



TIE-LINE 637 WOOD-TO-STEEL PROJECT
MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT
REQUEST FORM

Date Requested:	April 24, 2014	Report #:	003
Date Approved:	April 29, 2014	Approval Agency:	No other agency approval required.
Property Owner(s):	SDG&E Right-of-Way (ROW)	Location/Milepost:	Stringing Site No. 5
Land Use/ Vegetative Cover:	The proposed impact area occurs primarily within non-native grassland and disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat.	Sensitive Resources:	Sensitive habitats including non-native grassland and disturbed coastal sage scrub.
Refinement / Modification From (check all that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan/Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Specification	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Stringing Site			
San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) is proposing to utilize a different temporary workspace for Stringing Site No. 5 (SS-5), located near Structure No. P29 within Simon Park (County of San Diego), than the workspace area that was originally described within SDG&E's application for a Permit to Construct (PTC) for the TL 637 Project (refer to Proponent's Environmental Assessment [PEA] Appendix 3-B) and the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (refer to MND Attachment A).			
Description of Refinement			
SDG&E proposes to use a different temporary workspace for SS-5 near Structure No. P29 in order to safely and successfully conduct stringing activities. The proposed modification splits and shifts the stringing site into two separate areas (referred to as the western and northern areas herein), adjacent to an existing access road, instead of utilizing the originally proposed area located between Structure Nos. P29 and P30 (see Figure 1). The western area is located to the southwest of Structure No. P29 and is approximately 7,203 square feet, while the northern area is located north of Structure No. P29 and is approximately 4,340 square feet, comprising a total area of approximately 11,543 square feet. The original SS-5 temporary workspace area would have impacted approximately 22,500 square feet.			
Figure 2 depicts the proposed new temporary workspaces for SS-5. Photograph Nos. 1 and 2 depict the proposed new western area, while Photograph Nos. 3 and 4 depict the proposed new northern area.			
Original Condition:			
SS-5 was originally planned to be located within a 150 foot by 150 foot area between Structure Nos. P29 and P30 within Simon Park (refer to Figure 1).			
Justification for Change:			
Following in-field review of the stringing site, construction crews identified potential logistical and safety concerns with utilizing the originally planned temporary workspace for SS-5 (refer to Figure 1). The modified SS-5 temporary workspace areas are advantageous to using the existing SS-5 temporary workspace because it is safer for construction personnel, the area is more conducive to the proposed work activities, and will result in less anticipated environmental impacts to sensitive resources.			

Maps and Figures

Figure 1 (extracted from PEA Appendix 3-B, Sheet 5 of 50) depicts the originally proposed temporary workspace area for Stringing Site No. 5. Figure 2 depicts the proposed new temporary workspace areas for Stringing Site No. 5 divided into two areas near Structure No. P29.



Figure 1: MPR Overview Map



Figure 2: Aerial image of proposed Stringing Site No. 5 modification.



Photograph 1: View of proposed Stringing Site No. 5, western area, facing Southwest



Photograph 2: View of proposed Stringing Site No. 5, western area, facing West



Photograph 3: View of proposed Stringing Site No. 5, northern area, facing North



Photograph 4: View of proposed Stringing Site No. 5, northern area, facing North

Environmental Impact:

Utilization of the new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 near Structure No. P29 in place of the originally identified stringing site area (SS-5) would not change the nature or increase the severity of any impacts disclosed within the TL 637 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) MND; would not result in alteration to Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs); would not alter existing mitigation measures; would not require new mitigation measures; and would not require new permits, new regulatory approval, or other new regulatory consultation. Additionally, utilization of the new proposed temporary workspace for SS-5 is anticipated to reduce total temporary impacts for the Project due to the smaller combined area of the two temporary workspaces, compared to the originally identified temporary workspace for SS-5. Specific discussions for each resource area are provided below.

Concurrence:

The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 are located within close proximity to the original SS-5 location. The modified SS-5 area is smaller in size than the original SS-5 area analyzed in the CEQA review process. No concurrence is required for the proposed MPR.

