontological resources within geologic units of high paleontological potential.* Paleontological monitoring will consist of periodically inspecting disturbed, graded, and excavated surfaces, as well as soil stockpiles and disposal sites. The monitor (which will be the professional paleontologist or a designee) will have authority to divert grading or excavation away from exposed surfaces temporarily in order to examine disturbed areas more closely, and/or recover fossils. The monitor will coordinate with the construction manager to ensure that monitoring is thorough but does not result in unnecessary delays. If the monitor encounters a paleontological resource, he or she shall assess the fossil, and record or salvage it, as described above.			

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Cultural Resources (cont.)				
Impact 4.5-4: Project construction could result in damage to previously unidentified human remains.	**Mitigation Measure 4.5-4:** If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, SCE and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work, contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in Health and Safety Code §7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code §5097.98, SCE shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the SCE and/or its contractor has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (Public Resources Code §5097.98), with the most likely descendents regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to contact County Coroner if necessary as soon as human remains are discovered. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
Energy Conservation				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Geology and Soils				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Greenhouse Gas Emissions				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
Impact 4.9-5: The Project would reduce compliance with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	**Mitigation Measure 4.9-5:** Implement Mitigation Measure 4.17-4.	See Mitigation Measure 4.17-4.	See Mitigation Measure 4.17-4.	See Mitigation Measure 4.17-4.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)				
Impact 4.9-6: Construction and maintenance-related activities related to the Fiber-Optic Cable Route 3 could ignite dry vegetation and start a fire.	**Mitigation Measure 4.9-6:** SCE and/or its contractors shall prepare and implement a Health and Safety/Fire Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of construction workers and the public during construction. The RCFD and MVFD shall be consulted during plan preparation and health and safety/fire safety measures recommended by these agencies included. The plan shall list fire prevention procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following: • Two water trucks each of 4,000-gallon capacity, equipped with 50 feet of fast response hose with fog nozzles, be onsite during construction for immediate response to fire incidents, unless this provision is amended by the fire jurisdictions. • All construction workers shall receive training on the proper use of fire-fighting equipment and procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. • As construction may occur simultaneously at several locations, each project construction site shall be equipped with fire extinguishers and fire-fighting equipment sufficient to extinguish small fires. The plan shall be submitted to CPUC staff for approval prior to commencement of construction activities and shall be distributed to all construction crew members prior to construction and operation of the Project.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit Health and Safety/Fire Safety Plan to CPUC for review and approval. CPUC mitigation monitor to inspect compliance.	Prior to commencement of construction activities. During all phases of construction activities.
Hydrology and Water Quality				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Land Use				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Mineral Resources				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Noise				
Impact 4.13-1: Construction activities could violate local municipal code construction time-of-day restrictions.	**Mitigation Measure 4.13-1:** SCE and/or its construction contractors shall require that (a) all construction activities, including material deliveries, that occur within unincorporated Riverside County within 0.25 mile of an inhabited dwelling, be restricted to between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the months of June through September and between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the months of October through May, and (b) all construction activities that occur within the City of Moreno Valley be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	During all phases of construction activities.
Impact 4.13-4: Construction-related noise levels would increase ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project.	**Mitigation Measure 4.13-4:** Implement Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.	See Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.	See Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.	See Mitigation Measure 4.13-1.
Population and Housing				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Public Services				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Recreation				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--
Transportation and Traffic				
Impact 4.17-1: Project construction would substantially increase traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in	**Mitigation Measure 4.17-1:** SCE shall prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan subject to approval of the appropriate state agency and/or local government(s). The approved Traffic Management Plan and documentation of agency approvals shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities. The plan shall: • Include a discussion of work hours, haul routes, work area delineation, traffic control and flagging;	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	SCE to submit Traffic Management Plan to CPUC for review and approval. CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Prior to commencement of construction activities. During all phases of construction activities.

TABLE 9-1 (continued)
MITIGATION MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LAKEVIEW SUBSTATION PROJECT

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Transportation and Traffic (cont.)				
either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).	• Identify all access and parking restriction and signage requirements; • Require workers to park personal vehicles at the approved staging area and take only necessary Project vehicles to the work sites; • Lay out plans for notifications and a process for communication with affected residents and landowners prior to the start of construction. Advance public notification shall include posting of notices and appropriate signage of construction activities. The written notification shall include the construction schedule, the exact location and duration of activities within each street (i.e., which road/lanes and access point/driveways would be blocked on which days and for how long), and a toll-free telephone number for receiving questions or complaints; • Include plans to coordinate all construction activities with emergency service providers in the area. Emergency service providers would be notified of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities. All roads would remain passable to emergency service vehicles at all times; and • Identify all roadway locations where special construction techniques (e.g., night construction) would be used to minimize impacts to traffic flow.			
Impact 4.17-2: Project operation and maintenance would impact pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the existing informal trail along the San Jacinto River.	**Mitigation Measure 4.17-2:** SCE and/or its contractor shall ensure that appropriate warning signs are posted alerting bicycle riders and pedestrians to trail and bike lane closures.	SCE and its contractors to implement measure as defined.	CPUC mitigation monitor to monitor compliance.	Prior to commencement of and during all phases of construction activities.
Utilities and Service Systems				
Less than Significant	None required	--	--	--