

## CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

The following sections (4.1 through 4.15) evaluate the potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company East County (ECO) Substation Project (Proposed Project). In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the environmental impacts associated with these components are evaluated for the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Sections 4.1 through 4.15 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. Additionally, 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 Measures, and Potentially Significant Impact) to these resource areas, according to the significance criteria used for analysis, has been included.

The Proposed Project will result in no impacts to Land Use and Planning and Public Services and less-than-significant impacts to Agricultural Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. The Proposed Project will result in potentially significant impacts to the remaining eight resource areas; however, with the implementation of applicant-proposed measures (APMs), these impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. The following provides a brief summary of these resource areas and the primary impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. All of the below-listed impacts will be reduced to the less-than-significant level with the proposed APMs.

- Aesthetics – Temporary and permanent visual impacts from construction of the Proposed Project

- Air Quality – Temporary impacts to air quality associated with construction emissions and permanent impacts associated with emissions from operation and maintenance
- Biological Resources – Temporary and permanent impacts to biological resources, including sensitive species and habitats
- Cultural Resources – Temporary and permanent impacts to cultural resources, including paleontological and archaeological resources, resulting from construction of the ECO Substation, Southwest Powerlink loop-in, and 138 kilovolt transmission line
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources – Permanent impacts associated with expansive soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials – Temporary and permanent impacts associated with the transport and use of hazardous materials, the potential release of hazardous materials resulting from the demolition of the existing Boulevard Substation and operation of the ECO and rebuilt Boulevard substations, and the potential to start a wildfire during construction
- Hydrology and Water Quality – Permanent impacts to waters of the United States as a result of construction of the ECO Substation and potential impacts to water wells in the ECO Substation vicinity
- Noise – Temporary generation of excessive noise during construction activities near sensitive noise receptors

APMs to be implemented to ensure that all potential impacts are reduced to the less-than-significant level are discussed in their relevant sections, as well as summarized in Table 3-8: Applicant-Proposed Measures in Chapter 3 – Project Description and Table 5-1: APM Justification in Chapter 5 – Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts. Justification for each APM is also presented in Chapter 5 – Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts.