

SDG&E 5/7/10 Response
A.09-08-003 East County Substation (ECO) PTC
Energy Division Data Request 7 Dated April 28, 2010
SDGE-ED-007: Q1

Permanent Impact Acreage along the 138 kV Transmission Line

On page 3-69 of the SDG&E PEA for the ECO Substation Project (August 2009) text under **Pole or Structure Brushing** states that a 150-foot-diameter area is normally cleared around transmission line poles in order to remove vegetation, to increase aerial patrol effectiveness, and to reduce fire damage. This 150-foot-diameter cleared area would seemingly be permanently impacted. Assuming 107 transmission structures for the ECO 138 kV transmission line, cumulative cleared area for transmission structures adds up to 43.5 acres of permanent impacts.

Question 1:

In Section 4.4 (Biology) of the PEA, the text on 4.4-42 assumes 4.7 acres of permanent impacts associated with the 138 kV transmission line. Please explain why the 150-foot-diameter area around each pole is not considered in the calculation for permanent impacts to vegetation communities. Please provide a map identifying where the permanent impacts associated with the 138 kV transmission line would occur along the alignment.

SDG&E's Response to Question 1:

The 150-foot diameter area around each pole was to be cleared of larger woody vegetation, not maintained free of all vegetation. As a result, it was not included in the permanent impacts calculation. However, SDG&E would like to clarify that the temporary work areas identified in Attachment 3-A: 138 kV Transmission Line Route Map will be used as permanent maintenance pads in accordance with SDG&E design standards. As a result these areas should be included in the total calculation of permanent impacts. These areas will require some limited grading, which has been mapped on a preliminary basis. This mapped information and associated impact calculations will be submitted to the CPUC on May 7, 2010. Since these permanent work areas will be constructed, the 150-foot diameter brushed area around poles will no longer be required.