

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Ms. Rebecca Giles
Regulatory Case Administrator
San Diego Gas & Electric
(via email: RGiles@semprautilities.com)

January 22, 2015

Subject: San Diego Gas & Electric Company – Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) and Permit to Construct (PTC) Power Line Replacement Projects, PTC Application No. 12.10.009-- Data Request No. 9

Dear Ms. Giles:

Based on receipt of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) letter dated January 5, 2015 regarding the use of SDG&E's Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) for the Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and United States Forest Service (Forest Service) have determined additional information is necessary to complete the Final EIR/EIS for the subject project (see Attachment A). Your response to this data request is requested by **Friday, January 30, 2015**.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 415.703.1966 or lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov

Sincerely,

MJ Orsaba

Lisa Orsaba, Project Manager
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Cc: *Tim Knowd, SDG&E (TKnowd@semprautilities.com)*
Jack Mulligan, CPUC Legal (jack.mulligan@cpuc.ca.gov)
Robert Hawkins, US Forest Service (rhhawkins@fs.fed.us)
Jeff Heys, US Forest Service (jaheys@fs.fed.us)
John Porteous, Dudek (jporteous@dudek.com)

ATTACHMENT A
Data Request No. 9 – January 22, 2015
Application No. A.12-10-009
SDG&E Master Special Use Permit and
Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects

1.0 IMPACT CATEGORIES / ACREAGES

In determining whether reliance on the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) is appropriate, it is important to obtain distinct acreage calculations for habitat versus non-habitat areas. Please provide a brief memorandum outlining how the vegetation categories “Pastureland” and “Disturbed Habitat (Ruderal/Barren Land)” were developed. Specifically, information is required to determine whether these categories function in a manner that is similar to annual grasslands. Please separate out the temporary and permanent impact acreage for each of the proposed power line replacement projects under these vegetation categories that SDG&E considers not to function like annual grasslands (for example, dirt stockyard areas, bare dirt, regularly plowed areas, etc.).

Please review the provided temporary impact areas to determine if there are areas that may be reduced in size based on comparable construction experience. For example, in some instances, work areas, including staging areas and pull sites, may not require as large an area as indicated in SDG&E’s Plan of Development (POD). If reductions in size can be made, then please provide a revised impact table showing temporary vegetation impacts for each of the proposed power line replacement projects.

2.0 NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN

San Diego Gas & Electric’s POD (revised April 2013) used in support of SDG&E’s Master Special Use Application (SF 299, September 2012) and SDG&E’s Permit to Construct application (October 2012) included Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) that relied on implementation of SDG&E’s NCCP to address impacts to certain biological resources, and to provide “take” authorization under the federal and state endangered species acts. SDG&E’s November 3, 2014 comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) prepared for the subject project restated SDG&E’s commitment to its NCCP to address impacts to certain biological resources and meet statutory obligations prohibiting unauthorized “take” of species covered in the NCCP.

ATTACHMENT A
Data Request 9

**SDG&E Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct
Power Line Replacement Projects**

On January 5, 2015, after the close of public comment on the Draft EIR/EIS, SDG&E confirmed in writing to the California Public Utilities Commission and the U.S. Forest Service that SDG&E had recently identified constraints with relying on its NCCP (Adrianna B. Kripke, SDG&E, January 5, 2015). The California Public Utilities Commission and the U.S. Forest Service have communicated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding this subject.

Based on revised estimates determined under Item 1 above, please state whether or not SDG&E has sufficient “take” acres remaining in its NCCP to adequately implement the APMs included in the POD, including use of the NCCP to provide “take” authorization for NCCP-covered species, and to address impacts identified in the MSUP/PTC Power Line Replacement Projects Draft EIR/EIS.

Please also state whether or not SDG&E will continue to rely on the SDG&E NCCP for “take” authorization for NCCP-covered species, and to implement mitigation obligations as represented in both SDG&E’s POD and comment letter (November 3, 2014) on the subject project.