Revised East County Substation Footprint
Vegetation and Drainage Impacts

Prepared for:

SDGE
A Sempra Energy utility℠

Prepared by:

INSIGNIA ENVIRONMENTAL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On August 11, 2009, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) to obtain a Permit to Construct from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the East County (ECO) Substation Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project includes the following components:

1. 500/230/138 kilovolt (kV) ECO Substation
2. Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in, a short loop-in of the existing SWPL transmission line to the proposed ECO Substation
3. 138 kV transmission line, approximately 13.3 miles in length, running between the proposed ECO Substation and the rebuilt Boulevard Substation
4. Boulevard Substation rebuild

In November of 2009, an additional cultural resource survey of the ECO Substation site and 138 kV transmission line right-of-way (ROW) was conducted by HDR/e^2M. The results of the survey revealed previously unidentified potentially sensitive cultural resources located within the boundary of the ECO Substation site. In order to avoid adverse effects to these potentially sensitive cultural resources, SDG&E is proposing to shift the footprint of the ECO Substation, which would consequently alter the location and design of the SWPL loop-in and the 138 kV transmission line. The changes to each of these Proposed Project components are discussed in detail in the Revised East County Substation Footprint Project Description that was submitted to the CPUC on April 30, 2010. These proposed changes would also result in changes to permanent and temporary impacts to vegetation and major drainage features, as discussed further in this document.

1.1 VEGETATION

1.1.0 Temporary Impacts

As discussed in Section 4.4 Biological Resources of the PEA, approximately 8.3 acres of mixed desert scrub and 16.6 acres of juniper woodland habitat would be temporarily removed during the construction of the ECO Substation, SWPL loop-in structures, access roads, and associated grading. Due to the ECO Substation footprint shift, approximately 11.6 acres of mixed desert scrub and approximately 14.4 acres of juniper woodland habitat would be temporarily removed during construction, as opposed to approximately 8.3 acres and approximately 16.6 acres described in the PEA. Therefore, approximately 3.3 additional acres of mixed desert scrub and 2.2 fewer acres of juniper woodland habitat would be temporarily impacted. No other vegetation communities would be temporarily impacted by these Proposed Project components.

Temporary impacts from the 138 kV transmission line design changes on vegetation are being assessed and will be provided to the CPUC on or before May 14, 2010.

1.1.1 Permanent Impacts

As discussed in Section 4.4 Biological Resources of the PEA, approximately 14.5 acres of mixed desert scrub and 74.3 acres of juniper woodland habitat would be permanently removed during

the construction of the ECO Substation, SWPL loop-in structures, access roads, and associated grading.

Due to the ECO Substation footprint shift, approximately 35.4 acres of mixed desert scrub and 62.4 acres of juniper woodland habitat would be permanently removed during construction, as opposed to approximately 14.5 acres and approximately 74.3 acres described in the PEA. Therefore, approximately 20.9 additional acres of mixed desert scrub and approximately 11.9 fewer acres of juniper woodland habitat would be permanently impacted. No other vegetation communities would be permanently impacted by these Proposed Project components.

Permanent impacts from the 138 kV transmission line design changes on vegetation are being assessed and will be provided to the CPUC on or before May 14, 2010.

1.2 DRAINAGES

Several desert swales run east to west through the 377-acre site where the ECO Substation and SWPL loop-in structures would be constructed. As discussed in the PEA, a total of approximately 0.5 acre of potentially jurisdictional waters would be permanently filled during construction of the ECO Substation. However, based on refined mapping that was conducted recently, a total of approximately one acre of permanent fill would result from the Proposed Project. Due to the ECO Substation footprint shift, approximately 0.7 acre of potentially jurisdictional waters would be permanently filled from construction of the substation, SWPL loop-in, access roads, and associated grading, resulting in a reduction of approximately 0.3 acre of impacts. Though not reported in the PEA, approximately 0.2 acre of potentially jurisdictional waters would be temporarily impacted as a result of these Proposed Project components, as opposed to approximately 0.3 acre that would result from the footprint as proposed in the PEA.

The changes to the work pads and access associated with the redesign of the 138 kV transmission line may result in additional impacts to waters that are currently being evaluated. Further, undergrounding of the transmission line from the riser pole to the rebuilt Boulevard Substation may also result in impacts to a potentially jurisdictional water. These impacts are being assessed and will be provided to the CPUC on or before May 14, 2010.