



# County of San Diego

ERIC GIBSON  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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March 23, 2010

### CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form (Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G Rev. 10/04)

1. **Title:** ESJ-US Generation Tie-Line Project  
**Project Number:** 3300-09-008  
**Environmental Log Number:** ER. 09-22-001
2. **Lead agency name and address:**  
County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B,  
San Diego, CA 92123-1666
3. **Contact Patrick Brown** Project Manager  
**Phone number:** (858) 694-3011  
**E-mail:** Patrick.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov.
4. **Project location:**  
  
Address: Old Highway 80, Jacumba, Mountain Empire Subregional Planning Area  
  
Thomas Brothers Coordinates: Page 430, Grid F/9  
  
County Project Parcels: 661-090-04, 661-090-05, 661-090-06, 661-090-10  
ECO Sub Parcels: 661-050-04, 661-041-04, 661-041-05  
County Access Parcels: 661-041-03, 661-041-02, 661-808-08

**5. Project Applicant name and address:**

ESJ U.S. Transmission LLC.  
Joan Heredia, Permitting Manager  
Sempra Global  
101 Ash Street, HQO8B  
San Diego, CA 92101

- 6. General Plan Designation:** Regional Category 1.4 Rural Development Area (RDA)  
**Community Plan:** Mountain Empire Subregional Planning Area  
**Land Use Designation:** Non-Urban Residential Land Use Designation of Multiple Rural Use (18)  
**Density:** 4-8-20 du/ per acre(s)

**7. Zoning**

Use Regulation: General Rural (S-92)  
Minimum Lot Size: 8 acre(s), Density .125  
Special Area Regulation: NA

- 8. Description of project:** The project is a proposed Major Use Permit for Major Impact Services and Utilities pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Section 1350. The current project description provided to the County proposes two alternatives a single circuit 500kV route alternative (A1) and a 230kV Double Circuit route alternative (A2). The project also proposes anywhere from 3-5 lattice towers ranging from 150' to 170' in height. The project consists of the construction and continued operation of the power poles or lattice towers and the associated generation-tie lines that would connect a proposed Wind Energy Facility located in Northern Baja Mexico to a proposed San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) East County Substation (ECO-SUB). The project site is located on the following parcels; 661-090-(04, 05, 06) 661-080-10 in the Mountain Empire Subregional Community Planning area, within unincorporated San Diego County. The site is subject to the General Plan Regional Category 1.4 Rural Development Area (RDA) and the Non-Urban Residential Land Use Designation of Multiple Rural Use (18). The zoning for the site is General Rural (S-92), and the proposed sites are undeveloped. Access would be provided by a private road connecting to Old Highway 80. The project would not require the extension of any public utilities and does not require sewage treatment. Water for construction purposes would be provided by an on-site well or imported groundwater from the Jacumba Community Service District. The groundwater production would be permitted under a separate Major Use Permit. The approximate earthwork is from 13,612cy (230 Kv) or 18511cy (500Kv) including an export of approximately 8,692cy to 12,147cy of soil. The site access would be provided by an offsite forty foot (40') private road easement that would be graded to a width of twenty-four feet (24'). The existing private road easement would require improvements at the intersection of Old Highway 80 to meet the County Road Standards for intersectional sight distance. An alternative has been proposed that would meet the sight distance, but new easement rights are pending.

**9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):**

Lands surrounding the project site are the US Mexico Border to the South and Large Rural Parcel that are undeveloped to the north west and east. The topography of the project site and adjacent land is slightly sloped with undeveloped with high desert scrub. The site is located within 1.5 miles of Old Highway 80 and 3 miles from Interstate 8.

**10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

<b>Permit Type/Action</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Major Use Permit</b>	<b>County of San Diego</b>
County Right-of-Way Permits Construction Permit Excavation Permit Encroachment Permit	County of San Diego
Grading Permit	County of San Diego
Improvement Plans	County of San Diego
Water Well Permit	County of San Diego
General Construction Storm water Permit	RWQCB
Fire District Approval	San Diego Rural Fire Districts

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project and involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Aesthetics</a>           | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Agricultural Resources</a>                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Air Quality</a>         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Biological Resources</a> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Cultural Resources</a>                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Geology &amp; Soils</a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Hazards &amp; Haz. Materials</a>    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Hydrology &amp; Water Quality</a>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Land Use &amp; Planning</a>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Mineral Resources</a>               | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Noise</a>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Population &amp; Housing</a>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Public Services</a>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Recreation</a>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Transportation/Traffic</a>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Utilities &amp; Service Systems</a> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Mandatory Findings of Significance</a> |   |

**DETERMINATION:** On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and **an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.**

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Signature

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Date

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Patrick Brown  
Printed Name

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Land Use/Environmental Planner  
Title

**I. AESTHETICS** -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

A vista is a view from a particular location or composite views along a roadway or trail. Scenic vistas often refer to views of natural lands, but may also be compositions of natural and developed areas, or even entirely of developed and unnatural areas, such as a scenic vista of a rural town and surrounding agricultural lands. What is scenic to one person may not be scenic to another, so the assessment of what constitutes a scenic vista must consider the perceptions of a variety of viewer groups.

The items that can be seen within a vista are visual resources. Adverse impacts to individual visual resources or the addition of structures or developed areas may or may not adversely affect the vista. Determining the level of impact to a scenic vista requires analyzing the changes to the vista as a whole and also to individual visual resources.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

A Visual Resources Report for the proposed project, dated March 16, 2010, was prepared by ICF Jones & Stokes. Based on the results of the visual resources analysis, the project has been determined to be compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality. The projects potential for effecting visual quality on scenic vistas will be analyzed further in the context of the EIR/EIS.

**Cumulative Impacts:**

The project may result in cumulative impacts on a scenic vistas because the proposed project viewshed and past, present and future projects within that viewshed were evaluated to determine their cumulative effects. Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans - California Scenic Highway Program). Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular right-of-way. The dimension of a scenic highway is usually identified using a motorist's line of vision, but a reasonable

boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon. The scenic highway corridor extends to the visual limits of the landscape abutting the scenic highway.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The California Scenic Highway Law created the California State Scenic Highways Program to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from change that would diminish the aesthetic value of adjacent lands. The program was established by the state legislature through Senate Bill No. 1467 (Farr) in 1963. This bill established the scenic highway advisory committee as the state's primary policy body for recommending program criteria to be used in reviewing local applications and recommending approval of official scenic highway designations. Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors, through special conservation treatment. The state laws governing the scenic highway program are found in the Streets and Highways Code, Sections 260 through 263. The project site is visible from Interstate 8, which is an eligible state scenic highway, although it is not officially designated (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2007).

The project would, to the maximum extent feasible, protect visual features of the site and adjacent lands that contribute to scenic attractiveness, as viewed from Interstate 8, Old Highway 80, and BLM managed lands surrounding the site, by avoiding extensive and severe grading activities, preserving the site's existing natural features such as rock outcroppings and most of the existing vegetation, reducing the visual contrast of grading and vegetation removal activities, preserving the site's dark night sky, and ensuring that existing views would not be blocked. The project would to the maximum extent feasible, protect scenic views from designated scenic highways and recreational areas; therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

**Cumulative Impacts:**

The project may result in cumulative impacts on a scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway because the proposed project viewshed and past, present and future projects within that viewshed were evaluated to determine their cumulative effects. Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. Visual character is based on the organization of the pattern elements line, form, color, and texture. Visual character is commonly discussed in terms of dominance, scale, diversity and continuity. Visual quality is the viewer's perception of the visual

environment and varies based on exposure, sensitivity and expectation of the viewers. A Visual Resources Report for the proposed project, dated March 16, 2010, was prepared by ICF Jones & Stokes. Based on the results of the visual resources analysis, the project has does not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality.

The proposed project would place a transmission line corridor in a relatively undisturbed area of a desert pediment. The project would change the aesthetic of the site by introducing visual elements incongruent with the setting. This includes five transmission line towers that would rise 150 feet above the desert floor, a service road, and five 50- x 50-foot transmission tower pads cleared of vegetation. These features would result in a moderate change in the aesthetic of the landscape. The degree to which these changes would be noticeable, and the effect of these changes on existing visual resources, were evaluated from four viewpoints as discussed in Section 5.3, "Visual Assessment."

