



**4.1 SIGNIFICANT OR POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

As discussed in Section 3.0 of this PEA, the Proposed Project was determined to have several potentially significant impacts. However, with the implementation of the applicant proposed mitigation measures listed in Section 3.0 of this PEA, all impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level, with the exception of Air Quality emissions generated during construction activities.

The project would generate temporary emissions associated with construction activities. PM<sub>10</sub> emissions generated by grading and construction at the substation site would cause a temporary exceedance of the SCAQMD threshold of significance for PM<sub>10</sub> emissions. Mitigation measures are identified in the analysis that would reduce the impacts to the degree possible. However, PM<sub>10</sub> emissions cannot be reduced below the SCAQMD significance threshold. This impact is considered to be a significant and unavoidable impact of the Proposed Project.

**4.2 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

Two alternatives to the Proposed Project are analyzed in the PEA: 1) the Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative, and 2) Site 38 (Alternate Site). Table 4-1 provides a summary of the impacts of the Proposed Project compared to each of the alternatives, as analyzed in Section 3.0 of this PEA.

Both the Proposed Project and the northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route alternative would result in similar levels of impacts in all resources categories. Therefore, like the Proposed Project, the northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route alternative would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation in all resource categories (with the exception of Air Quality). However, because the northerly route passes through denser residential areas and through the Gilman Historic Ranch, this alternative would result in more adverse impacts than the Proposed Project in the following resource categories: Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, Land Use and Planning, Noise, and Recreation.

Both the Proposed Project (Site 33) and the site alternative (Site 38) would result in similar levels of impacts in all resource categories, except for Utilities and Service Systems and Land Use and Planning. For Utilities and Service Systems, the Proposed Project would have no impact during operation, whereas the Site 38 substation would have a less than significant impact during operation because this site would include a restroom facility with water and wastewater service.

For Land Use and Planning, Site 38 would have a potentially significant impact, whereas the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact in this area. Site 38 is located within an area designated for open space under the Oak Valley Specific Plan, and the

development of a substation at this location would conflict with the intent of the specific plan.

In comparison, although Site 33 is also designated as open space and conservation, the agency with jurisdiction over and ownership of Site 33 (Riverside County acting through the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District) has indicated its willingness to override the nonconformity with its General Plan in exchange for replacement parkland to allow a substation at this site. Conversely, local stakeholders, including the City of Calimesa and adjacent property developers, do not support the use of Site 38 for a substation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to Land Use and Planning.

For the reasons stated above, the Proposed Project is considered the environmentally superior alternative.

#### **4.3 CONCLUSION**

The El Casco System Project is considered to be the environmentally superior alternative and is recommended by SCE as the Preferred Project. The Preferred Project achieves all of the project objectives including serving load growth in the Electrical Needs Area and enhancing system reliability and operational flexibility in a manner that is consistent with SCE's planning guidelines and Subtransmission Guidelines.

**TABLE 4-1  
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Proposed Project</b>	<b>Northerly 115 kV Line Route</b>	<b>Site 38 Substation Location</b>
Aesthetics	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant
Agricultural Resources	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant
Air Quality	Construction: Significant and Unavoidable Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Significant and Unavoidable Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Significant and Unavoidable Operation: Less than Significant
Biological Resources	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant
Cultural Resources (including Paleontological Resources)	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant
Geology and Soils	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant with Mitigation
Hydrology and Water Quality	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant

**TABLE 4-1 (Continued)**  
**COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Proposed Project</b>	<b>Northerly 115 kV Line Route</b>	<b>Site 38 Substation Location</b>
Land Use and Planning	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Potentially Significant Operation: Potentially Significant
Mineral Resources	Construction: No Impact Operation: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operation: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operation: No Impact
Noise	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: Less than Significant
Population and Housing	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: No Impact	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: No Impact	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: No Impact
Public Services	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant
Recreation	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant
Transportation and Traffic	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant
Utilities and Service Systems	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: No Impact	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: No Impact	Construction: Less than Significant Operation: Less than Significant