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CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.15 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.15.0 Introduction

This section describes local utility services and infrastructure in the vicinity of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) East County (ECO) Substation Project (Proposed Project), including cable television and telephone, water treatment, sewer, and electricity services. Within this section, potential impacts to these utilities and service systems are assessed. The Proposed Project will not require the use of public utilities during construction, operation, or maintenance. All impacts to utilities and service systems will be less than significant.

4.15.1 Methodology

Information regarding local utilities was obtained from the Mountain Empire and Central Mountain Subregional Plans, as well as through communication with personnel at the San Diego County Department of Public Works. Internet searches were also conducted to gather information regarding the telephone and cable providers in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

4.15.2 Existing Conditions

Potable Water

Both the Mountain Empire and Central Mountain Community Planning Areas rely entirely on groundwater to supply municipal water. In general, recharge rates are relatively slow, making water a limited resource. Residents of Jacumba receive their water from the Jacumba Community Services District. The Boulevard community is not served by a formal water district; residents obtain water from private wells.

Electricity

Electricity in the Mountain Empire and Central Mountain Community Planning Areas is provided by SDG&E.

Cable and Telephone

Cable and telephone services in unincorporated San Diego County are provided by two companies—AT&T and Cox Communications. AT&T provides telephone services to the communities of Boulevard and Jacumba. Cable television service is not available to Jacumba or Boulevard residents; television reception is dependent on satellite dishes or antennas.

Sewer

Sewage in the Mountain Empire and Central Mountain Community Planning Areas is disposed of either by municipal waste treatment facilities or private septic systems. In Jacumba and Boulevard, no formal sanitation district exists and sewage is disposed in private septic systems.

Solid Waste

San Diego County has five landfills and 14 rural bin sites and transfer stations. The Boulevard Rural Bin Site accepts and sorts approximately 780 tons of solid waste annually, sending it on to either a recycling center or landfill. The nearest landfills to the Proposed Project are the Sycamore Landfill in Santee (approximately 50 miles to the northwest) and the Otay Landfill in Chula Vista (approximately 45 miles to the west). In 2002, the Sycamore Landfill and Otay

Landfill had approximately 24,000,000 cubic yards and 42,346,000 cubic yards of remaining capacity, respectively. The Sycamore Landfill, Otay Landfill, and Boulevard Rural Bin Site are all owned and operated by Allied Waste Industries Incorporated.

4.15.3 Impacts

Significance Criteria

Potential impacts to public utilities and service systems were determined in accordance with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Significant adverse impacts to public utilities and service systems will only occur if the Proposed Project:

- exceeds wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB);
- requires or results in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities;
- requires or results in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities;
- results in the need for a new or expanded water supply;
- results in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Proposed Project's projected demand;
- results in inadequate access to a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs; or
- causes a breach of published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste.

In addition to the guidelines specified in Appendix G, the Proposed Project would have significant adverse impacts to public utilities and service systems if it results in the disruption of existing utility systems.

Question 4.15a – Wastewater Treatment Requirement Exceedances

Construction – No Impact

Construction of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. Portable toilets will be available for workers and maintained by a licensed sanitation contractor. Portable toilets will be used in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration sanitation regulations, which generally require one portable toilet for every 10 workers. The licensed contractor will dispose of the waste off site and in compliance with RWQCB requirements. Thus, no impact will occur.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. No sanitary facilities that require waste treatment will be on site. Therefore, no impact will result.

Question 4.15b – Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

Construction – No Impact

Water will be used on a regular basis during construction of all Proposed Project components to control dust on access roads and in work areas. Because this water will be dispersed on site and will either evaporate or be absorbed into the ground, no wastewater is anticipated. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project will not generate any wastewater. Water will only be used for irrigation of landscaping. No sanitation facilities will be located on site. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Question 4.15c – Water Drainage Facility Expansion

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

Construction of the Proposed Project will include the installation of drainage facilities at the ECO Substation. The final grade of the ECO Substation will include a slight down-gradient (less than two percent) and drains to direct runoff off of the substation pads and into two retention basins that are 1.2 acres and 1.9 acres in size.. No existing drainage facilities will need to be expanded to accommodate flows from the substation site. Additionally, although construction of the Boulevard Substation will involve grading, which will result in the redirection of some water flow at the site, existing drainage patterns will not be significantly altered. Furthermore, there are no existing storm drainage facilities in the area. Therefore, no existing facilities will need to be expanded and no new facilities will need to be constructed. No other Proposed Project components will require any changes to drainage facilities or result in a change to stormwater flows; therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

Activities associated with operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project will be conducted on existing roads and disturbed areas. No impacts to drainage facilities will result from this work.

Question 4.15d – Water Supply Availability

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

Water is anticipated to be the primary means for dust control during construction. Approximately 30,000,000 gallons of water is anticipated to be required during construction of the Proposed Project. The water will either be purchased from the City of El Centro or the Imperial Irrigation District or obtained from permanent wells being installed at the ECO Substation site. As described in Section 4.7 Hydrology and Water Quality, groundwater in the area is relatively abundant from the Jacumba Valley Groundwater Basin and sufficient water is available to meet the construction needs. Because the water will only be needed temporarily and an appropriate source will be secured, impacts will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – Less-than-Significant Impact

A water tank, which will hold approximately 120,000 gallons of water, and two permanent retention basins, totaling approximately 3.1 acres in size, will be maintained on site for use during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project. The water will primarily be used for irrigation of landscaping and to fight fires. Monthly water use will range from 180 to 750 gallons depending on the time of year and weather conditions. The water will be obtained from permitted municipal sources, groundwater sources through the wells installed for construction, or a combination of both. The small volume of water required for operation will not significantly affect the existing groundwater supply should it be obtained from on-site wells because of the relative abundance of groundwater available from the Jacumba Valley Groundwater Basin. Furthermore, the water will be applied to the soil for landscaping purposes; therefore, some of the water will be absorbed into the ground, replenishing some of the groundwater supply. As a result, impacts will be less than significant.