Overall, project-induced changes would have the greatest effect on the intactness of the views, in large part because the project would be located on a relatively undisturbed natural element of the view. No matter what the degree of visibility, the project would be noticeable as a cultural modification and would influence the view with its functional corridor. The project would result in moderate changes in visual quality; however, these changes would be less than significant based on the impact thresholds described in Section 5.2, of the Visual Analysis. The projects potential for effecting the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surrounding will be analyzed further in the context of the EIR/EIS.

**Design Considerations:**

Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. However, there would be a moderate change in the aesthetic of the landscape from all KOPs. Moderate effects of the project on visual quality would be primarily the result of incompatible changes to the natural colors, lines, textures, and form in the desert environment. Design features to reduce contrast and emulate these visual elements would help reduce undesirable aesthetic changes resulting from the project. Design features are discussed in Section 7, "Design Considerations of the Visual Analysis."

**Cumulative Impacts:**

The project may result in cumulative impacts on visual character or quality because the entire existing viewshed and a list of past, present and future projects within that viewshed were evaluated. Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The project does not propose any use of outdoor lighting or building materials with highly reflective properties such as highly reflective glass or high-gloss surface colors. Therefore, the project will not create any new sources of light pollution that could contribute to skyglow, light trespass or glare and adversely affect day or nighttime views in area.

**II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project site has land designated as Statewide Importance according to the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). However, based on a site visit and a review of historic aerial photography, there is no evidence of agricultural use on the project site. This date is at least four years prior to the last FMMP mapping date. In order to qualify for the Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance designations, land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the last FMMP mapping date. Given the lack of agricultural use on the site within at least the past 10 years, the Statewide designation of this area according to the State is incorrect. The Farmland designation is likely misapplied as a result of the large scale of the Statewide mapping effort which assigns Farmland designations based on aerial photography and limited ground verification. Therefore, due to the lack of historic agricultural use at the project site, the site does not meet the definition of an agricultural resource and no potentially significant project or cumulative level conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance to a non-agricultural use will occur as a result of this project.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is zoned S-92, which is not considered to be an agricultural zone. Additionally, the project site's land is not under a Williamson Act Contract.



Therefore, the project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site and surrounding area within a radius of 1/4 mile does not contain any active agricultural operations or lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. Therefore, no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, or active agricultural operations will be converted to a non-agricultural use.

**III. AIR QUALITY** -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project proposes development that was anticipated in SANDAG growth projections used in development of the RAQS and SIP. Operation of the project will result in emissions of ozone precursors that were considered as a part of the RAQS based on growth projections. As such, the proposed project is not expected to conflict with either the RAQS or the SIP. In addition, the operational emissions from the project are below the screening levels, and subsequently will not violate ambient air quality standards.

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

## Discussion/Explanation:

In general, air quality impacts from land use projects are the result of emissions from motor vehicles, and from short-term construction activities associated with such projects. The San Diego County Land Use Environment Group (LUEG) has established guidelines for determining significance which incorporate the Air Pollution Control District's (SDAPCD) established screening-level criteria for all new source review (NSR) in APCD Rule 20.2. These screening-level criteria can be used as numeric methods to demonstrate that a project's total emissions (e.g. stationary and fugitive emissions, as well as emissions from mobile sources) would not result in a significant impact to air quality. Since APCD does not have screening-level criteria for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the use of the screening level for reactive organic compounds (ROC) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for the Coachella Valley (which are more appropriate for the San Diego Air Basin) are used.

**Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** The project proposes 5 lattice towers or monopoles and conductor along an approximately 0.63 mile length north of the United States-Mexico border in the Mountain Empire Subregional Planning area. The proposed Gen-Tie facility would transmit electricity whenever wind power has been generated by the facility in Mexico. In order to construct the facility, a total of 14,729 cubic yards of dirt would be excavated and a total of 2,602 cubic yards would be filled. The remaining 12,147 cubic yards of dirt would be exported. However, grading operations associated with the construction of the project would be subject to County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, which requires the implementation of dust control measures. These measures include:

- a. All haul/dump trucks leaving the site with soil or fill material must maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard or cover loads of all haul/dump trucks securely.
- b. Dust control measures of the Grading Ordinance will be enhanced with a minimum of three (3) daily applications of water to the construction areas, between dozer/scrapper passes and on any unpaved roads within the project limits.
- c. Grading is to be terminated in winds exceed 25 mph.
- d. Sweepers and water trucks shall be used to control dust and debris at public street access points.
- e. Dirt storage piles will be stabilized by chemical binders, tarps, fencing or other suppression measures.
- f. Internal construction-roadways will be stabilized by paving, chip sealing or chemicals after rough grading.

Emissions from the construction phase would be minimal, temporary and localized, resulting in pollutant emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance. In addition, the vehicle trips generated from the project construction would result in approximately 50 Average Daily Trips (ADT). Operation of the project would result in approximately 2 to 3 workers accessing

the site on a periodic basis. According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans, projects that generate less than 2,000 ADT are below the screening-level criteria established by the guidelines for criteria pollutants. As such, the project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Potential impacts to air quality will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

### Cumulative Impacts:

The project may result in cumulative impacts to air quality refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

### Discussion/Explanation:

San Diego County is presently in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). San Diego County is also presently in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) under the CAAQS. O<sub>3</sub> is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) react in the presence of sunlight. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of PM<sub>10</sub> in both urban and rural areas include: motor vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** Air quality emissions associated with the project include emissions of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs from construction/grading activities, and also as the result of increase of traffic from project implementation. However, grading operations associated with the construction of the project would be subject to County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, which requires the implementation of dust control measures. These mitigation measures include:

- a. All haul/dump trucks leaving the site with soil or fill material must maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard or cover loads of all haul/dump trucks securely.
- b. Dust control measures of the Grading Ordinance will be enhanced with a minimum of three (3) daily applications of water to the construction areas, between dozer/scrapper passes and on any unpaved roads within the project limits.

- c. Grading is to be terminated in winds exceed 25 mph.
- d. Sweepers and water trucks shall be used to control dust and debris at public street access points.
- e. Dirt storage piles will be stabilized by chemical binders, tarps, fencing or other suppression measures.
- f. Internal construction-roadways will be stabilized by paving, chip sealing or chemicals after rough grading.

Emissions from the construction phase would be minimal, localized and temporary resulting in PM<sub>10</sub> and VOC emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance. The vehicle trips generated from the project construction would result in 50 Average Daily Trips (ADTs). Operation of the project would result in approximately 2 to 3 workers accessing the site on a periodic basis. According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans, projects that generate less than 2,000 ADT are below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance. Potential impacts to air quality will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

#### **Cumulative Impacts:**

The proposed project would have emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance and is not expected to create a cumulatively considerable impact nor a considerable net increase of PM<sub>10</sub>, or any O<sub>3</sub> precursors. The project may result in cumulative impact to air quality refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

#### **Discussion/Explanation:**

Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as schools (Preschool-12<sup>th</sup> Grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The County of San Diego also considers residences as sensitive receptors since they house children and the elderly

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Based on a review of the project site and surrounding area, no sensitive receptors have been identified within a quarter-mile (the radius determined by the SCAQMD in which the dilution of pollutants is typically significant) occur of the proposed project. Further, the proposed project will not generate significant

levels of air pollutants. As such, the project will not expose sensitive populations to excessive levels of air pollutants.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project could produce objectionable odors, which would result from volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, methane, alcohols, aldehydes, amines, carbonyls, esters, disulfides dust and endotoxins from the construction and operational phases. However, these substances, if present at all, would only be in trace amounts (less than  $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Subsequently, no significant air quality – odor impacts are expected to affect surrounding receptors. Moreover, the affects of objectionable odors are localized to the immediate surrounding area and will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable odor.

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** Based on a Biological Technical Report (EDAW, Inc., February 2010) and a site visit by County Staff Biologist Ashley Gungle on June 25, 2009, the project site is currently vacant and is surrounded by gently sloping, undeveloped land which becomes steeply sloping to the east of the project site. Habitats within the project survey area consist of 46.38 acres of Sonoran mixed woody scrub, 14.85 acres of peninsular juniper woodland and scrub and 3.97 acres of disturbed habitat. Two sensitive wildlife species and no sensitive plant species were observed onsite: California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*). Although not directly observed, two sensitive wildlife species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*) were determined to have a high potential to occur in the project area. Protocol surveys were performed for Quino checkerspot butterfly in 2008 and 2009 with negative results. An additional protocol survey for the Quino checkerspot butterfly will be performed in 2010. The project will also be conditioned to conduct pre-construction protocol Quino checkerspot butterfly surveys as well as pre-construction protocol burrowing owl surveys. Focused rare plant surveys were conducted in January, March and April of 2008. No rare plants were detected.

Implementation of the project will result in permanent impacts to a maximum of 6.62 acres of Sonoran mixed woody scrub and a maximum of 2.29 acres of peninsular juniper woodland and scrub from the construction of a maximum of five lattice towers and an associated access road to the project site. To mitigate for loss of habitat, the project will be conditioned to provide for the conservation of 13.49 acres of compensatory habitat of like function to the impacted habitat. The project applicant has proposed the conservation of 13.49 acres to the east of the project site and adjacent to BLM lands in Imperial County. It is anticipated that these conservation lands will ultimately be conveyed to BLM for their long-term management. In the interim, ESJ LLC will identify a Resource Manager to be approved by the Department of Planning and Land Use who will monitor and manage the conserved land in accordance with a Resource Management Plan.

Therefore, staff has determined that although the site supports native biological habitat, implementation of the mitigation measures described above will ensure that removal of this habitat will not result in substantial adverse effects, or have a cumulatively considerable impact to species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Cumulative Impacts:**

County staff has reviewed the past, present, and probable future projects as listed in Section XVII(b) and has determined that the cumulative loss of Sonoran mixed woody scrub and peninsular juniper woodland and scrub may cause a significant impact on candidate, sensitive, or special status species. However, this project's contribution to the cumulative habitat loss will be less than cumulatively considerable due to the conservation of biological resources on a compensatory mitigation site containing like functioning habitat. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** The project site contains Sonoran mixed woody scrub and peninsular juniper woodland and scrub, which are considered sensitive natural communities by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As detailed in response a) above, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to sensitive natural communities identified in the County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance, Fish and Game Code, and Endangered Species Act are considered less than significant through the conservation of compensatory lands as stated above in section (a).

**Cumulative Impacts:**

County staff has reviewed the past, present, and probable future projects as listed in Section XVII(b) and has determined that the cumulative loss of Sonoran mixed woody scrub and peninsular juniper woodland and scrub may cause a significant impact on candidate, sensitive, or special status species. However, this project's contribution to the cumulative habitat loss will be less than cumulatively considerable due to the conservation of biological resources on a compensatory mitigation site containing like functioning habitat. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

Based on a site visit conducted by County staff biologist Ashley Gungle on June 25, 2009, and as supported by the Biological Resources Report dated February, 2010 and prepared by EDAW, Inc., staff has been determined that the proposed project site does not contain any wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, stream, lake, river or water of the U.S., that could potentially be impacted through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, diversion or obstruction by the proposed development. Therefore, no impacts will occur to wetlands defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Based on an analysis of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) records, a staff site visit on June 25, 2009 and a Biological Resources Report dated February, 2010 prepared by EDAW, Inc., staff biologist, Ashley Gungle, has determined that impedance of the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, the use of an established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, and the use of native wildlife nursery sites would not be expected as a result of the proposed project for the following reasons: The project design includes widely spaced Gen-Tie towers, which will not substantially interfere with connectivity of

existing habitat or block or interfere with a local or regional wildlife corridor or linkage. Project design will provide a minimum separation of 60 inches between phase conductors which will minimize the potential for avian strikes or electrocution as the majority of avian species have wing spans which do not exceed this width. In addition, there are existing features which have the potential to interfere with north to south wildlife movement and preclude the use of this area for wildlife movement including Old Highway 80, Interstate 8 and the U.S. Mexico International Border Fence.

**NOTE TO STAFF:**

**Discussion/Explanation may be subject to change based on further information to be provided by the PUC regarding migratory birds.**

- e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Refer to the County Ordinance Compliance Responses below for further information on consistency with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan, including, Habitat Management Plans (HMP), Special Area Management Plans (SAMP), or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources including the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Biological Mitigation Ordinance, Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), Habitat Loss Permit (HLP).

**ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE RESPONSES:**

**HABITAT LOSS PERMIT ORDINANCE-** Does the proposed project conform to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance findings?

YES

NO

NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

Discussion:

While the proposed project and off-site improvements are located outside of the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Program, the project site and locations of any off-site improvements do not contain habitats subject to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance. Therefore, conformance to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance findings is not required.

**II. MSCP/BMO-** Does the proposed project conform to the Multiple Species Conservation Program and Biological Mitigation Ordinance?



YES  
NO  
NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT  

Discussion:

The proposed project and any off-site improvements related to the proposed project are located outside of the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Program. Therefore, conformance with the Multiple Species Conservation Program and the Biological Mitigation Ordinance is not required.

**IV. RESOURCE PROTECTION ORDINANCE-** Does the project comply with:

The wetland and wetland buffer regulations (Sections 86.604(a) and (b)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Sensitive Habitat Lands section (Section 86.604(f)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

***Wetland and Wetland Buffers:***

The site contains no wetland habitats as defined by the San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance. The site does not have a substratum of predominately-undrained hydric soils, the land does not support, even periodically, hydric plants, nor does the site have a substratum that is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by water at some time during the growing season of each year. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Sections 86.604(a) and (b) of the Resource Protection Ordinance.

***Sensitive Habitats:***

Sensitive habitat lands include unique vegetation communities and/or habitat that is either necessary to support a viable population of sensitive species, is critical to the proper functioning of a balanced natural ecosystem, or which serves as a functioning wildlife corridor. No sensitive habitat lands were identified on the site as determined on a site visit conducted by Ashley Gungle on June 25, 2009. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Section 86.604(f) of the RPO.

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

Based on an analysis of records and a survey of the property by County of San Diego approved archaeologist Stacey Jordon (EDAW) in 2008-2010, it has been determined that there are no impacts to historical resources because they do not occur within the project site. The results of the survey are provided in a cultural resources report titled, *“Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Gen-Tie Line Project, Jacumba, California”*, prepared by Stacey Jordon, dated March 2010

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

**Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:**

The project site has been surveyed by a County of San Diego approved archaeologist Stacey Jordon (EDAW) in 2008-2010, and it has been determined that seventeen cultural resources, 11 sites and six isolates, are located within the project footprint. CA-SDI-6119 is a lithic reduction area with roasting pits. CA-SDI-19480, CA-SDI-19484, CA-SDI-19486, CA-SDI-19488, CA-SDI-19489 and CA-SDI-19492 are lithic reduction areas. CA-SDI-19490 and CA-SDI-19494 are lithic scatters. CA-SDI-19485 is a ceramic scatter. And CA-SDI-19493 is a lithic reduction area with ceramic sherd. Four of the isolates are lithics, and the remaining two are a ceramic isolate and a historic lead ball isolate.

Sites CA-SDI-6119, CA-SDI-19488, CA-SDI-19490, and CA-SDI-19493 will be directly impacted by the proposed project, and CA-SDI-19494 may be indirectly impacted by the project. EDAW evaluated the significance of archaeological resources CA-SDI-6119, CA-SDI-19488, CA-SDI-19490, CA-SDI-19493, and CA-SDI-19494. Based on subsurface testing, analysis of recovered artifacts, and other investigations and has determined that the archaeological resource(s) are not significant pursuant to the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15064.5. Moreover, if the resources are not considered significant archaeological resources pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5 loss of these resources cannot contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. The remaining sites (CA-SDI-19480, CA-SDI-19484, CA-SDI-19485, CA-SDI-19486, CA-SDI-19489, and CA-SDI-19492) can be avoided and will be incorporated in to open space.

