

**APPENDIX VR-1
SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT: VISUAL RESOURCES – SUMMARY OF KEY VIEWPOINT ANALYSES FOR SEMPRA PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT**

METHODOLOGIES:

BLM	BLM LANDS: VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)	USFS	FOREST SERVICE LANDS: SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)	CPUC	NON-BLM/USFS LANDS: VISUAL SENSITIVITY-VISUAL CHANGE (VS-VC)
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VIEWPOINT		EXISTING VISUAL SETTING								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	Mitigation
				Visibility	Distance Zone	Number of Viewers	Duration of View	Overall Viewer Exposure							After Mitigation	
KVP 79 Old Highway 80 Jacumba Substation Figure 2.3-2	View to the southeast toward proposed Jacumba Substation, from eastbound Old Highway 80, west of the proposed substation site.	Moderate Foreground to middleground, relatively non-descript, flat, grass- and shrub-covered mesa, with prominent utility towers exhibiting complex structural form and substantial industrial character. Backdropped by the dominant, rugged and angular landform of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains.	High Travelers on Old Highway 80 are provided panoramic views across a broad, flat desert mesa to distant mountain ranges. Although some travelers may anticipate the energy infrastructure as it parallels and then diverges from Old Highway 80, any addition of industrial character to the otherwise predominantly natural appearing landscape or blockage of views to more valued landscape features (Sierra de Juárez Mountains) would be seen as an adverse visual change.	High	Foreground to middleground	Low to Moderate	Extended	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	The two proposed adjacent substations (500 kV/230 kV and 230 kV/69 kV), which collectively are referred to as Jacumba Substation, and new 69 kV line would introduce complex structural forms and lines with substantial industrial character into a landscape that presently exhibits those characteristics (SWPL line) though not in such a concentrated grouping. The structures would cause additional view blockage of the background mountains when viewing to the east and south.	Moderate to High	Co-Dominant to Dominant	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None
KVP 80 Jacumba 69 kV Transmission Line Figure 2.3-3	View to the north-northeast toward the existing SWPL transmission line and the proposed 69 kV transmission line route, from Jacumba Street, just north of Calexico Avenue in Jacumba.	Low to Moderate Foreground rural residential neighborhood backdropped by a rugged, rocky ridge supporting the existing SWPL transmission line. Vegetation includes a variety of trees in the residential area, with short grasses and shrubs the predominant native vegetation.	High While local residents anticipate the presence of the existing SWPL line along the ridge to the north, the introduction of an additional line with a pronounced industrial character and additional view blockage of sky due to structure skylining, would be seen as an adverse visual change.	High	Foreground	Low	Extended	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	The 69 kV transmission line would be built adjacent and slightly to the south of the existing SWPL line. The new line would appear different in design (simple steel-pole) and height (shorter) compared to the existing SWPL line. The shorter structures would result in shorter conductor spans that would be asynchronous with the existing SWPL spans. Additional view blockage of the background sky would occur and there would be an increase in industrial character along the ridge.	Moderate	Co-Dominant	Low	Low to Moderate	BEFORE: Adverse but Less Than Significant (Class III) AFTER: Same	None

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VIEWPOINT		EXISTING VISUAL SETTING								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	Mitigation
				Visibility	Distance Zone	Number of Viewers	Duration of View	Overall Viewer Exposure							After Mitigation	
KVP 81 Tule Jim Lane South 69 kV Transmission Line Figure 2.3-4	View to the south toward Boundary Peak and the proposed route of the 69 kV transmission line, from Tule Jim Lane, near the intersection with Tule Jim Road, and approximately 0.55 mile north of the intersection with Jewel Valley Road.	Moderate Foreground to middleground rural residential desert basin with shrubs and informal groupings of trees, surrounded by rolling to angular, rocky ridges. The SWPL transmission line is faintly visible as it crests a distant ridgeline. Boundary Peak is a prominent landform and a simple wood-pole utility line is a prominent roadside feature as it passes through the valley.	High Rural residents and travelers in Jewel Valley are provided panoramic views across a shallow, desert basin to surrounding mountain ridges. Although some residents and travelers may anticipate the presence of the existing wood-pole utility line, any addition of industrial character to the predominantly natural appearing landscape or blockage of views to more valued landscape features (background ridges or Boundary Peak) would be seen as an adverse visual change.	High	Foreground to Middleground	Low	Extended	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	The steel-pole 69 kV transmission line would be structurally prominent and would introduce a noticeable industrial character into a landscape presently absent similar features. The transmission line would parallel several unpaved roads and cross the valley several times north of Boundary Peak. The transmission line would also cause additional view blockage of background ridges and Boundary Peak.	Moderate to High	Co-Dominant	Moderate	Moderate	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None
KVP 82 Tule Jim Lane North Boulevard Substation Figures 2.3-5A / 5B	View to the north toward Boulevard Substation, from Tule Jim Lane, approximately 0.40 mile south of Boulevard Substation	Moderate Foreground to middleground rural residential desert basin with shrubs and informal groupings of trees, surrounded by rolling to angular, rocky ridges and boulder slopes. The existing Boulevard Substation is partially visible adjacent to a grouping of trees. A simple wood-pole utility line is a noticeable roadside feature as it passes through the valley. Several rural residences are located within the viewshed of the substation.	High Residents of the community of Boulevard are provided panoramic views across a shallow, desert basin to surrounding mountain ridges. Although some residents and travelers anticipate the presence of the existing Boulevard Substation and wood-pole utility line, any addition of industrial character to the predominantly rural, natural appearing landscape or blockage of views to more valued landscape features (background ridges) would be seen as an adverse visual change.	High	Foreground	Low	Extended	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	The expansion of Boulevard Substation and addition of the steel-pole 69 kV transmission line would introduce additional structurally prominent infrastructure with considerable industrial character into a predominantly rural landscape with some features of similar character (substation). The expanded substation and new transmission line would also cause additional view blockage of the background ridges and rocky slopes.	Moderate to High	Co-Dominant	Moderate	Moderate	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None

