

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office

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Memorandum

To: Field Manager, El Centro Field Office

From: Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office

Subject: Agency Findings and Determinations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Project: ECO Substation Project Minor Project Refinement 5, San Diego County, California

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has proposed one minor project refinement (MPRs) on private land to the approved ECO Substation (Project) as analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIR/EIS).

MPR #5: SDG&E proposes to increase the permanent footprint of the Boulevard Substation rebuild site by approximately 10 feet on the south and east sides of the approved substation footprint, resulting in an increase in the permanent footprint by approximately 0.43 acre. This increased permanent footprint will include the installation of a retaining wall and expanded swale located on the western side of the site. In addition, minor refinements are proposed to the access road and culvert under Old Highway 80.

Because these changes will not result in any changes to the location of facilities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands, these changes are not being processed as a Variance Request. However, they have been reviewed pursuant to the BLM's obligations under the Project's Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement¹ fully executed on August 14, 2012.

Identification and evaluation efforts for the Project are described in the BLM Class III inventory report prepared in support of this Project, *Prehistoric Artifact Scatters, Bedrock Milling Stations and Tin Can Dumps: Results of a Cultural Resources Study for the SDG&E East County Substation Project, San Diego County, California* (Berryman and Whittaker 2010), and a supplemental preconstruction survey of the Domingo Lake Construction Yard, *Cultural Resources Survey of the Border to Boulevard Corridor (Partial Underground corridor) Fly Yard for the East County Substation Project, San Diego County, California* (Williams 2011). In

¹ Memorandum of Agreement among the Bureau of Land Management-California, The United States Army Corps of Engineers, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the East County Substation Project, San Diego County, California (August 14, 2012).

accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement, the area covered by MPR #5 has been surveyed during both Class III inventory survey and by ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) personnel in accordance with the final *Management Plan for Archaeological Monitoring, Post-Review Discovery, and Unanticipated Effects for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) East County (ECO) Substation Project, Jacumba, San Diego County, California*, January 2013 (Management Plan). No archaeological sites were found in any of the refinement areas covered by MPR request #5. The proposed culvert work will occur within a portion of Old Highway 80 that does not contribute to the site's overall eligibility (Krintz 2012). This is documented in their confidential letter report to Mr. Jeff Sahagun dated June 27, 2013. In regards to MPR #5, Mr. Brian Williams, Senior Archaeologist of ASM, makes the following recommendations:

“Based on this analysis, it is my recommendation that MPR request #5 will not result in any impacts to significant cultural resources and that no additional Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) would be required by the proposed changes.”

Pursuant to the Project's Memorandum of Agreement, BLM professional cultural resources staff has reviewed MPR #5. The BLM concurs with the contractor's recommendations and based on their letter report, the Memorandum of Agreement, and the BLM's Record of Decision (ROD) for this Project, compliance with the following actions are required as part of SDG&E's implementation of these changes:

- **CUL-1A – Develop and Implement a Historic Properties Treatment Plan-Cultural Resources Management Plan.**
- **CUL-1D – Construction Monitoring.**
- **CUL-1E – Discovery of Unknown Resources.**
- **CUL-2 – Human Remains.**
- **SDG&E will also continue to comply with all other relevant cultural resources protection and treatment measures as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement and the ROD as appropriate.**

All archaeological sites and all potentially culturally sensitive areas that are within 100 feet of construction activities shall be demarked as ESAs and protected as exclusionary zones. Additionally, archaeological and Native American monitors are to be on-site during the temporary fencing prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of the site and will be maintained and monitored for the duration of the work effort in the ESA vicinity.

Prior Section 106 review and consultation for the Project's Memorandum of Agreement provide that the required conditions and mitigation measures listed above are adequate to identify and protect historic properties on public lands that might be affected by the aforementioned MPR. Therefore, the BLM staff archaeologist has recommended that there would be no adverse effect on historic properties if the above measures are implemented.

The BLM makes the following findings for this undertaking.

1. **The activities covered by the MPR will take place within the originally defined APE for the Project.**

2. The BLM finds that there will be *no adverse effects to historic properties* provided the above mitigation measures are implemented as required by the Memorandum of Agreement and the ROD.
3. Accordingly, the MPR are covered by the prior consultations for the Project. No additional consultation is required pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act.

This memorandum documents the recommendations of the cultural resources staff, the acceptance of these recommendations by the Agency Official (as defined in 36 CFR §800.2(a), Protection of Historic Properties), and constitutes the formal statement of Agency findings and determinations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with respect to the aforementioned minor project refinement.

Recommended by:

JEFF SAHAGUN
Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office

7/16/13
Date

Reviewed by:

Carrie Simmons
Reviewing Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office

7/16/13
Date

Acceptance by the Agency Official:

Thomas R. Dale
Field Manager, El Centro Field Office

7/16/2013
Date