An archaeological technical study entitled, *“Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Gen-Tie Line Project, Jacumba, California”*, prepared by Stacey Jordon, dated March 2010, documents the results of the survey and testing.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted for a listing of Native American Tribes whose ancestral lands may be impacted by the project. The tribes listed by the NAHC were received on March 27, 2009 and letters requesting tribal consultation were sent out March 30, 2009. Tribes contacted did not respond. Additionally, EDAW contacted Clint Linton of Red Tail Monitoring and Preston Arrowweed of Au-Mut-Pipa Foundation for consultation. Both declined to participate in the survey and any comments/correspondences are included in the report.

Grading monitoring, consisting of a County-approved archaeologist and Native American observer will be a required condition of project approval because of the proximity of known archaeological sites. In addition, temporary fencing will be required during grading in the vicinity of all sites placed within open space easements (CA-SDI-19480, CA-SDI-19484, CA-SDI-19485, CA-SDI-19486, CA-SDI-19489, and CA-SDI-19492).

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

San Diego County has a variety of geologic environments and geologic processes which generally occur in other parts of the state, country, and the world. However, some features stand out as being unique in one way or another within the boundaries of the County.

**No Impact:** The site does not contain any unique geologic features that have been listed in the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Unique Geology Resources nor does the site support any known geologic characteristics that have the potential to support unique geologic features.

d) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** A review of the County's Paleontological Resources Maps indicates that the project is located entirely on plutonic igneous rock and has no potential for producing fossil remains.

e) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The project site has been surveyed by a County of San Diego approved archaeologist Stacey Jordon (EDAW) in 2008-2010, and it has been determined that seventeen cultural resources, 11 sites and six isolates, are located within the project footprint. No human remains were identified during the survey or testing. The project will not disturb any human remains because the project site does not include a formal cemetery or any archaeological resources that might contain interred human remains. The results of the survey are provided in an archaeological survey report entitled, "Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Gen-Tie Line Project, Jacumba, California", prepared by Stacey Jordon, dated March 2010. In addition, the project must comply with the San Diego County Grading, Clearing, and Watercourse Ordinance (§87.101-87.804), CEQA §15064.5(d), and §7050.5 of the Health & Safety Code. Section 87.429 of the Grading, Clearance, and Watercourse Ordinance requires the suspension of grading operations when human remains or Native American artifacts are encountered.

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS** -- Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1997, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California, or located within any other area with substantial evidence of a known fault. Therefore, there will be no impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from a known fault-rupture hazard zone as a result of this project.

- ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** To ensure the structural integrity of all buildings and structures, the project must conform to the Seismic Requirements as outlined within the California Building Code. The County Code requires a soils compaction report with proposed foundation recommendations to be approved before the issuance of a building

permit. Therefore, compliance with the California Building Code and the County Code ensures the project will not result in a potentially significant impact from the exposure of people or structures to potential adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** The project site is located within a "Potential Liquefaction Area" as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. Feasible foundation designs exist that can mitigate the liquefaction hazard (including liquefaction-induced lateral spreading). Prior to issuance of building permits, a geotechnical study shall be reviewed and approved which specifies foundation design (if necessary) adequate to preclude substantial damage to the proposed structure(s) due to liquefaction. With a site-specific engineering design, impacts due to liquefaction would be less than significant. The potential effect of liquefaction will be further reviewed in the EIR/EIS.

iv. Landslides?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is not within a "Landslide Susceptibility Area" as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. Landslide Susceptibility Areas were developed based on landslide risk profiles included in the *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, San Diego, CA* (URS, 2004). Landslide risk areas from this plan were based on data including steep slopes (greater than 25%); soil series data (SANDAG based on USGS 1970s series); soil-slip susceptibility from USGS; and Landslide Hazard Zone Maps (limited to western portion of the County) developed by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG). Also included within Landslide Susceptibility Areas are gabbroic soils on slopes steeper than 15% in grade because these soils are slide prone. Since the project is not located within an identified Landslide Susceptibility Area and the geologic environment has a low probability to become unstable, the project would have no impact from the exposure of people or structures to potential adverse effects from landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** According to the Soil Survey of San Diego County, the soils on-site are identified as Quaternary Alluvium 21 that has a soil erodibility rating of “moderate” *and/or* “severe” as indicated by the Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, prepared by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Forest Service dated December 1973. However, the project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil for the following reasons:

- The project will not result in unprotected erodible soils; will not alter existing drainage patterns; is not located in a floodplain, wetland, or significant drainage feature; and will not develop steep slopes.
- The project has prepared a Storm water Management Plan. The plan includes the following Best Management Practices to ensure sediment does not erode from the project site.
- The project involves grading. However, the project is required to comply with the San Diego County Code of Regulations, Title 8, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, Division 7, Sections 87.414 (DRAINAGE - EROSION PREVENTION) and 87.417 (PLANTING). Compliance with these regulations minimizes the potential for water and wind erosion.

Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil on a project level.

**Cumulative:**

In addition, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact because all the of past, present and future projects included on the list of projects that involve grading or land disturbance are required to follow the requirements of the San Diego County Code of Regulations, Title 8, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, Division 7, Sections 87.414 (DRAINAGE - EROSION PREVENTION) and 87.417 (PLANTING); Order 2001-01 (NPDES No. CAS 0108758), adopted by the San Diego Region RWQCB on February 21, 2001; County Watershed Protection, Storm Water Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO) (Ord. No. 9424); and County Storm water Standards Manual adopted on February 20, 2002, and amended January 10, 2003 (Ordinance No. 9926). Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS

- c) Will the project produce unstable geological conditions that will result in adverse impacts resulting from landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will result in site disturbance and grading of 8,000-13,000 cubic yards. The proposed project is consistent with the geological formations underlying the site. For further information refer to VI Geology and Soils, Question a., i-iv listed above.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project is located on expansive soils as defined within Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). This was confirmed by staff review of the Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, prepared by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Forest Service dated December 1973. The soils on-site are Quaternary Alluvium/21. However, the project will not have any significant impacts because the project is required to comply the improvement requirements identified in the 1997 Uniform Building Code, Division III – Design Standard for Design of Slab-On-Ground Foundations to Resist the Effects of Expansive Soils and Compressible Soils, which ensure suitable structure safety in areas with expansive soils. Therefore, these soils will not create substantial risks to life or property.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The project does not propose any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems since no wastewater will be generated.

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** -- Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of Hazardous Substances, nor are Hazardous Substances proposed or currently in use in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the project does not propose to demolish any existing structures onsite and therefore would not create a hazard related to the release of asbestos, lead based paint or other hazardous materials from demolition activities.

- b) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, the project will not have any effect on an existing or proposed school.

- c) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** Based on a site visit and regulatory database search, the project site has not been subject to a release of hazardous substances. The project site is not included in any of the following lists or databases: the State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5., the San Diego County Hazardous Materials Establishment database, the San Diego County DEH Site Assessment and Mitigation (SAM) Case Listing, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database ("CalSites" Envirostor Database), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) listing, the EPA's Superfund CERCLIS database or the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). Additionally, the project does not propose structures for human occupancy or significant linear excavation within 1,000 feet of an open, abandoned, or closed landfill, is not located on or within 250 feet of the boundary of a parcel identified as containing burn ash (from the historic burning of trash), is not on or within 1,000 feet of a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), does not contain a leaking Underground Storage Tank, and is not located on a site with the potential for contamination from



historic uses such as intensive agriculture, industrial uses, a gas station or vehicle repair shop. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

- d) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), an Airport Influence Area, or a Federal Aviation Administration Height Notification Surface. Also, the project does not propose construction of any structure equal to or greater than 150 feet in height, constituting a safety hazard to aircraft and/or operations from an airport or heliport. Therefore, the project will not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

- e) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not within one mile of a private airstrip. As a result, the project will not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

The following sections summarize the project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

i. OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The Operational Area Emergency Plan is a comprehensive emergency plan that defines responsibilities, establishes an emergency organization, defines lines of communications, and is designed to be part of the statewide Standardized Emergency Management System. The Operational Area Emergency Plan provides guidance for emergency planning and requires subsequent plans to be established by each jurisdiction that has responsibilities in a disaster situation. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an overview of the risk assessment process, identifies hazards present in the jurisdiction, hazard profiles, and vulnerability assessments. The plan also identifies goals, objectives and actions for each jurisdiction in the County of San Diego, including all cities and the County unincorporated areas. The project will not interfere with this plan because it will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out.

ii. SAN DIEGO COUNTY NUCLEAR POWER STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

**No Impact:** The San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan will not be interfered with by the project due to the location of the project, plant and the specific requirements of the plan. The emergency plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station includes an emergency planning zone within a 10-mile radius. All land area within 10 miles of the plant is not within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated County and as such a project in the unincorporated area is not expected to interfere with any response or evacuation.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

iii. OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY ELEMENT

**No Impact:** The Oil Spill Contingency Element will not be interfered with because the project is not located along the coastal zone or coastline.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

iv. EMERGENCY WATER CONTINGENCIES ANNEX AND ENERGY SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

**No Impact:** The Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan will not be interfered with because the project does not propose altering major water or energy supply infrastructure, such as the California Aqueduct.

v. DAM EVACUATION PLAN

**No Impact:** The Dam Evacuation Plan will not be interfered with because the project is not located within a dam inundation zone.

- g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less than Significant Impact  
 Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated       No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The proposed project is adjacent to wildlands that have the potential to support wildland fires. However, the project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires because the project will comply with the regulations relating to emergency access, water supply, and defensible space specified in the Consolidated Fire Code for the 17 Fire Protection Districts in San Diego County and Appendix II-A, as adopted and amended by the local fire protection district. The Fire Protection Plan prepared by Hunt Research Co. dated 9-10-2009 indicates the expected emergency travel time to the project site to be 20 minutes. The Maximum Travel Time allowed pursuant to the County Public Facilities Element is 20 minutes. Therefore, based on the review of the project by County staff, through compliance with the Consolidated Fire Code and Appendix II-A and the project is not anticipated to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving hazardous wildland fires. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, because all past, present and future projects in the surrounding area are required to comply with the Consolidated Fire Code and Appendix II-A.

**NOTE TO STAFF:**

*The Fire Service Availability (DPLU Form #399F), conditions, and approval of the fire protection plan have not been provided by the San Diego Rural Fire Protection District. Additional information may be provided upon receipt of these documents. The project may be subject to additional fire measures and possibly redesign.*

- h) Propose a use, or place residents adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable use that would substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies, which are capable of transmitting significant public health diseases or nuisances?

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less than Significant Impact  
 Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated       No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not involve or support uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more (e.g. artificial lakes, agricultural irrigation ponds). Also, the project does not involve or support uses that will produce or collect animal waste, such as equestrian facilities, agricultural operations (chicken coops, dairies etc.), solid waste facility or other similar uses. Therefore, the project will not substantially

increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies.

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** -- Would the project:

a) Violate any waste discharge requirements?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose waste discharges that require waste discharge requirement permits, NPDES permits, or water quality certification from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB). In addition, the project does not propose any known sources of polluted runoff or land use activities that would require special site design considerations, source control Best Management Practices (BMPs) or treatment control BMPs, under the San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit (SDRWQCB Order No. 2001-01).

b) Is the project tributary to an already impaired water body, as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If so, could the project result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project lies in the Anza-Borrego hydrologic subarea, within the 722.72 hydrologic unit. According to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, June 2007. Portions of this watershed unit drains to the Borrego Sink, which is not listed as a Clean Water Act Section 303(d) water body.

The project proposes the following activities that are associated with these pollutants: sediments, heavy metals, organic compounds, trash and debris, oxygen demanding substances, and oils and greases. However, site design measures and/or source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs will be employed such that potential pollutants will be reduced in any runoff to the maximum extent practicable so as not to increase the level of these pollutants in receiving waters. For more details see the Stormwater Management Plan dated March 2010.

The proposed BMPs are consistent with regional surface water and storm water planning and permitting process that has been established to improve the overall water quality in County watersheds. As a result the project will not contribute to a cumulative impact to an already impaired water body, as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Regional surface water and storm water permitting regulation for County of San Diego, Incorporated Cities of San Diego County, and San Diego Unified Port District includes the following: Order 2001-01 (NPDES No. CAS 0108758), adopted by the San

Diego Region RWQCB on February 21, 2001; County Watershed Protection, Storm Water Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO) (Ord. No. 9424); County Storm water Standards Manual adopted on February 20, 2002, and amended January 10, 2003 (Ordinance No. 9426). The stated purposes of these ordinances are to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the County of San Diego residents; to protect water resources and to improve water quality; to cause the use of management practices by the County and its citizens that will reduce the adverse effects of polluted runoff discharges on waters of the state; to secure benefits from the use of storm water as a resource; and to ensure the County is compliant with applicable state and federal laws. Ordinance No. 9424 (WPO) has discharge prohibitions, and requirements that vary depending on type of land use activity and location in the County. Ordinance No. 9426 is Appendix A of Ordinance No. 9424 (WPO) and sets out in more detail, by project category, what Dischargers must do to comply with the Ordinance and to receive permits for projects and activities that are subject to the Ordinance. Collectively, these regulations establish standards for projects to follow which intend to improve water quality from headwaters to the deltas of each watershed in the County. Each project subject to WPO is required to prepare a Storm water Management Plan that details a project's pollutant discharge contribution to a given watershed and propose BMPs or design measures to mitigate any impacts that may occur in the watershed.

c) Could the proposed project cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The Regional Water Quality Control Board has designated water quality objectives for waters of the San Diego Region as outlined in Chapter 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan (Plan). The water quality objectives are necessary to protect the existing and potential beneficial uses of each hydrologic unit as described in Chapter 2 of the Plan. The project lies in the Anza-Borrego hydrologic subarea, within the 722.72 hydrologic unit that has the following existing and potential beneficial uses for ground water recharge.

The project does not propose any potential sources of polluted runoff; However, the following site design measures and/or source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs will be employed to reduce potential pollutants in runoff to the maximum extent practicable, such that the proposed project will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses as identified in the Stormwater Management Plan dated March 2010.

In addition, the proposed BMPs are consistent with regional surface water, storm water and groundwater planning and permitting process that has been established to improve the overall water quality in County watersheds. As a result, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exceedance of applicable surface or

groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses. Refer to Section VIII., Hydrology and Water Quality, Question b, for more information on regional surface water and storm water planning and permitting process. The potential for effecting the quality of local groundwater will be analyzed further in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- d) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will obtain its water for construction purposes from an off-site groundwater well owned by the Jacumba Community Services District (JCSD) located approximately 4.5-miles west of the site. The well is occasionally used by the JCSD for non-potable purposes. A total of 780,000 gallons of groundwater is anticipated to be imported to the site over a six-month period. A 24-hour well test conducted by Fain Drilling on April 24, 2003, which produced approximately 759,000 gallons of water, indicates the well is capable of producing approximately 600 gallons per minute. The project's production rate from the well over a six-month period would average approximately 1.5 gallons per minute. Impacts to groundwater supplies are considered to be less than significant since the amount of drawdown projected from the anticipated rate of pumping is estimated to be less than 0.5 feet in the closest actively used well in the community of Jacumba. See the groundwater supply options memorandum prepared by the County Groundwater Geologist dated March 4, 2010.

**Cumulative:**

The project may result in cumulative impacts to local the groundwater supply refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The cumulative projects effects will be further analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS.

- e) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of less than one-mile electric generator-tie line from the Mexico border to a substation adjacent to the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500 kV transmission line in Eastern San Diego County. The proposed ESJ Gen-Tie Project consists of a single circuit 500kV line (Route A1) or double-circuit 230 kV line (Route A2) supported on three to five 150-foot steel lattice towers or up to 170-foot steel monopoles. Access to the ESJ Gen-Tie Project area is provided by Old Highway 80.

The proposed project has two options for the property legal access road. The locations and alignments for both options require construction of a new 28-foot wide road and turnaround within a 40-foot easement.

A new Gen-Tie tower access road will be constructed and will parallel the proposed Gen-Tie. The Gen-Tie tower access road and foundations for the lattice towers or monopoles will be located entirely within the permanent right-of-way. The Gen-Tie tower access road will be an approximately 12-foot wide graded dirt road.

