

APPENDIX VR-D-1  
SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT: VISUAL RESOURCES – SUMMARY OF KEY VIEWPOINT ANALYSES

METHODOLOGIES:

<b>BLM</b>	<b>BLM LANDS: VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<b>FOREST SERVICE LANDS: SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)</b>	<b>CPUC</b>	<b>NON-BLM/USFS LANDS: VISUAL SENSITIVITY-VISUAL CHANGE (VS-VC)</b>
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VIEWPOINT		USFS - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING			USFS - VISUAL CHANGE		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Existing Landscape Character	Desired Landscape Character	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	Level of Change	SIO Consistency	Before Mitigation	Mitigation	
ROUTE D ALTERNATIVE									
<b>KVP 64</b> <b>Boulder Creek Road</b>  Figures E.3.3-1A / 1B	View to the west from Boulder Creek Road as the Route D Alternative converges on Boulder Creek Road. Viewpoint is approximately 8.8 miles north of the intersection with Oak Grove Road.	This viewpoint is located within the Upper San Diego River Place, which is a relatively remote, rugged landscape defined by rocky, angular landforms. The mix of vegetative communities ranges from chaparral on lower elevation hillsides to Coulter pine and black oak mixed with manzanita at higher elevations. The landscape is predominantly undeveloped though Boulder Creek Road (unpaved) is a prominent linear feature and there are several developed area interfaces around the scattered rural residences. A simple wood-pole utility line is also located in relatively close proximity to Boulder Creek Road. Views from Boulder Creek Road are panoramic and unobstructed.	The Upper San Diego River Place is maintained as a remote, natural appearing landscape that functions as a respite for the surrounding urban population. Valued landscape attributes to be preserved (or restored) over time include broad, undisturbed expanses of landscape that frame panoramic vistas; opportunities for viewing unique landscape features, such as deeply dissected canyons, waterfalls, and distant landmarks from vista points and road and trail corridors; and built elements that are rustic and unobtrusive. Part of the management emphasis is to maintain the natural-appearing setting.	<b>High</b>	<b>Appears Unaltered.</b> High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.	<b>Moderate to High</b> This alternative would introduce prominent built structures with substantial industrial character into a predominantly natural landscape absent similar features (though there is an existing simple wood-pole line). The resulting visual contrast would be substantial. The openness of the terrain and large scale of the structures would allow foreground to distant views of the transmission line from both existing rural residences and local access roads. View blockage of the surrounding ridges and distant mountains would be caused by the structures and conductors. Skylining would also occur where the line crosses ridges and crests hills, which would exacerbate structure prominence. Overall, the transmission line would substantially reduce the integrity of the existing landscape.	<b>Not Consistent</b> This alternative would not be consistent with Aesthetic Management Standard S9 requiring activities to meet the applicable Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO). Specifically, the transmission line would not repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that it is not evident, as required by the applicable "High" Scenic Integrity Objective. Indeed, the structures would be quite prominent features in the landscape. Furthermore, the transmission line would not qualify for the exceptions of (1) a minor adjustment (one level reduction with approval) to the SIO, or (2) a temporary drop of more than one SIO not to exceed three years in duration, as required in Aesthetic Management Standard S10.	<b>BEFORE:</b> <b>Significant (Class I)</b>  <b>AFTER:</b> <b>Significant (Class I)</b> (Reduced)	<b>Measure V-3a</b> (Project Design)  <b>Measure V-45a</b> (Scenery Conservation Plan)

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### METHODOLOGIES:

<b>BLM</b>	BLM LANDS: VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)	<b>USFS</b>	FOREST SERVICE LANDS: SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)	<b>CPUC</b>	NON-BLM/USFS LANDS: VISUAL SENSITIVITY-VISUAL CHANGE (VS-VC)
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### ROUTE D ALTERNATIVE (cont'd)