Question 4.15e – Wastewater Treatment Capacity***Construction – No Impact***

As described previously under the responses to questions 4.15a and 4.15b, construction of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not affect wastewater treatment capacity.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described previously under the responses to questions 4.15a and 4.15b, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Question 4.15f – Landfill Capacity***Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact***

Fill material will be required to develop level sites for the ECO Substation and Boulevard Substation. Fill material will be generated by a balanced cut-and-fill within the substations' footprint; however, depending on the availability of suitable material to meet required engineering standards and the amount of fill necessary, additional fill may be imported. Excess fill material after completion of grading is not anticipated.

Other Proposed Project components likely to generate waste will be material packaging, such as wooden skids, cardboard boxes, plastic wrapping, and trash from consumables. Other materials used during construction, such as empty conductor spools and excess conductor, will be retained by SDG&E for use on other projects or recycled. The existing 445 distribution circuit will be removed from its existing location and collocated with the 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line facilities. This will involve the removal of the existing wooden distribution poles and placement of some of the existing distribution circuit equipment on the newly installed wooden distribution poles. The old wooden distribution poles will be removed from site by a crane and flatbed trucks and then recycled for future use or disposed of at an authorized facility. Thus, construction of the Proposed Project will not produce a substantial amount of waste. The anticipated limited amount of solid waste will be collected at a designated point within the Proposed Project area,

temporarily stored in receptacles or covered, then disposed of at a licensed landfill. Because the quantity of waste will be minimal and existing landfills in the Proposed Project vicinity have sufficient capacity, as previously described in Section 4.15.2 Existing Conditions, impacts will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – Less-than-Significant Impact

The operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project will generate a very limited amount of solid waste. The Proposed Substation, 138 kV transmission line, Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in, Boulevard Substation rebuild, and White Star Communication Facility rebuild will not require staff and will not produce waste. The only waste generated will be associated with operational equipment maintenance, crew lunches, and packaging material associated with replacement parts. Excess material or waste resulting from the repair or replacement of a structure or equipment (e.g., replacement of an insulator) will be taken to an existing SDG&E maintenance yard and either disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, reused, or recycled. Any remaining waste will be minimal and will be properly disposed of at an approved landfill. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Question 4.15g – Solid Waste Statutes and Regulations

Construction – No Impact

Construction of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of solid waste. As previously discussed under the response to question 4.15f, the small amount of solid waste produced during construction will be disposed of at a licensed landfill. Solid waste management will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Thus, the Proposed Project will not violate any solid waste statutes or regulations.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

Handling and disposal of all waste products associated with operation and maintenance activities will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Disruption of Existing Utility Systems

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

Construction of the Proposed Project will involve excavation and grading for the installation of transmission structures and construction of the ECO Substation and Boulevard Substation rebuild. These activities have the potential to unintentionally impact existing underground utilities, particularly in residential areas, which may result in the disruption of service. To minimize the risk of impacting these lines, SDG&E or their contractor will notify Underground Service Alert in accordance with state law to ensure that existing utilities are appropriately marked in the field so they can be avoided.

In addition, the Proposed Project will be constructed near overhead transmission and distribution lines. The 138 kV transmission line will be constructed parallel to the SWPL; however, its distance from the SWPL, which is 150 feet, will provide sufficient distance to ensure that overhead utilities will not be directly contacted or otherwise disrupted during construction of the

Proposed Project. In addition, the high visibility of overhead transmission lines will further ensure avoidance during construction.

The 138 kV transmission line will be co-located with a distribution line—Circuit 445—for approximately 0.6 miles from approximate Milepost 11.9 to Milepost 12.5. Service on this distribution line will be maintained throughout construction and operation of the Proposed Project. In addition, the existing TL 6931 69 kV transmission line currently connected to the existing Boulevard Substation will be rerouted into the rebuilt Boulevard Substation. There will be no service interruption as a result of this realignment. Therefore, impacts associated with the disruption of existing utility systems will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – Less-than-Significant Impact

Operation and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project may occasionally involve excavation or other ground-disturbing activities. These activities will be conducted in pre-disturbed areas and standard precautionary measures, such as notifying Underground Service Alert, will be implemented to ensure that existing underground utility lines will not be impacted. Overhead transmission and distribution lines in the area will be located a sufficient distance from the Proposed Project ROW to ensure that they are not directly contacted or otherwise disrupted during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project. Additionally, implementation of the Proposed Project will create a beneficial impact by ensuring fewer outages and better reliability to the area. As a result, impacts will be less than significant.

4.15.4 Applicant-Proposed Measures

Because no potentially significant impacts relative to utilities and service systems will result from the Proposed Project, no applicant-proposed measures are provided.

4.15.5 References

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