As outlined in the Storm water Management Plan (SWMP) dated November, 2009 and prepared by Burns and McDonnell, the project will implement the following site design measures, source control, and/or treatment control BMP's to reduce potential pollutants, including sediment from erosion or siltation, to the maximum extent practicable from entering storm water runoff:

- Project located and road improvements aligned to avoid or minimize impacts to receiving waters or to increase the preservation of critical (or problematic) areas such as floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, and areas with erosive or unstable soil conditions
- Project designed to minimize impervious footprint
- Project conserving natural areas where feasible
- Disturbing existing slopes only when necessary
- Minimize cut and fill areas to reduce slope lengths
- Storage area to have a roof or awning to minimize direct precipitation within the secondary containment area
- Provide attached lids on all trash containers that exclude rain, or roof or awning to minimize direct precipitation
- Rural swale system: street sheet flows to vegetated swale or gravel shoulder, curbs at street corners, culverts under driveways and street crossings.
- Other methods that are comparable and equally effective within the project.

Runoff from the project does not enter a Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4). This project is therefore not subject to the regulations in Order No. R9-2007-001, which requires the use of Treatment BMPs to reduce pollutants in runoff from priority projects. As such, Treatment Control BMPs are not required and are not proposed for this project. However, runoff from the project is treated with LID Site Design and Source Control BMPs as listed above.

Due to the relatively small land disturbance involved with the proposed Gen-Tie line project and the minimal long term impact of the transmission line on the landscape, significant soil loss from sedimentation should not occur. The site will be disturbed during construction, however erosion control BMPs will be place to deter any sediment

transport from the project area. Temporary silt fence and sandbag cross barriers will be placed on the downhill side of the entire right-of-way to capture any silt during the construction phase of the project. Also, cut/fill slopes greater than 3:1 will be stabilized using erosion control matting and temporary seeding. Following construction, the site will be re-vegetated to 70% of the pre-developed conditions.

Disturbed areas within the 40-foot easement, but beyond the 28-foot wide access road will be re-vegetated with a native seed mix.

These measures will control erosion and sedimentation and satisfy waste discharge requirements as required by the Land-Use Planning for New Development and Redevelopment Component of the San Diego Municipal Permit (SDRWQCB Order No. 2001-01), as implemented by the San Diego County Jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Program (JURMP) and Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). The SWMP specifies and describes the implementation process of all BMP's that will address equipment operation and materials management, prevent the erosion process from occurring, and prevent sedimentation in any onsite and downstream drainage swales. The Department of Public Works will ensure that the Plan is implemented as proposed. Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in significantly increased erosion or sedimentation potential and will not alter any drainage patterns of the site or area on- or off-site. In addition, because erosion and sedimentation will be controlled within the boundaries of the project, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact. For further information on soil erosion refer to VI., Geology and Soils, Question b.

- f) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The proposed project will not significantly alter established drainage patterns or significantly increase the amount of runoff for the following reasons, based on a Drainage Study prepared by Burns and McDonnell on June 2009: The project will not increase water surface elevation in a watercourse with a watershed equal to or greater one square mile by 1 foot or more in height, and will not increase surface runoff exiting the project site equal to or greater than one cubic foot/second. Therefore, the project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable alteration or a drainage pattern or increase in the rate or amount of runoff, because the project will not substantially increase water surface elevation or runoff exiting the site, as detailed above.



g) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

There are no existing or planned storm water drainage systems proposed by the project, nor does the project require such systems. According to the Hydrology Study prepared by Burns and McDonnell, dated June, 2009, the proposed transmission line development does not increase the amount of stormwater runoff from the site. There will be a total maximum impervious area of 750 square feet added to the site by way of the structure foundations. Also, there will be dirt access roads running along the transmission line right-of-way. These access roads will add areas that are less pervious than the existing vegetated soil. Despite the addition of impervious foundations and semi-pervious access roads, the composite curve numbers of the basins remain unchanged between pre- and post-developed states. The total area occupied by foundations and access roads is not large enough relative to the basin size to increase the composite curve number; therefore, there is no increase in stormwater runoff.

With regard to the legal project access road that will be installed to provide access from Old Highway 80, there will be a slight increase in runoff. The area is currently covered with approximately 30% vegetation, and will have to be cleared and grubbed to install the road. This will increase the runoff volume, but only slightly, and even after development the runoff from this road area will remain below 1 cfs for a 100-year storm event. This small increase in stormwater runoff does not warrant installation of detention facilities. Therefore, the project would not create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.

h) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project proposes the construction activities that would have the potential to have sources of polluted runoff. However, site design measures and/or source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs will be employed such that potential pollutants will be reduced in runoff to the maximum extent practicable. Refer to VIII Hydrology and Water Quality Questions a, b, c, for further information.

- i) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, including County Floodplain Maps?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant:**

Drainage swales with a watershed greater than 25 acres were identified on the project site. However, the project is not proposing to place structures with a potential for human occupation within these areas and will not place access roads or other improvements, which will limit access during flood events or affect downstream properties.

- j) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant:**

The project site contains drainage swales, which are identified as being 100-year flood hazard areas. However, the project is not proposing to place structures, access roads or other improvements, which will impede or redirect flood flows in these areas.

- k) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The project site lies outside any identified special flood hazard area. Therefore, the project will not expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding.

- l) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site lies outside a mapped dam inundation area for a major dam/reservoir within San Diego County. In addition, the project is not located immediately downstream of a minor dam that could potentially flood the property. Therefore, the project will not expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding.

## m) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

## i. SEICHE

**No Impact:** The project site is not located along the shoreline of a lake or reservoir; therefore, could not be inundated by a seiche.

## ii. TSUNAMI

**No Impact:** The project site is located more than a mile from the coast; therefore, in the event of a tsunami, would not be inundated.

## iii. MUDFLOW

**No Impact:** Mudflow is type of landslide. The site is not located within a landslide susceptibility zone. Also, the County geologist has determined that the geologic environment of the project area has a low probability to be located within an area of potential or pre-existing conditions that could become unstable in the event of seismic activity. In addition, though the project does propose land disturbance that will expose unprotected soils, the project is not located downstream from unprotected, exposed soils within a landslide susceptibility zone. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the project will expose people or property to inundation due to a mudflow.

**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING** -- Would the project:

## a) Physically divide an established community?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project proposes to introduce a new high voltage power lines that would stretch approximately one mile from the United States Mexico International Border to the proposed East County Sub Station. The proposed project will not significantly disrupt or divide the established community because the project site is not located within an established community or urban developed area. There are no residential structures within one mile. No residential or urban development is proposed in the future because the site location is in a geographically non-developable portion of the Count, which is located outside the urban growth boundary. Therefore, the project will not significantly disrupt or divide the established community.

- b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

The project site is located in the Mountain Empire Subregional Community Planning area, within unincorporated San Diego County. The site is subject to the General Plan Regional Category 1.4 Rural Development Area (RDA) and the Non-Urban Residential Land Use Designation of Multiple Rural Use (18). The project is consistent with the General Plan because a Major Impact Service Utility such as a Utility Line is anticipated by the Multiple Rural Use (18) Land Use Designation that provides for Major Utilities with the approval of a Major Use Permit. Additionally, the project is subject to and complies with the policies of the Mountain Empire Subregional Community Plan. The property is zoned General Rural (S-92), which permits a Major Impact Service Utility pursuant to Section 2926.b of the Zoning Ordinance; therefore, the proposed project is consistent with plan and zone.

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is within land classified by the California Department of Conservation – Division of Mines and Geology (Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego Production-Consumption Region, 1997) as an area where geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits are present (MRZ-1). Moreover, if the resources are not considered significant mineral

deposits, loss of these resources cannot contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is zoned Multiple Rural Use (S-92), which is not considered to be an Extractive Use Zone (S-82) nor does it have an Impact Sensitive Land Use Designation (24) with an Extractive Land Use Overlay (25) (County Land Use Element, 2000).

