

6.0 Cumulative Impacts and Other CEQA Considerations

This chapter addresses cumulative impacts and other considerations in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including growth-inducing impacts, significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, and significant and irreversible environmental changes that may occur as a result of the Mesa 500-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project (Mesa Substation Project, or proposed project). This chapter also discusses potentially significant energy implications of the proposed project.

6.1 Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130) this environmental impact report (EIR) analyzes the cumulative impacts of the proposed project. According to CEQA, a cumulative impact refers to two or more individual effects that are considerable when considered together or that compound or increase environmental impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). CEQA Guidelines state that “[t]he cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonable foreseeable probable future projects” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Cumulative impacts can result from minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). CEQA requires the cumulative impacts discussion to reflect the likelihood that impacts would occur and their severity if they did occur. To comply with CEQA, a cumulative scenario has been developed that identifies and evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within the defined cumulative study area that would be constructed or commence operation during the timeframe of activity associated with the proposed project.

6.1.1 Methods

In discussing cumulative impacts, the CEQA Guidelines outline two approaches for characterizing the cumulative impacts that may occur in the vicinity of a proposed project:

1. **Project list:** A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, projects outside the control of the agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)).
2. **Summary of projections:** A summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional or statewide plan, or related planning document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)). This summary can be supplemented with additional information, including a regional modeling program.

This document uses both approaches, depending on which one is more appropriate for the resource area being analyzed. The approach selected depends on the resource area and the nature and character of expected impacts. The rationale for selecting an approach is provided in the cumulative impacts discussion for each resource area.

Because the area within which a cumulative effect can occur varies by resource area, for the purposes of this analysis, the geographic boundary also varies by the resource being evaluated. For example, traffic and noise impacts tend to be localized, while air quality and biological resources

1 impacts can be more widespread. Projects considered include past projects, projects under
2 construction and approved, and pending projects that are anticipated to be either under
3 construction or operational by the time of the completion of the proposed project. A list of
4 development projects within the cumulative study area were identified according to the geographic
5 extent for each resource area (discussed in Section 6.1.2, "Resource Areas"). Projects within this
6 area that could cause impacts that would combine with the impacts of the proposed project to
7 result in a cumulative impact are presented in Table 6-1. Information pertaining to past, present,
8 and reasonably foreseeable future projects was obtained from:
9

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- California Department of Transportation
- California Office of Planning and Research (CEQANet Database)
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Commerce
- City of Industry
- City of Montebello
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- City of Monterey Park
- City of Palmdale
- City of Pasadena
- City of Rosemead
- City of Santa Clarita
- City of South El Monte
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Los Angeles County
- Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority

10
11 These sources did not identify any proposed or pending projects near the Pardee or Walnut
12 Substations. Figure 6-1 depicts the location of each project. Each of the locations is labeled with a
13 number that corresponds to those presented in Table 6-1. In instances where the analysis in
14 Chapter 4, "Environmental Analysis," determines that the proposed project would result in no
15 impact, the associated significance criterion is not considered in the cumulative impacts analysis in
16 Section 6.1.2 because there is no potential for impacts of the proposed project to combine with the
17 impacts of any other project. Where construction schedules are unavailable or uncertain, the
18 cumulative impact analysis conservatively assumes that construction would overlap with the
19 proposed project.
20

21 **6.1.2 Resource Areas**

23 **6.1.2.1 Resource Areas Not Discussed**

24
25 The proposed project would not impact several resource areas. Therefore, no cumulative analysis
26 is provided for these resource areas:
27

