

CHAPTER 7.0 – CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

7.1 CEQA and CPUC Rule 17.1 Require a Discussion of the Cumulative Impacts of a Project

Cumulative impacts are defined as the incremental impact of the proposed project when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency or person undertakes them. This chapter discusses the potential cumulative impacts related to construction and operation of the proposed Viejo System Project. The proposed project would improve reliability and meet projected electrical load requirements in the South Orange County area. Implementation of the project would not result in any permanent cumulative environmental impacts.

The Lake Forest and Mission Viejo planning departments were contacted for information on future projects that could lead to cumulative impacts. The planning departments provided available information for approved or pending projects in the vicinity of the proposed Viejo System Project scheduled to occur by 2005 or earlier. Within the City of Lake Forest, residential development within the approved Foothill Ranch Specific Plan area is anticipated to continue with development occurring north and east of the substation site. Additionally, the Saddleback Meadows Master Planned Community was approved and would be constructed to the east of the Proposed Viejo System improvements. Within the City of Mission Viejo, land adjacent to the existing 220 KV corridor and Chiquita Substation is built out. No specific projects within the general study area were identified.

The proposed Viejo Substation would be constructed on a vacant site within the Foothill Ranch Planned Community that was purchased by SCE for substation development in 1994. It is assumed that future development within proximity to the proposed Viejo Substation site would be light industrial and consistent with the City of Lake Forest General Plan and Foothill Ranch Planned Community Specific Plan. Potential impacts associated with planned development were identified in the City of Lake Forest General Plan EIR, Foothill Ranch Planned Community Specific Plan EIR and Saddleback Meadows Master Planned Community draft EIR. These development plans have been completed or are involved in the CEQA process, or have been approved for construction. The insignificant impacts associated with the Viejo System Project will not result in any cumulative impacts.