Resources:			
Biological	<input type="checkbox"/> No Resources Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Present	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<p>Previous Biological Survey Report Reference: Biological resources along the Project alignment were studied, reviewed, and documented as part of SDG&E's application for a PTC for the TL 637 Project (see TL 637 PTC Application, Volume II of II, Appendix 4.4-A). These resources were also discussed within the CPUC-conducted CEQA review process (see the TL 637 Final MND).</p> <p>The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 have been re-evaluated for biological resources. No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed modification to SS-5. The proposed impact area occurs primarily within disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat and non-native grassland.</p> <p>Attachment A contains a map showing resources within the vicinity of the original and proposed new SS-5. There are no aquatic, cultural, or paleontological resources present within the area.</p> <p>Aquatic Resources: As designed, the proposed stringing site will avoid Federal and State jurisdictional waters in the area and approval would not be required. No additional minimization measures or aquatic resource monitoring would be required beyond what was included within the TL 637 Final MND.</p>			
Cultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Resources Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Within Project Component
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A (paved/graveled area or no ground disturbance)		
<p>Previous Cultural Survey Report Reference: Cultural and paleontological resources along the Project alignment were studied, reviewed, and documented as part of SDG&E's application for a PTC for the TL 637 Project (see TL 637 PTC Application, Volume II of II, Appendix 4.5-A and the Inventory of Cultural Resources submitted as Response to CPUC Data Request No. 1). These resources were also discussed within the CPUC-conducted CEQA review process (see the TL 637 Final MND).</p> <p>No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed activities. The proposed area has been surveyed for potential resources by an archaeologist and no resources were identified. As no ground disturbance (solely overland travel) is proposed, a cultural monitor will not be required for utilization of the modified stringing site. No impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed activities.</p> <p>The location of cultural resources is confidential and as such a map showing the known resources in the vicinity has not been included. However, such a map can be provided under confidential cover if needed.</p>			
Disturbance Acreage Changes?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Original Disturbance Acreage: The previously contemplated temporary workspace area for SS-5 would have resulted in a disturbance area of approximately 22,500 square feet (area calculated assuming area was 150 feet long by 150 feet wide between Structure Nos. P29 and P30 – refer to Figure 1).</p> <p>New Disturbance Acreage: The proposed new temporary workspace areas for SS-5 are anticipated to result in a disturbance area of approximately 11,543 square feet (western area is approximately 7,203 square feet and the northern area is approximately 4,340 square feet). This would result in a reduction of temporary impacts of approximately 10,957 square feet as a result of the proposed construction activities.</p>			

CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not affect any of the CEQA criterion relating to geology, soils, or seismicity. No ground disturbance work would be required in order to utilize the area. Site preparation would consist of vegetation trimming within the footprint of proposed activities and the area would be used for parking equipment and for wire pulling activities. The modified stringing site area would be designed and constructed in a similar manner as other stringing sites included as part of the TL 637 project. Applicable design standards, applicable APMs relating to geology, soils, and seismicity would be applied to the stringing site area and would not be required to be altered, expanded, or otherwise changed in order to ensure that new no impacts would result. When the stringing site area is no longer needed for construction activities, the disturbed area will be restored, as needed and as appropriate, to approximate pre-construction conditions. The area will be raked by laborers in order to prepare for potential hydro-seeding, if required.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 near Structure No. P29 would not require agency consultation relating to geology, soils, or seismicity.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Utilization of the modified SS-5 temporary workspace areas would not require any new potentially hazardous materials to be used, would not create any new hazardous waste not disclosed within the CEQA review process, would not expose any sensitive receptors not previously identified, and would not create any new hazard not previously disclosed. The modified SS-5 area was determined to be safer for construction personnel than the originally planned SS-5 area. Applicable design standards, applicable APMs, and mitigation measures relating to hazards and hazardous materials would be applicable to the modified SS-5 area and would not be required to be altered, expanded, or otherwise changed in order to ensure that no impacts would result.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to hazards or hazardous materials.
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p>Utilization of the proposed modification to SS-5 in place of the originally planned SS-5 area would not affect hydrology and water quality in a manner different from the impacts assessed as part of the CEQA review process. Appropriate stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed and maintained throughout the proposed construction activities, including during utilization of the proposed modification to SS-5.</p> <p>Pre-construction vegetation will be documented and a post-construction analysis will be conducted. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) closure recommendation will include installing hydroseeding with Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM) if post-construction conditions reveal that vegetation has been removed/damaged and needs to be restored. Any topsoil removed will be stockpiled, preserved, and properly protected per SDG&E's BMP Manual; to be used for vegetation restoration.</p>
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to hydrology or water quality.

CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p>No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed activities. The proposed area has been surveyed for potential resources by an archaeologist and no resources were identified. As no ground disturbance (solely overland travel) is proposed, a cultural monitor will not be required for utilization of the modified stringing site.</p> <p>No impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated to occur as a result the proposed activities.</p>
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Existing APMs adequately address the potential for impacts to cultural resources. No agency or tribal consultation would be required.
Traffic and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Constructing the new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not affect traffic and circulation in a manner different from the impacts assessed as part of the CEQA review process. The modified SS-5 area would be constructed utilizing construction crews and equipment that is already present on the project. No new traffic on public roadways would be generated as the site occurs within close proximity to the originally contemplated SS-5 within Simon Park.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to traffic and circulation.
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would be established utilizing construction crews and equipment that are already active on the TL 637 project. Any change in the anticipated air emissions would be negligible as the increase in use of equipment to establish the modified SS-5 area would be comparable to the level of effort that would have been required to establish the originally contemplated SS-5 area between Structure No. P29 and P30.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to air quality.
Noise and Vibration	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 are not located near noise sensitive areas (residences). No new or altered APMs or mitigation measures would be required.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to noise and vibration.
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	No permanent change in impacts to visual resources would result from utilization of the proposed modification to SS-5. Temporary impacts would not differ from those analyzed and disclosed within the CEQA review process.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to visual resources.
Vegetation and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5. The proposed impact area occurs primarily within non-native grassland and disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat. Some vegetation trimming within the footprint of proposed activities will be required. These impacts are expected to result in a lower amount of temporary

CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
		<p>impacts to sensitive habitats than the proposed construction of the original stringing site area which occurs within native coastal sage scrub habitat and non-native grassland.</p> <p>The proposed western stringing site area will consist of approximately 700 square feet of disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat dominated by California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>), sawtooth goldenbush (<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>), and cheat grass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) and 6,503 square feet of non-native grassland habitat dominated by cheat grass and common sand aster (<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>). The proposed northern stringing site area consists of approximately 400 square feet of disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat dominated by California buckwheat, sawtooth goldenbush, and deerweed (<i>Acmispon glaber</i>) and approximately 3,940 square feet of non-native grassland habitat dominated by cheat grass. No sensitive biological resources, including nesting birds, were observed during the field visit.</p> <p>Although the proposed temporary workspace for SS-5 consists of approximately 11,500 square feet of sensitive habitat types, the proposed modification of SS-5 will result in an overall reduction of temporary impacts to sensitive habitat from the original impact of 22,500 square feet; therefore, no increased impacts to biological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed modification.</p>
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The new proposed temporary workspace areas for SS-5 would not require agency consultation relating to vegetation, wildlife, or other biological resources.

Resource Agency Coordination / Approvals				
Resource Agency	Date	Name (print)	Signature	
N/A				<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed
				<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved with Conditions (see below) <input type="checkbox"/> Denied

For CPUC Compliance Manager Use Only		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refinement Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Refinement Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond Authority

Conditions of Approval or Reason for Denial

Prepared by:

Date:

Minor Project Refinement Definitions

Project refinements are strictly limited to minor changes that will not trigger less restrictive or new discretionary permit requirements, that do not increase or create impacts, and that comply with the intent of the mitigation measures.

Project Change Level	Description	Example
Level 1 (Minor Change)	Temporary actions that will not affect biological or cultural resources or deviate from APMs, MMs, or permit requirements; use of existing private resources (i.e., private road, well) with permission	Temporary use of an existing access road, storage yard, well, hydrant, etc. not associated with current project
Level 2 (Major Change)	Changes to established mitigation protocols or project activities due to new information or improved techniques that result in temporary, insignificant impacts on resources	Installing additional disposal sites; road widening or additional grading; changes to seed mix for restoration if does not significantly alter final targeted vegetation composition
Petition for Modification	Significant, long-term changes to construction plan or mitigation protocol that require additional biological or cultural surveys or verification; discovery of omissions or errors in project documents (permits, MMs, APMs) that jeopardize biological or cultural resources; discovery of new and significant biological or cultural resources that require new avoidance measures	Construction of a new access road or bridge; discovery of new sensitive species or habitat not initially described in project documents; changes to seed mix for restoration that significantly alter final targeted vegetation composition