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Land Use and Planning

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
1	Operating Industries, Inc. Landfill Superfund Site	The former landfill site became a Superfund site in January 1984. Cleanup began in 1989 and included installing landfill cover, a leachate treatment system, landfill gas treatment, and groundwater monitoring wells. Ongoing remediation includes sample collection and analysis from monitoring wells and operation of a leachate treatment facility, gas control and cover systems, and surface water management systems. The project area is bisected by SR 60; the area north of SR 60 is approximately 45 acres and the area south of SR 60 is approximately 145 acres.	200 feet from the proposed Substation boundary	All remedial actions have been implemented. Ongoing operation, maintenance, and monitoring are being undertaken.
2	Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan	The project would involve constructing a five-story building with retail and residential uses.	1.7 miles from Telecommunications Route 1	Project developer has submitted plan check construction drawings as of May 2015.
3	Monterey Park Market Place	The project would involve various retail uses, such as restaurants, large retail stores, small retail stores, a gas station, and at least 2,333 parking spaces. Square footage of retail would range from 515,382 to 600,000 square feet. Access to the site would be via Greenwood Avenue.	200 feet from proposed Substation Boundary	Project developer formulating utility plans as of May 2015.
4	South Garfield Village Specific Plan	The Specific Plan outlines plans and policies consistent with the General Plan but specific to the Garfield Village Area. The plan outlines neighborhood improvements (e.g., sidewalks, public spaces, and streets) and also contains design guidelines.	0.3 mile from Telecommunications Route 1	Administrative Draft Specific Plan was released in March 2015. The Draft Specific Plan and Initial Study/MND was circulated in July 2015.
5	Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan Amendment (GPA-13-02)	The project would include 80 homes on an approximately 9.15-acre parcel which is currently a plant nursery. There would also be two parks on the site.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	Specific Plan was approved in February 2014. Rough grading was being completed in May 2015.

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
6	500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)	The project would involve development of up to 140,000 square feet of self-storage space on an approximately 1.12-acre parcel.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	Specific Plan was approved in December 2013. City was reviewing plans in May 2015.
7	Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs)	The City would replace sewer pipes on roadways, including several residential street segments outside of the immediate vicinity of project components, mostly in the western part of the City. Spot repairs on Potrero Grande and Pomona Boulevard are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2017–2018. These two streets are close to the Mesa Substation.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1 and Mesa Substation	Repairs under the Capital Improvement Program would occur from 2014–19. Repairs to Potrero Grande and Pomona would occur in 2017 or 2018.
8	SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field	The project is the decommissioning of a natural gas storage field. The California Public Utilities Commission granted SoCalGas permission to decommission the field by selling remaining cushion gas.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 2	SoCalGas continues to sell gas from the Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field.
9	Montebello Hills Specific Plan	The proposed project involves developing a portion of the Montebello oil field. The development is anticipated to have 173.6 acres of residential use (maximum of 1,200 residential units), 314.5 acres of open space, 8.1 acres of pedestrian paths, 6.75 acres of parks, a 1.5-acre community center, and associated infrastructure. Current oil operations would not be changed as part of the project.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3	The project was approved in June 2015. Construction is expected to begin in 2016 or 2017 and last through 2022.
10	Jay Imperial Park	The City proposes to develop a vacant portion of Southern California Edison transmission corridor as a park that would include open space, trails, landscaping, and grass.	90 feet from Staging Yard 6; 0.6 mile from Telecommunications Route 1	A lease agreement was signed in January 2016; funding must be expended by mid-2017.
11	Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project	The project would consist of demolition of structures on the site and construction of a 5-story mixed use project with approximately 15,500 square feet of restaurant and retail uses and 60 dwelling units.	0.6 miles from Staging Yard 6	The City approved the MND in December 2014.

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
12	East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility	The project would involve installing 23,587 feet of water line to move groundwater from seven existing wells to an existing reservoir site for treatment prior to storage in the reservoir. The project would also involve improvements to the existing wells.	Adjacent to Staging Yard 4 and Goodrich Substation	Construction of the water line, modifications at wells, and disinfection facility is complete. The water line and wells are operating. Testing and startup are occurring at the disinfection facility.
13	South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements	Install 2.4 miles of bike lane and reduce vehicle lanes from 4 to 3 for 1 mile.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	In design phase. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2018.
14	Cal Royal Products	The project would add 38,161 square feet of warehousing and 1,029 square feet of office space to an existing building.	0.4 mile from Staging Yard 5 and structure replacement in Commerce	Construction schedule is unknown; permits have not been issued as of April 2015.
15	Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications	Modifications would be made to address structural deficiencies in the dam to prevent possible failure, overtopping, and leaking.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3	Modifications anticipated to begin in late 2018 or early 2019.
16	Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project	The project would involve constructing a mixed use development with 11,860 square feet of retail and office use and 46 apartments.	0.4 mile from Staging Yard 6	An MND was prepared in May 2015.
17	New Garvey 168 Plaza Project	The project would involve demolition of structures on the site and construction of two buildings with approximately 5,600 square feet of retail, 4,800 square feet of office space, and 28 condominiums.	0.4 miles from Staging Yard 6	An MND was prepared in May 2014.
18	New Garvey Market Plaza	The project would involve 22,500 square feet of supermarket space and 18,000 square feet of retail space.	0.8 miles from Staging Yard 6	An MND is under preparation.
19	Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel	The project would involve a five-story hotel with 80 guest rooms.	0.6 mile from Telecommunications Route 1 and Staging Yard 6	Pre-application submitted February 2015

