

Don Houston Environmental Project Manager 1010 Tavern Road Alpine, CA 91901 (T) XXX-XXX-XXXX (F) XXX-XXXX

November 25, 2012

Ms. Lisa Orsaba Project Manager California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Notice to Proceed (NTP) Request #13 to Construct the Section 4 138 kilovolt (kV) Overhead Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Orsaba:

On June 21, 2012, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) selected the East County (ECO) Substation Alternative Site combined with the ECO Partial Underground 138 kV Transmission Route Alternative (Decision A.09-08-003) as the approved ECO Substation Project (Project). The decision grants San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) a Permit to Construct and conditionally authorizes construction of the Project with the implementation of pre-construction mitigation measures (MMs). A Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on June 21, 2012, indicating the CPUC's approval of the Project.

## **Purpose**

SDG&E is formally requesting authorization from the CPUC to construct the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, which includes Steel Pole- (SP-) 105B and SP-108A. These poles will transition the portion of the Section 3 138 kV Underground Transmission Line that runs within the ECO Substation southern access road to the ECO Substation. SP-105B is located approximately 1,000 feet southeast of Old Highway 80 within the permanent footprint of the ECO Substation southern access road. Construction of the ECO Substation southern access road was discussed in NTP request #6, which was approved by the CPUC on July 2, 2013. From SP-105B, an approximately 1,200-foot-long northeast overhead span will connect to SP-108A, which is located within the ECO Substation. NTP request #2 to construct the ECO Substation was issued by the CPUC on February 1, 2013. SP-105B and SP-108A will be 170 and 160 feet tall, respectively. The poles to be constructed under this NTP request are depicted in Attachment A: Section 4 Overview Map. SP-105B and SP-108A were included in Minor Project Refinement (MPR) request #4, which was approved by the CPUC on June 26, 2013. Construction methods, equipment, and Project components associated with overhead construction were described in detail in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

## **Pre-Construction Mitigation Measures**

Attachment B: Pre-Construction Status Report to NTP request #11 to construct the Section 2 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line—which was approved by the CPUC on November 5, 2013—includes a list of the pre-construction MMs associated with the Project's Overhead Transmission Line (as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program). The measures and their statuses—as described in Attachment B: Pre-Construction Status Report to NTP request #11, with a few exceptions described in the paragraph that follows—are applicable to the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line.

Attachment A: Section 4 Overview Map includes a Project map showing the limits of temporary and permanent workspace with jurisdictional waters identified for the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, in accordance with MMs BIO-1a, BIO-2a, BIO-2c, and VIS-3e. The Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line was included in the final engineering plans submitted to the CPUC with NTP request #6, demonstrating compliance with MM CUL-1d. The LU-2 Letter Report—demonstrating compliance with MMs VIS-31 and LU-2, which were still pending as of the submittal of NTP request #11—was submitted to the CPUC on October 8, 2013. In addition, because no new access roads will be constructed for the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, MMs BIO-2c and VIS-3d—as described in Attachment B: Pre-Construction Status Report to NTP request #11—are not applicable to the Section 4 138 kV Underground Transmission Line. All other pre-construction measures that are relevant to the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, as described in Attachment B: Pre-Construction Status Report to NTP request #11, have been completed or will be implemented immediately prior to construction.

## **Activity Summary**

Construction of the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line will occur in accordance with the descriptions provided in MPR request #4, NTP request #11, and Section B.3.1.3, Project Description in the Final EIR/EIS. The information described in these documents includes specific details pertaining to excavation, disturbance areas, material staging and storage, pole installation, and conductor pulling.

Construction of the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line is anticipated to take approximately 60 work days to complete, with work activities taking place intermittently beginning in December 2013 and ending in November 2014. Temporary impact areas associated with the Section 4 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line will be restored following construction; all temporary facilities and Project-generated waste, trash, and debris will be removed from the site.

We respectfully request authorization of this NTP request by December 6, 2013, so that we can meet the Project schedule. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,

Don Houston

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SDG&E Environmental Project Manager

Attachment A: Section 4 Overview Map

cc: Kirstie Reynolds, SDG&E

David Hochart, Dudek

Anne Marie McGraw, Insignia Environmental

Jeffry Coward, Insignia Environmental

## **ATTACHMENT A: SECTION 4 OVERVIEW MAP**



