

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 11

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August 25, 2008

11-SD/IMP-VAR
PM VAR
SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink
Recirculated DEIRMs. Billie Blanchard, CPUC
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Dear Ms. Billie Blanchard:

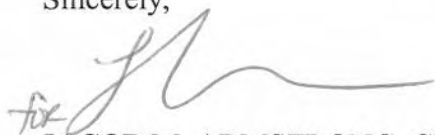
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (SCH 2006091071). All applicable comments made as part of the original circulation of the DEIR should still be considered. Caltrans has the following comments on the Recirculated DEIR:

- No indication exists that there will be increased potential for impacts to biological resources in State right-of-way (R/W) resulting from the currently proposed changes to the project alternatives. We have attached a list of potential resources, which may be affected at locations where changes are proposed.
- Specifics on the potential for water quality impacts and best management practices associated with construction within State right-of-way must be addressed in either a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) or Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be submitted with applications for encroachments into State right-of-way.
- The BLM Gifted Lands Reroute will avoid impacts to cultural resources within the state-owned property comprised by section 31, which is an eligible National Register Historic District and is adjacent to the San Sebastian Marsh Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) in Imperial County. However, it appears that a detailed inventory of the existing literature on cultural resources may not have been completed for all currently proposed changes to project alternatives, which may affect State right-of-way. Detailed study results and preliminary assessments of effect for these areas should be discussed. This information will be required for approval of all encroachment permits to construct within State right-of-way.
- The proposed transmission line would cross I-8 in Imperial County and I-15, SR-67, SR-78, and SR-79 in San Diego County. Although widening improvements to some of these routes may not be proposed for the short-term, long-term widening projects could be considered in the future.
- Any damage to State highways due to construction of the Powerlink must be repaired and paid for by SDG&E.
- All Caltrans standards for utility encroachments shall be met.

- Any work done within Caltrans right-of-way for undergrounding utilities, or for staging construction equipment will be considered a temporary longitudinal encroachment and will require special permit approvals. However, if work can be done outside of Caltrans right-of-way, it must be demonstrated in the encroachment permit application.

If you have any questions on the comments Caltrans has provided, please contact Trent Clark of the Development Review Branch at (619) 688-3140.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "for J. Armstrong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JACOB M. ARMSTRONG, Chief
Development Review Branch

Alternative	County	Route	Post Mile	USFWS/CDFG Listed Species / BLM Sensitive Species	Sensitive Habitat	Notes
ESNA	IMP	8	23.1	Flat-tailed Horned Lizard [FTHL]	Creosote Scrub	
ESNA	IMP	8	24.7	FTHL	Desert Scrub	
ESNA	IMP	8	25.7	Burrowing Owl		Near Westside Main Canal
ESNA	SD	15	13.6	Quino Checkerspot Butterfly [QCB], San Diego Fairy Shrimp, Riverside Fairy Shrimp, Willowy Monardella, San Diego Button Celery, San Diego Mesa Mint, Coastal California Gnatcatcher [CAGN]	Chaparral, Non-Native Grassland, Southern Mixed Chaparral, Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	Near Carroll Canyon drainage
ESNA	SD	52	11.9	QCB, CAGN, Least Bell's Vireo [LBV] (w/ critical habitat [CH]), Del Mar Manzanita	Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Valley and Foothill Grassland, Riparian Woodlands	Near Oak Canyon and Spring Canyon drainages
ESNA	SD	67	12.3	QCB, CAGN, San Diego Thornmint	Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Valley and Foothill Grassland, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	Near unnamed drainage
ESNA	SD	76	52.2	Stephen's Kangaroo Rat [SKR]	Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland, Southern Riparian Forest, Wet Montane Meadow, Open Coast Live Oak Woodland, Chamise & Northern Mixed Chaparral, Non-native Grassland	Near Carrizo Creek
ESNA	SD	78	50.4		Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland, Southern Riparian Forest, Wet Montane Meadow	
ESNA	SD	78	51.4		Engelmann Oak Woodland, Non-native Grassland, Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Northern Mixed Chaparral, Coast Live Oak Woodland	Near Santa Ysabel Creek
ESNA	SD	78	80.4	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep [PBS] (CH)	Sonoran Creosote Brush Scrub, Sonoran Mixed Woody and Succulent Scrub, Desert Dry Wash Woodland	Near San Felipe Creek and Mine Wash
ESNA	SD	78	81.0	PBS (w/CH)	Sonoran Creosote Brush Scrub, Encelia Scrub, Sonoran Mixed Woody and Succulent Scrub, Desert Dry Wash Woodland	Near San Felipe Creek and Bighorn Canyon
ESNA	SD	78	82.1	PBS (w/CH)	Sonoran Creosote Brush Scrub, Sonoran Wash Scrub, Desert Dry Wash Woodland	Near San Felipe Creek
ESNA	SD	78	83.9	PBS (w/CH)	Sonoran Creosote Brush Scrub, Desert Dry Wash Woodland	Near San Felipe Creek
ESNA	SD	79	23.2		Engelmann Oak Woodland, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Non-native Grassland, Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Mixed Oak Woodland, Valley and Foothill Grassland	Near Santa Ysabel Creek
ESNA	SD	79	27.4	SKR	Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland, Southern Riparian Forest, Wet Montane Meadow, Open Coast Live Oak Woodland, Chamise & Northern Mixed Chaparral, Non-native Grassland, Southern Riparian Scrub, Riparian Woodland	Near Carrizo Creek, Matagual Creek, and Buena Vista Creek
ESSA	IMP	8	4.3	PBS (w/CH), Barefoot Banded Gecko, San Diego Button Celery	Desert Succulent Scrub	Near Myers Creek
ESSA	IMP	8	8.5	PBS (CH)	Desert Succulent Scrub, Desert Ironwood	Near Myers Creek
ESSA	IMP	8	22.0	FTHL	Desert Scrub	
ESSA	SD	8	26.1		Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Mixed Chaparral	Near Los Coches Creek
ESSA	SD	8	26.4		Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Mixed Chaparral	Near Chocolate Canyon
ESSA	SD	8	34.9	San Diego Thornmint	Chamise Chaparral, Southern Mixed Chaparral, Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest, Dense Coast Live Oak Woodland	Near Viejas Creek
ESSA	SD	8	57.0		Chamise Chaparral, Granitic Northern Mixed Chaparral, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Sagebush Scrub, Open Coast Live Oak Woodland, Non-native Grassland, Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland	Near La Posta Creek
ESSA	SD	8	68.6	QCB (CH), PBS (CH),	Semi-Desert Chaparral, Cismontane Alkali Marsh, Open Coast Live Oak Woodland	Near Walker Canyon drainage
ESSA	SD	67	10.8	CAGN	Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Coast Live Oak Woodland, Valley and Foothill Grassland	Near San Diego Aqueduct
ESSA	SD	79	1.0	Arroyo Toad, LBV	Northern and Southern Mixed Chaparral, Dense Coast Live Oak Woodland, White Alder Riparian Forest	Near Sweetwater River