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

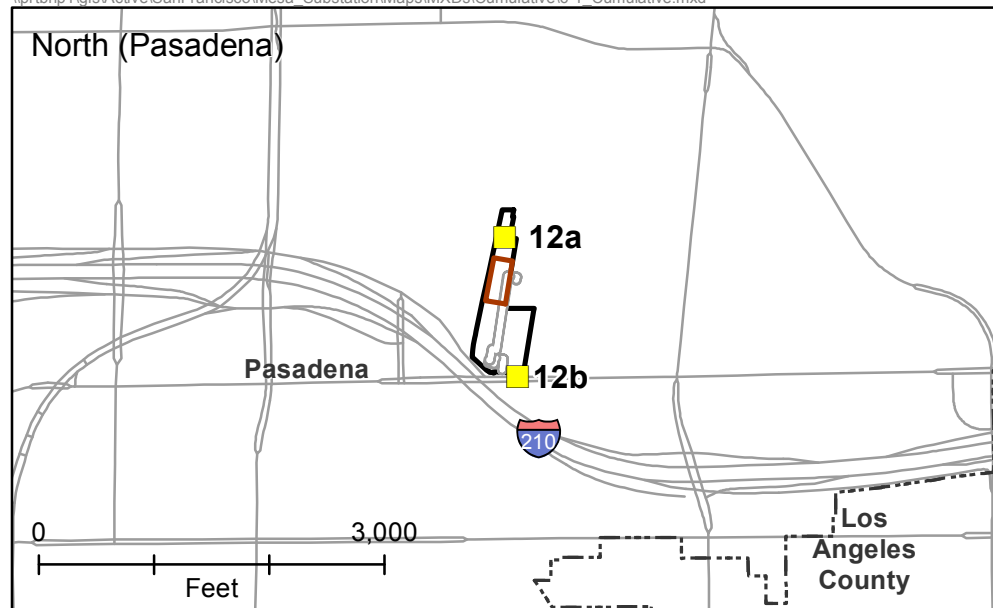
Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
20	Doubletree Hotel Expansion	The project expanded an existing hotel by adding 54 new rooms, a ballroom, and new parking.	150 feet from Telecommunications Route 1	Expansion had been constructed as of May 2015.
21	1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums	The project would be a residential development with 20 condominiums. The parcel is already developed.	80 feet from Telecommunications Route 1	Unknown

Sources: EPA n.d., Yargeau pers. comm. 2015, Tewesart pers. comm. 2015, City of Monterey Park n.d., City of Monterey Park 2011, City of Monterey Park 2015, City of Monterey Park 2014a, City of Monterey Park 2014b, City of Monterey Park 2013, SoCalGas 2015, City of Montebello 2015, Sprague 2015, City of Montebello 2014, Bermejo pers. comm. 2015, RMC 2015, City of Rosemead 2014a, City of Rosemead 2014b, City of Pasadena 2012, County of Los Angeles 2015, County of Los Angeles n.d., City of Commerce 2012, Marquez pers. comm. 2015, California High Speed Rail Authority 2015, Fullam 2014, SCE 2015, City of Rosemead 2015, City of Rosemead 2014c, KOA 2015, City of Rosemead 2009, City of Rosemead 2016, Ventura pers. comm. 2015, Los Angeles County MTA 2015, Los Angeles County MTA 2014.