**XI. NOISE** -- Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The project is the operation and maintenance of an electric generator-tie line. Based on a noise review by County Noise Specialist Emmet Aquino on December 16, 2009 and Audible Noise Performance noise information document dated October 2009, incorporation of Line Configuration A and D would ensure that the project would not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, County of San Diego Noise Ordinance, and other applicable standards for the following reasons:

General Plan – Noise Element

The County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element, Policy 4b addresses noise sensitive areas and requires an acoustical study to be prepared for any use that may expose noise sensitive area to noise in excess of a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of 60 decibels (dBA). Moreover, if the project is excess of CNEL 60 dB(A), modifications must be made to project to reduce noise levels. Noise sensitive areas include residences, hospitals, schools, libraries or similar facilities where quiet is an important attribute. Based on a review by County Noise Specialist Emmet Aquino on December 16, 2009 and Audible Noise Performance noise information document dated October 2009, project implementation will not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to road, airport, heliport, railroad, industrial or other noise in excess of the CNEL 60 dB(A). The project does not propose any noise sensitive land uses

(NSLU) on site and will not impact existing NSLU in the immediate area. Therefore, the project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element.

#### Noise Ordinance – Section 36.404

Based on a review by County Noise Specialist Emmet Aquino on December 16, 2009 and Audible Noise Performance noise information document dated October 2009, non-transportation noise generated by the project is not expected to exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.404) at or beyond the project's property line. The noise information document states that the *2-conductor 2156 kcmil Bluebird configuration*, Line Configuration A and *3-conductor bundle 795 kcmil ACSR Drake* Line Configuration D is an acceptable design that will comply with County noise standards at the project property line. Table 1 shows the noise levels associated with a variety of line configurations including Line Configuration A and D. Noise receptors have been placed along the project boundary lines and staff has determined that the closest property lines that show the worst-case scenario are representative of Receptors 4 and 6. The project will generate noise levels as high as 35.8 dBA at the western property line (Receptor 4) which is well below the most restrictive County Noise Ordinance standard of 45 dBA at the project property line. Therefore, the project demonstrates noise levels below County noise level requirements and the project will comply with County noise standards. Implementation of Line Configuration A and D to the project will not exceed County Noise Standards.

#### Noise Ordinance – Section 36.409

Based on a review by County Noise Specialist Emmet Aquino on December 16, 2009 and Audible Noise Performance noise information document dated October 2009, the project will not generate construction noise that may exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.409). Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36.409. Also, It is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of an average sound level of 75dB between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM.

Finally, the project's conformance to the County of San Diego General Plan (Noise Element, Policy 4b) and County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.404 and 36.409) ensures the project will not create cumulatively considerable noise impacts, because the project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas; and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits, derived from State regulation to address human health and quality of life concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of persons or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan, noise ordinance, and applicable standards of other agencies.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any of the following land uses that can be impacted by groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

1. Buildings where low ambient vibration is essential for interior operation, including research and manufacturing facilities with special vibration constraints.
2. Residences and buildings where people normally sleep including hotels, hospitals, residences and where low ambient vibration is preferred.
3. Civic and institutional land uses including schools, churches, libraries, other institutions, and quiet office where low ambient vibration is preferred.
4. Concert halls for symphonies or other special use facilities where low ambient vibration is preferred.

Also, the project does not propose any major, new or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways or intensive extractive industry that could generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels on-site or in the surrounding area.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The project involves the following permanent noise sources that may increase the ambient noise level: Corona noise associated with energized transmission lines. As indicated in the response listed under Section XI Noise, Question a., the project would not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas in the vicinity to a substantial permanent increase in noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, County of San Diego Noise Ordinance, and other applicable local, State, and Federal noise control. Also, the project is not expected to expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to noise 10 dB CNEL over existing ambient noise levels based on review of the project by County staff an Audible Noise Performance noise information document dated October 2009. Studies completed by the Organization of Industry Standards (ISO 362; ISO 1996 1-3; ISO 3095; and ISO 3740-3747) state an increase of 10 dB is perceived as twice as loud and is perceived as a significant increase in the ambient noise level.

The project will not result in cumulatively noise impacts because a list of past, present and future projects within in the vicinity were evaluated. It was determined that the project in combination with a list of past, present and future project would not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to noise 10 dB CNEL over existing ambient noise levels. Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not involve any uses that may create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity including but not limited to extractive industry; outdoor commercial or industrial uses that involve crushing, cutting, drilling, grinding, or blasting of raw materials; truck depots, transfer stations or delivery areas; or outdoor sound systems.

Also, general construction noise is not expected to exceed the construction noise limits of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.409), which are derived from State regulations to address human health and quality of life concerns. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36.409. Also, it is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of 75 dB for more than an 8 hours during a 24-hour period. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for airports or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:



**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within a one-mile vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING** -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth in an area because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in an area including, but limited to the following: new or extended infrastructure or public facilities; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multi-family use; or regulatory changes including General Plan amendments, specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, sewer or water annexations; or LAFCO annexation actions.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The proposed project will not displace any existing housing since the site is currently vacant.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not displace a substantial number of people since the site is currently vacant.

**XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES**

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- i. Fire protection?
- ii. Police protection?
- iii. Schools?
- iv. Parks?
- v. Other public facilities?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Based on the service availability forms received for the project, the proposed project will result in the need for altered services or facilities for Fire Protection. The Project does not propose the use of any other public service. A Service availability form has been provided which indicate services are available to the project from the Rural Fire Protection District. Pursuant to the Rural Fire Protection District service availability form, the following new physically altered governmental facilities must be constructed as a part of the project in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios or objectives for any fire protection. However, as outlined in this Environmental Analysis Form Section I-XVII, the new **and/or** altered facilities will not result in adverse physical effect on the environment.

**NOTE TO STAFF:**

*The Applicant has not provided Service Availability from San Diego Rural. This section may need to be altered before finalizing the Public Services Section of the EIR. The Specific project information will be provided when the district provides the required service availability and project conditions.*

**XIV. RECREATION**

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any residential use, included but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobilehome park, or construction for a single-family residence that may increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity.

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, the construction or expansion of recreational facilities cannot have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

**XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC** -- Would the project:

- a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

Discussion/Explanation: The County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance for Traffic and Transportation (Guidelines) establish measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. These Guidelines incorporate standards from the County of San Diego Public Road Standards and Public Facilities Element (PFE), the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program and the Congestion Management Program.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

During operation of the facility, minimal personnel (1 of 2) will be required to patrol and visually inspect the Gen-Tie on a periodic basis. Operation and maintenance related traffic would consist of approximately two vehicles entering and leaving the site weekly. Road maintenance activities are anticipated to occur no more than twice per year on average, but would be performed on an as-needed basis.

The proposed project will result in less than one additional vehicle trip per day. However, the project will not have a significant impact related to a conflict with any performance measures establishing measures of effectiveness of the circulation system

because the project trips do not exceed any of the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for impacts related to Traffic and Transportation. As identified in the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Traffic and Transportation, the project trips would not result in a substantial increase in the number of vehicle trips, volume of capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections in relation to existing conditions. In addition, the project would not conflict with policies related to non-motorized travel such as mass transit, pedestrian or bicycle facilities. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any policies establishing measures of the effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system and no mitigation is required.

- b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency and/or as identified by the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program for designated roads or highways?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

Discussion/Explanation: The designated congestion management agency for the San Diego region is SANDAG. SANDAG is responsible for preparing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) of which the Congestion Management Program (CMP) is an element to monitor transportation system performance, develop programs to address near- and long-term congestion, and better integrate land use and transportation planning decisions. The CMP includes a requirement for enhanced CEQA review applicable to certain large developments that generate an equivalent of 2,400 or average daily vehicle trips or 200 or more peak hour vehicle trips. These large projects must complete a traffic analysis that identifies the project's impacts on CMP system roadways, their associated costs, and identify appropriate mitigation. Early project coordination with affected public agencies, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) is required to ensure that the impacts of new development on CMP transit performance measures are identified.

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

The project proposes an increase of less than one (1) ADT. The additional (1) ADT from the proposed project do not exceed the 2400 trips (or 200 peak hour trips) required for study under the region's Congestion Management Program. Additionally, the project does not involve construction of any new buildings, nor does it propose a new primary use. The additional access or support structures will not generate ADTs on a daily basis. Therefore, the project will not conflict with travel demand measures or other standards of the congestion management agency.