VIEWPOINT		CPUC - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING								CPUC - VISUAL CHANGE					IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Visual Quality	Viewer Concern	Viewer Exposure					Overall Visual Sensitivity	Description of Visual Change	Visual Contrast	Project Dominance	View Blockage	Overall Visual Change	Before Mitigation After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Visibility	Distance Zone	Number of Viewers	Duration of View	Overall Viewer Exposure								
<b>KVP 65</b> Cuyamaca Peak  Figures E.3.3-2A / 2B	View to the west toward the intersection of Boulder Creek, Tule Springs, and Cedar Creek Roads, from Cuyamaca Peak.	<b>High</b> Dramatic, panoramic vista view of the Upper San Diego River Valley and the surrounding mountains. With the exceptions of the graded, unpaved access roads (Boulder Creek, Tule Springs, and Cedar Creek Roads), and the few scattered rural residences, the landscape exhibits a predominantly intact, natural appearance. On clear days, views can extend to the Pacific Ocean.	<b>High</b> Visitors to the peak have a building sense of anticipation as the peak is approached by foot from the east side, through the undeveloped State Park forest. It is only when the summit is reached that the extent of the view is revealed. Because of the relatively unique nature of the view and the difficulty with which it is achieved, visitors would clearly perceive any degradation of the visible landscape as an adverse and unwanted result, particularly when viewed from a designated viewpoint in a State Park.	High	Middleground	Low	Extended	Moderate	Moderate to High	At a viewing distance of approximately 2.5 to 3 miles from Cuyamaca Peak, the transmission structures would be faintly visible as indistinct, vertical features. The lattice design would help them to blend with the background. Depending on lighting and visibility conditions, the structures may appear light to dark in color. The repetitive pattern of the structures would cause them to stand out from the surrounding natural forms and colors.	Low to Moderate	Subordinate	Low to Moderate	Low to Moderate	BEFORE: Adverse but Less Than Significant (Class III)  AFTER: Same	Measure V-3a (Project Design)
VIEWPOINT		USFS - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING								USFS - VISUAL CHANGE					IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Existing Landscape Character	Desired Landscape Character	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)		Level of Change	SIO Consistency	Before Mitigation After Mitigation	Mitigation							
				Level	Description											
<b>KVP 66</b> Inaja Monument Park Overlook  Figure E.3.3-3A	View to the south toward the Route D crossing of the San Diego River Canyon.	This overlook viewpoint is located within the Upper San Diego River Place, which is a relatively remote, rugged landscape defined by rocky, angular landforms. The mix of vegetative communities ranges from chaparral on lower elevation hillsides to Coulter pine and black oak mixed with manzanita at higher elevations. With the exception of the wood-pole transmission line that spans the canyon directly in front of the overlook, the landscape exhibits an intact, natural appearance. The central presence of the wood-pole transmission line, compromises the otherwise natural appearing landscape, reducing landscape coherence and overall visual quality.	The Upper San Diego River Place is maintained as a remote, natural appearing landscape that functions as a respite for the surrounding urban population. Valued landscape attributes to be preserved (or restored) over time include broad, undisturbed expanses of landscape that frame panoramic vistas; opportunities for viewing unique landscape features, such as deeply dissected canyons, waterfalls, and distant landmarks from vista points and road and trail corridors; and built elements that are rustic and unobtrusive. Part of the management emphasis is to maintain the natural-appearing setting.	High	<b>Appears Unaltered.</b> High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.	<b>Very Low</b> At a viewing distance of approximately six miles, the Route D Alternative structures (two to three in the canyon) would not be noticeable to viewers at the Monument Overlook. Even though the structures could potentially be visible under clear viewing conditions or with binoculars, the landscape would appear to be unaltered to the casual observer.	<b>Consistent</b> This alternative would be consistent with Aesthetic Management Standard S9 requiring activities to meet the applicable Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO). Specifically, this alternative would meet the "appears unaltered" requirement of a High SIO. Although the new transmission line would not repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character, the structures would not be noticeable. Also, the alternative as proposed would not need to file for an exception as described in Aesthetic Management Standard S10.	BEFORE: Adverse but Less Than Significant (Class III)  AFTER: Same	None							