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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following sections (i.e., 4.1, Aesthetics through 4.18, Cumulative Impacts) evaluate the potential environmental impacts from construction, operation, and maintenance of the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Company Tie Line (TL) 695 and TL 6971 Reconductor Project (Proposed Project). The analyses presented in this chapter are based on the following: (1) details of the Proposed Project as presented in Chapter 3.0, Proposed Project Description; (2) requirements under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines; (3) California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements, including General Order 131-D and guidance materials; and (4) consideration of input from responsible and reviewing agencies. In accordance with the CEQA, the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project components are evaluated for the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cumulative Impacts

Section 4.1 through Section 4.18 include discussions of the existing conditions as they pertain to each resource area, as well as the Proposed Project's potential impacts to these resources. In addition, at the beginning of each section, a checklist summarizing the level of impact (i.e., No Impact, Less than Significant Impact, Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated, and Potentially Significant Impact) to these resource areas, according to the significance criteria used for analysis, has been included. The sections also include Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) to lessen impacts related to the particular

resource(s), as appropriate. Section 4.18 Cumulative Impacts, discusses present and reasonably foreseeable future projects within the Proposed Project area and the Proposed Project's potential to contribute to a significant cumulative effect.

Technical support and references for the impact assessments are provided in the following technical appendices:

- Appendix 4.1-A: Visual Characterization Photographs
- Appendix 4.1-B: Visual Simulations
- Appendix 4.3-A: Air Quality Modeling Results
- Appendix 4.4-A: Biological Technical Report **(Biological Technical Report Appendices A, G, and I are Confidential)**
- Appendix 4.5-A: Cultural Resources Reports **(Confidential)**
- Appendix 4.6-A: Geotechnical Investigation **(Confidential)**
- Appendix 4.8-A: GeoTracker and Envirostor Database Search Results
- Appendix 4.8-B: Construction Fire Prevention Plan
- Appendix 4.9-A: Jurisdictional Delineation Report

A list of acronyms and abbreviations that are used throughout Sections 4.1 and 4.18 are provided in Table 4.0-1, below.

Table 4.0-1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
3D	three-dimensional
AB	Assembly Bill
ACTM	airborne toxic control measures
A.D.	anno Domini
AFY	acre-feet per year
amsl	above mean sea level
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APM	Applicant Proposed Measure
BEAP	Base Exterior Architecture Plan
BCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
BMPs	Best Management Practices
B.P.	Before Present
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Cal NAGPRA	California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Cal/OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CalRecycle	California Department of Recycling and Recovery

Table 4.0-1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCMP	California Coastal Management Program
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFSP	Community Fire Safety Program
CGC	California Government Code
CGS	California Geologic Survey
CH ₄	methane
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	CO ₂ equivalent
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agencies
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DoN	Department of the Navy
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive Order
EOC	Emergency Operation Center
ESA	Endangered Species Act
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FE	federally endangered
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Plan
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory System
FEX	Field Training Exercise
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
F&ES	Fire and Emergency Services

Table 4.0-1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FP	Fully Protected
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
GO	General Order
GWP	global warming potential
HA	hydrologic areas
HCP	habitat conservation plan
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act
HU	Hydrologic Unit
HWCL	Hazardous Waste Control Law
I-5	Interstate 5
ILA	Incidental Landing Areas
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JLOTS	Joint Logistics Over the Shore
kcmil	1,000 circular mils
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
LCP	Local Coastal Program
L _{dn}	day-night average sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent noise level
LOS	Level of Service
LOSSAN	Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MCB	Marine Corps Base
MCCS	Marine Corps Community Services
MCO	Marine Corps Order
Metropolitan	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
mgd	million gallons per day
MLD	most likely descendant
mm	millimeter
MPF	Maritime Prepositioning Force
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MS4s	municipal separate storm sewer systems
MVA	Megavolt amperes
NA	Not available
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Table 4.0-1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NCTD	North County Transit District
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Plan
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSLU	noise-sensitive land uses
O ₃	Ozone
OA	Operational Area
OCFA	Orange County Fire Authority
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
ONAC	Office of Noise Abatement and Control
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OTCA	Orange County Transportation Authority
Pb	lead
PEA	Proponent's Environmental Assessment
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter but greater than 2.5 microns in diameter
ppm	parts per million
PSA	Project Study Area
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
Qls	Quaternary landslides
RAQS	Regional Air Quality Strategy
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SDAB	San Diego Air Basin
SDAG	San Diego Association of Geologists
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric
SE	state endangered
SEAP	Safety and Environmental Awareness Program

Table 4.0-1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SHMA	Seismic Hazards Mapping Act
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMAD	San Mateo Archaeological District
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SONGS	San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
SSE	Species of Special Concern
SUA	Special Use Airspace
SWIS	Solid Waste Information System Number
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TL	Tie Line
TNW	Traditional Navigable Waters
TPP	Transmission Planning Process
TRB	Transportation Research Board
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic meter
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	U.S. Global Change Research Program
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibels
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements