

July 2, 2015



**Notification of Availability**  
**Joint Final Environmental Impact Report**  
**Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/FEIS)**  
**SDG&E's Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct**  
**Power Line Replacement Projects**



State Clearinghouse No. 2013091070  
Forest Service Publication No. R5-MB-288

Lead Agencies: California Public Utilities Commission  
United States Department of the Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest

Cooperating /Responsible Agencies: California State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Bureau of Indian Affairs / Bureau of Land Management

**ABSTRACT**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and United States Department of the Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest (Forest Service) have prepared a Joint Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/FEIS) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for consideration of San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E's) proposed issuance of a Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) for the SDG&E system in the Cleveland National Forest (CNF), and proposed replacement/fire hardening of select power lines in and around the Cleveland National Forest (CNF).

SDG&E is proposing to combine over 70 individual use permits and easements for SDG&E electric facilities within the CNF into one MSUP to be issued by the Forest Service. In addition, SDG&E is proposing to replace certain electric power lines located within and outside the CNF. Replacement would primarily include fire hardening (wood-to-steel pole replacement), relocation, and undergrounding. The proposed power line replacement projects will require authorization under the MSUP, as well as approval from the CPUC.

The CNF MSUP study area is located within multiple locations within the Trabuco, Palomar, and Descanso ranger districts of the CNF, Orange and San Diego counties, California. The proposed power line replacement projects are located within and outside the Palomar and Descanso ranger districts of the CNF in the vicinity of the unincorporated communities of Alpine, Boulevard, Pine Valley, Descanso, Campo, Pauma Valley, Santa Ysabel, Julian, and Warner Springs within the central portion of San Diego County. SDG&E's proposed power line replacement projects not only traverses National Forest System lands, but due to the patchwork of land ownership in the project study area, also traverses lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); tribal lands of the La Jolla, Campo, Pauma-Yuima, and Viejas Indian Reservations managed by the respective tribes and held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); Cuyamaca Rancho State Park lands managed by California State Parks (CSP); lands under the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego, and private holdings within unincorporated San Diego County.

Approval of the MSUP would allow for the continued operation and maintenance of SDG&E electric facilities within the CNF and authorize the replacement of certain existing power lines on and adjacent to CNF lands. MSUP approval is being requested by SDG&E because the existing authorizations within the CNF are expired, and the existing power lines are needed to supply power to local communities, residences, and government-owned facilities located within and adjacent to the CNF.

The Joint FEIR/FEIS describes SDG&E's proposed project, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the MSUP and power line replacement projects, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Joint FEIR/FEIS also evaluates 11 alternatives to SDG&E's proposed

project, including the federal proposed action, and the No Action Alternative and No Project Alternative, as required by CEQA and NEPA.

## AVAILABILITY OF JOINT FEIR/FEIS

The FEIR/FEIS is available for review on the CPUC website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>. In addition, copies of the Joint FEIR/FEIS and appendices on CD are available for review at the following local libraries:

### Environmental Document Repositories

Location	Address	Telephone
Alpine Branch Library	2130 Arnold Way, Alpine, California	619.445.4221
Campo-Morena Village Branch Library	31356 Highway 94, Campo, California	619.478.5945
Descanso Branch Library	9545 River Drive, Descanso, California	619.445.5279
Pine Valley Branch Library	28804 Old Hwy. 80, Pine Valley, California	619.473.8022
Julian Branch Library	1850 Highway 78, Julian, California	760.765.0370
Ramona Branch Library	1275 Main Street, Ramona, California	760.788.5270
San Diego Public Library	330 Park Boulevard, San Diego, California	619.236.5800

### After Joint Final EIR/EIS Completion

**CPUC** – The Final EIR/EIS will be used by the CPUC (as the lead state agency), in conjunction with other information developed in the CPUC’s formal record, to act on SDG&E’s application for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the proposed power line replacement projects. Under CEQA requirements, the CPUC will determine the adequacy of this Final EIR/EIS and, if adequate, will certify the document as complying with CEQA. The CPUC will then make a final decision regarding approval of the PTC the power line replacement projects.

**Forest Service** – The Forest Service MSUP project will be subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. This review process, commonly referred to as the Forest Service “Objection Process,” will only apply to the Forest Service actions. Under the objection process, individuals and entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity that is subject to the 36 CFR 218 regulations during any designated opportunity for public comment (such as the comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS) may file an objection.

The Objection Period will begin when the legal notice announcing the availability of the Final EIR/EIS and the Draft Record of Decision is published in the *San Diego Union Tribune*. The Objection Period is open for 45 days. Issues raised in the objection must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities. The legal notice and Draft Record of Decision are available for review at the project website listed above.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice of the Draft Record of Decision in the *San Diego Union Tribune*. The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely on dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Objections must be submitted to the reviewing officer: Randy Moore, Regional Forester, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Attn: SDG&E MSUP; 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592; phone no. 707.562.8737. Objections may be submitted via mail or fax (707.562.9229), or delivered during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Electronic objections, in common formats (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt), may be submitted via email to [objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us) with the subject SDG&E MSUP. Refer to the Draft Record of Decision for more details.

**Cooperating/Responsible Agencies** – Responsible and cooperating agencies, including California State Parks; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; and La Jolla, Campo, Pauma-Yuima, and Viejas Indian Reservations may also use the EIR/EIS for their permitting processes.