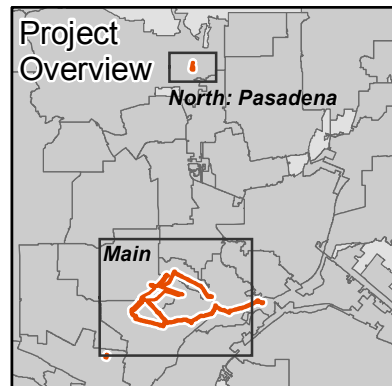
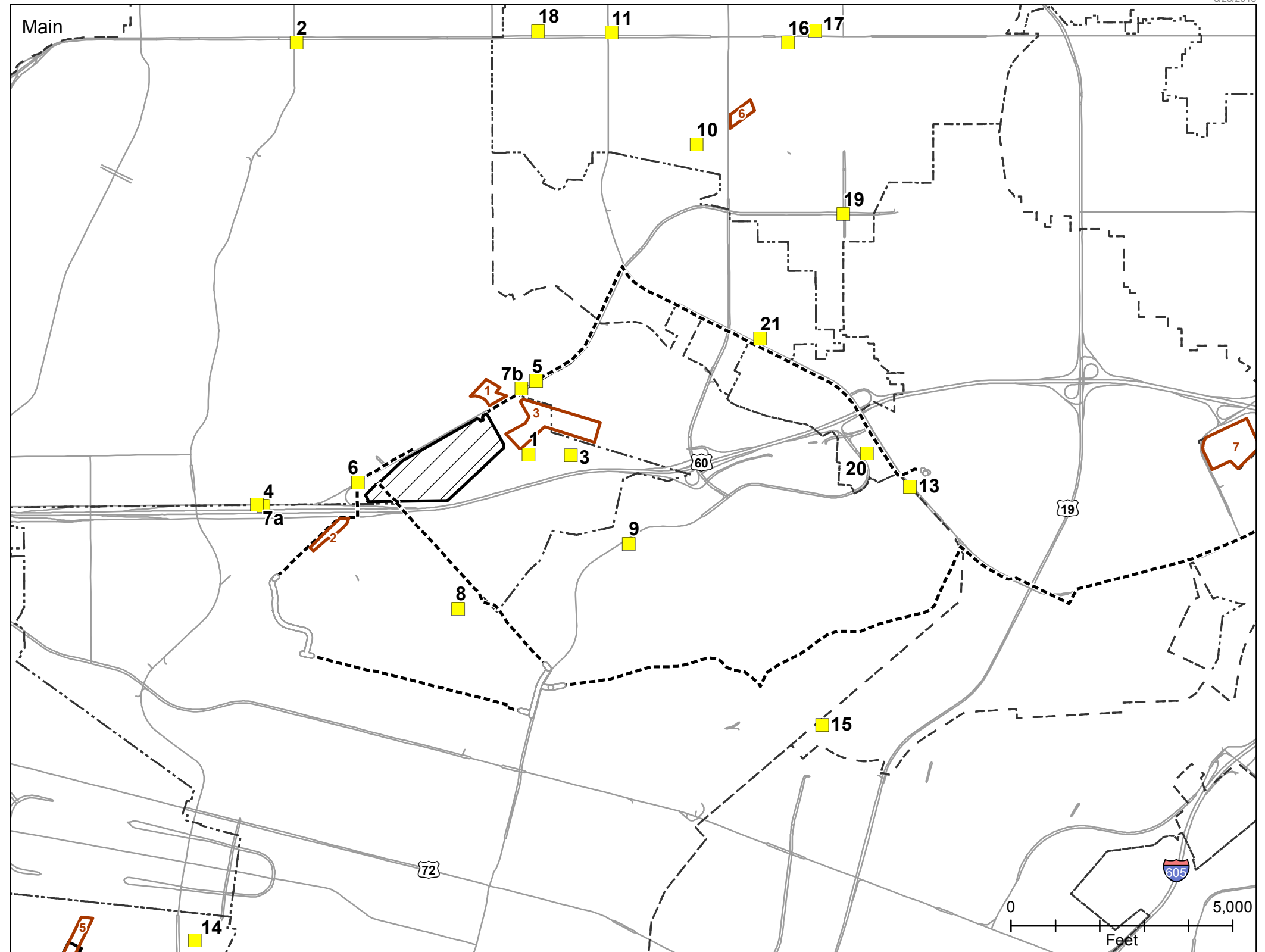
Notes: A scoping comment from Caltrans noted that the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project has a proposed route in the vicinity of the substation. That project would involve construction of a light rail transit project from an existing light rail line. Two alternatives are being considered—one would follow SR 60 and would be located in an east – west orientation between the south side of the Mesa Substation site and the north side of SR 60. The other alternative would not be located adjacent to the substation site. Construction is anticipated to occur from 2027 to 2035, with operations beginning in 2035. At this point, it is uncertain which alternative will be selected and studied in the Final EIR/EIS until technical studies are completed. Therefore, this project was determined to be speculative because the proposal has not crystallized to the point that it would be reasonable or practical to evaluate its cumulative impact. It was therefore excluded from this discussion.