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is located outside of an Airport Influence Area and is not located within two miles of a public or public use airport; therefore, the project will not result in a change in air traffic patterns.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:**

Access to the ESJ Gen-Tie Project area is provided by Old Highway 80. The proposed project has two options for the property legal access road. The locations and alignments for both options require construction of a new 28-foot wide road and turnaround within a 40-foot easement. The first option for the location of the project driveway requires road widening along Old Highway 80 for the construction of a southbound left-turn lane onto the project driveway from Old Highway 80 and a westbound acceleration lane from the project driveway onto Old Highway 80. The road widening along Old Highway 80 is required in order to meet sight distance requirements. The second option for the location of the project driveway is required to meet sight distance requirements. A safe and adequate sight distance shall be required at all intersections to the satisfaction of the Director of the Department of Public Works. All road improvements will be constructed according to the County of San Diego Public and Private Road Standards. The proposed project will not place incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) on existing roadways. Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

## Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The proposed project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project is not served by a dead-end road that exceeds the maximum cumulative length permitted by the Consolidated Fire Code for the 17 Fire Protection Districts in San Diego County; therefore, the project has adequate emergency access.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** No on-site or off-site parking is required or proposed. The proposed project is a high voltage power line. Thus, parking will not result in an insufficient capacity on-site or off-site. The Zoning Ordinance Section 6766 Parking Schedule does not require a provision for on-site parking spaces. The project is consistent with the Ordinance for total parking requirements; therefore, the proposed project will not result in insufficient parking capacity.

- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant:**

The proposed project is an electric generator-tie line and associated infrastructure, and will generate less than 1 ADT. Project implementation will not result in the construction of any road improvements or new road design features that would interfere with the provision of public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities. In addition, the project does not generate sufficient travel demand to increase demand for transit, pedestrian or bicycle facilities. Therefore, the project will not conflict with policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS** -- Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not involve any uses that will discharge any wastewater to sanitary sewer or on-site wastewater systems (septic). Therefore, the project will not exceed any wastewater treatment requirements.

- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, the project does not require the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include new or expanded stormwater drainage facilities. Moreover, the project does not involve any landform modification or require any source, treatment or structural Best Management Practices for storm water. Therefore, the project will not require any construction of new or expanded facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects.

- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:**

The project will obtain its water from an off-site groundwater well owned by the Jacumba Community Services District (JCSD) located approximately 4.5-miles west of the site. Based on a 24-hour well test conducted of the well to be used, groundwater resources are available to serve the temporary groundwater needed for the project without interfering substantially with the production rate of nearby wells in the community of Jacumba. Therefore, the project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project.

- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:**

The proposed project will not produce any wastewater; therefore, the project will not interfere with any wastewater treatment providers' service capacity.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not generate any solid waste nor place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County.

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not generate any solid waste nor place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County. Therefore, compliance with any Federal, State, or local statutes or regulation related to solid waste is not applicable to this project.

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:



Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in sections IV and V of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for significant cumulative effects. Resources that have been evaluated as significant would be potentially impacted by the project. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact          | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

There may be potentially significant cumulative impacts. The potential cumulative impacts will be analyzed in the context of the EIR/EIS. There were no past, present and future projects in the County of San Diego considered and valued as a part of this Initial Study except for the SDG&E East County Substation project, which is part of the proposed EIR/EIS.

Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in sections I through XVI of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be potentially significant cumulative effects related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, . However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these cumulative effects to a level below significance. This mitigation includes Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

- Potentially Significant Impact
  Less than Significant Impact  
 Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
  No Impact

#### Discussion/Explanation:

In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to certain questions in sections I. Aesthetics, III. Air Quality, VI. Geology and Soils, VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, VIII Hydrology and Water Quality XI. Noise, XII. Population and Housing, and XV. Transportation and Traffic. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be potentially significant effects related to This mitigation includes Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality. While mitigation has been proposed in some instances that reduce these significant effects to a level below significance, the effectiveness of this mitigation to clearly reduce the impact to a level below significance is unclear. Therefore, this project has been determined to potentially meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

#### XVIII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All references to Federal, State and local regulation are available on the Internet. For Federal regulation refer to <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>. For State regulation refer to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). For County regulation refer to [www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com). All other references are available upon request.

**Major SWMP** Prepared by Burns and McDonnell Dated 11/2009

**Biological Resource Report**, Prepared by EDAW/AECOM Dated March 2010

**Visual Resource Report**, Prepared by ICF Jones Stokes Dated March 2010

**Hydrology Water Quality Report**, Prepared by Burns and McDonnell, Dated June 2009

**Fire Protection Plan Letter Report**, Prepared by Hunt Research Co. Dated September 2009.

**Archeological and Historical Investigations**, Prepared by Stacey Jordan Ph.D. R.P.A, Dated March 2010.

**Noise Performance Information**, Prepared by Burns and McDonnell, Dated October 2009

#### AESTHETICS

California Street and Highways Code [California Street and Highways Code, Section 260-283. (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>)

California Scenic Highway Program, California Streets and Highways Code, Section 260-283. (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/scpr.htm>)

County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use. The Zoning Ordinance of San Diego County. Sections 5200-5299; 5700-5799; 5900-5910, 6322-6326. (<http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us>)

County of San Diego, Board Policy I-73: Hillside Development Policy. ([www.co.san-diego.ca.us](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us))

County of San Diego, Board Policy I-104: Policy and Procedures for Preparation of Community Design Guidelines, Section 396.10 of the County Administrative Code and Section 5750 et seq. of the County Zoning Ordinance. ([www.co.san-diego.ca.us](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us))

County of San Diego, General Plan, Scenic Highway Element VI and Scenic Highway Program. ([ceres.ca.gov](http://ceres.ca.gov))

County of San Diego Light Pollution Code, Title 5, Division 9 (Sections 59.101-59.115 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances) as added by Ordinance No 6900, effective January 18, 1985, and amended July 17, 1986 by Ordinance No. 7155. ([www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com))

County of San Diego Wireless Communications Ordinance [San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. ([www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com))

Design Review Guidelines for the Communities of San Diego County. (Alpine, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Julian, Lakeside, Ramona, Spring Valley, Sweetwater, Valley Center).

Federal Communications Commission, Telecommunications Act of 1996 [Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. LA. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996). (<http://www.fcc.gov/Reports/tcom1996.txt>)

Institution of Lighting Engineers, Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution, Warwickshire, UK, 2000 (<http://www.dark-skies.org/file-gd-e.htm>)

International Light Inc., Light Measurement Handbook, 1997. ([www.intl-light.com](http://www.intl-light.com))

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Lighting Research Center, National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP), Lighting Answers, Volume 7, Issue 2, March 2003. ([www.lrc.rpi.edu](http://www.lrc.rpi.edu))

US Census Bureau, Census 2000, Urbanized Area Outline Map, San Diego, CA. (<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/ua2kmaps.htm>)

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) modified Visual Management System. ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov))

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects.

US Department of Transportation, National Highway System Act of 1995 [Title III, Section 304. Design Criteria for the National Highway System. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legisregs/nhsdatoc.html>)

#### AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, "A Guide to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program," November 1994. ([www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov))

California Department of Conservation, Office of Land Conversion, "California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model Instruction Manual," 1997. ([www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov))

California Farmland Conservancy Program, 1996. ([www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov))

California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act, 1965. ([www.ceres.ca.gov](http://www.ceres.ca.gov), [www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov))

California Right to Farm Act, as amended 1996. ([www.qp.gov.bc.ca](http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca))

County of San Diego Agricultural Enterprises and Consumer Information Ordinance, 1994, Title 6, Division 3, Ch. 4. Sections 63.401-63.408. ([www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com))

County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, "2002 Crop Statistics and Annual Report," 2002. ([www.sdcounty.ca.gov](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov))

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service LESA System. ([www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov), [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)).

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, California. 1973. ([soils.usda.gov](http://soils.usda.gov))

#### AIR QUALITY

CEQA Air Quality Analysis Guidance Handbook, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Revised November 1993. ([www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov))

County of San Diego Air Pollution Control District's Rules and Regulations, updated August 2003. ([www.co.san-diego.ca.us](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us))

Federal Clean Air Act US Code; Title 42; Chapter 85 Subchapter 1. ([www4.law.cornell.edu](http://www4.law.cornell.edu))

#### BIOLOGY

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