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VIEWPOINT		EXISTING VISUAL SETTING								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								
KVP 83 Hill Street In Jacumba La Rumorosa Wind Development Area Figure 2.3-6	View to the east toward the north end of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains and the proposed wind development area, from Hill Street, just south of Old Highway 80 in the community of Jacumba.	Moderate Middleground to background, relatively non-descript, flat, grass- and shrub-covered mesa, backdropped by the dominant, and rugged, horizontal landform of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains. Though several rural residences, the border fence (visible in the image), and the SWPL transmission line (left of the field of view shown in Figure 2.3-6) are noticeable built features, the landscape is predominantly natural in appearance.	High Residents of Jacumba are provided panoramic views across a broad, flat desert mesa to the Sierra de Juárez Mountains. Although some residents may anticipate the energy (SWPL) infrastructure as it parallels and then diverges from Old Highway 80 (out of view in the photograph presented in Figure 2.3-6), any addition of built structures with industrial character to the otherwise predominantly natural appearing landscape or blockage of views to higher valued landscape features (Sierra de Juárez Mountains) would be seen as an adverse visual change.	High	Middleground to Background	Low	Extended	Moderate	Moderate to High	The La Rumorosa Wind Development Project would introduce numerous, prominent wind turbines along the ridges of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains, a 500 kV transmission line at the base of the mountains, and two structurally complex, industrial-appearing substations south of Old Highway 80. The introduction of complex structures and considerable industrial character would substantially alter the predominantly natural character of the landscape visible from Jacumba.	Moderate to High	Co-Dominant to Dominant	High	Moderate to High	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING						BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS				IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE				
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-2 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation After Mitigation	Mitigation						
				Status	Rating	Management Objective										
KVP 84 Table Mountain La Rumorosa Wind Development Area Figures 2.3-7A / 7B	View to the south-southeast toward the north end of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains, from the southeast shoulder of Table Mountain.	Not Available This view encompasses the northern end of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains in Mexico and the flat desert mesa west of the mountains. Also visible (though difficult to discern) are the complex structural forms of the existing SWPL transmission line structures and the linear, horizontal form of Old Highway 80. The rugged mountain landforms and jagged ridges enhance visual variety and interest. However, the steel-lattice SWPL transmission line with its industrial character, the noticeability of which varies under different lighting conditions, detracts from the otherwise natural appearing landscape.	High	Existing RMP (Resource Management Plan)	II	To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	High The Sempra La Rumorosa Wind Development Project would introduce numerous, prominent wind turbines along the ridges of the Sierra de Juárez Mountains and two structurally complex, industrial-appearing substations south of Old Highway 80. The wind turbines (over 200 feet tall) and substations would substantially alter the predominantly natural character of the landscape and would be prominently visible from Table Mountain. The resulting structural visual contrast (for form and line) would be strong.	Not Consistent The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The wind turbines with their vertical structural forms and industrial-appearing and structurally complex substations would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (rugged, rocky ridges and flat horizontal mesa). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape.	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None						

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VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING				BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		
Key Viewpoint (KVP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class		Level of Change <small>(See Appendix VR-2 Contrast Rating Worksheets)</small>	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation	Mitigation	
				Status	Rating			Management Objective		After Mitigation
KVP 85 Elliot Mine Area La Rumorosa Wind Development Area Figure 2.3-8	View to the south toward the proposed Sempra La Rumorosa Wind Development Project, from the Elliot Mine area, southwest of Jacumba Wilderness and approximately three miles southeast of Old Highway 80 on the Elliot Mine access road.	<p align="center">Class C</p> This view is from a small portion of a larger landscape unit that includes the Devils Canyon and In-Ko-Pah Gorge areas along Interstate 8, west of Jacumba Wilderness. The rugged desert landscape is predominantly natural appearing with minimal built features. Jagged to angular ridgelines and rocky outcrops create areas of visual interest as do distant views across the Yuha Desert to the east.	<p align="center">High</p> Note: All BLM lands within the California Desert Conservation Area are assigned a Viewer Sensitivity level of High because of the public importance attributed to these lands)	Interim	III	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	<p align="center">High</p> The Sempra La Rumorosa Wind Development Project would introduce numerous, prominent wind turbines along the ridges immediately south of the Elliot Mine area, a landscape presently absent such features. The substantial development area and size of the structures (over 200 feet tall) with their industrial character would substantially alter the predominantly natural character of the landscape and would be prominently visible from the Elliot Mine area. The resulting structural visual contrast (for form and line) would be strong.	<p align="center">Not Consistent</p> The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The wind turbines with their vertical structural forms and industrial character would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (rugged, rocky landforms). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape.	BEFORE: Significant (Class I) AFTER: Same	None