Likewise, the High Speed Rail (Palmdale to Burbank section) could be located adjacent to the Vincent Substation. The EIR/EIS is being prepared, and the construction schedule is not known. This project was determined to be speculative because the proposal has not crystallized to the point that it would be reasonable or practical to evaluate its cumulative impact. It was therefore excluded from this discussion.

Key:
MND Mitigation Negative Declaration
SoCalGas Southern California Gas Company
SR State Route



- 1 Operating Industries, Inc. (OII) Landfill Superfund Site
- 2 Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan
- 3 Monterey Park Market Place
- 4 South Garfield Village Specific Plan
- 5 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
- 6 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
- 7a Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Pomona Blvd Spot Repairs)
- 7b Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Dr Spot Repairs)
- 8 SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
- 9 Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 10 Jay Imperial Park
- 11 Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project
- 12a East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Foothill Blvd Pipeline)
- 12b East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well)
- 13 South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- 14 Cal Royal Products
- 15 Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 16 Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project
- 17 New Garvey 168 Plaza Project
- 18 New Garvey Market Plaza
- 19 Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel
- 20 Doubletree Hotel Expansion
- 21 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums



- Cumulative projects
- Telecommunications route
- Manholes, vaults, and underground construction
- Staging yard
- Proposed Mesa Substation
- Study Area (North and South)
- City boundary

Figure 6-1
Cumulative Projects
 Mesa Substation
 Los Angeles County, CA

Sources: SCE 2015
 Basemap: ESRI Media Kit 2010



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1 **6.1.2.2 Aesthetics**

2
3 **Approach**

4 Aesthetic and visual resources impacts are project-specific and highly localized; therefore, the List
5 Approach [CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)] was used to evaluate potential cumulative
6 impacts. Aesthetic impacts of projects visible from the same areas where the project would be
7 visible were evaluated to determine whether there would be significant cumulative aesthetic and
8 visual impacts.

9 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

10 Other projects that would result in similar impacts as the proposed project (i.e., any project that
11 would adversely affect existing visual character or quality of the same area visually impacted by
12 the proposed project components) were evaluated for potential cumulative impacts. The
13 geographic extent for considering cumulative impacts to aesthetics includes all projects within the
14 same viewshed (i.e., area visible from a viewer's location) of the proposed project components,
15 which is a conservative estimate of the likely maximum distance from which project components
16 would be visible, particularly considering the terrain of the project area.

17
18 **Cumulative Scenario**

19 The projects evaluated for potential cumulative impacts when considered with the proposed
20 project include:

- 21
- 22 • Main Project Area
 - 23 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
 - 24 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 25 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 26 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 27 Repairs)
 - 28 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
 - 29 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 30

31 The reasons for excluding projects from the cumulative impact assessment are described below.
32 Jay Imperial Park is close to Staging Yard 6 but would have a positive effect on aesthetics. The park
33 project was therefore excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario because there
34 would be no cumulative adverse aesthetic impacts. Monterey Park Market Place is close to the
35 Mesa Substation site but is excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario. The
36 construction period of the Monterey Park Market Place and the proposed project may overlap.
37 However, there are no public vantage points that would have views of both sites at the same time.
38 State Route (SR) 60 passes both sites, but a large berm restricts views of the Market Place area
39 from SR 60. Cumulative visual impacts would not occur. The Operating Industries, Inc. (OII)
40 Landfill Superfund site has been excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario because
41 the visual components (e.g., leachate treatment system) were considered part of the baseline, and
42 ongoing operation would not change in the future. Likewise, Southern California Gas Company
43 (SoCalGas) Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field would not change visually and would not
44 contribute to visual cumulative impacts. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is adjacent to
45 Telecommunications Route 3; however, this area of the Specific Plan would be preserved as open

1 space and construction would not be visible. It was therefore excluded from the cumulative
2 scenario. The 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums project is excluded because the only
3 adverse visual impact of the project would occur during construction; the construction schedule is
4 unknown and it would be speculative to determine whether construction impacts would occur at
5 the same time as the proposed project's impacts near the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
6 Condominiums project.

7
8 There is no cumulative scenario for the South Area because no cumulative projects were located in
9 the same viewshed as the proposed project. There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area.
10 Although the Twombly Well component of the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection
11 Facility is visible near the Goodrich Substation, the project has been constructed and was therefore
12 considered part of the baseline in the North Area.

13 14 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

15 ***Main Project Area***

16 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs and construction of 500 East Markland Drive Specific
17 Plan could both occur at the same time as construction at the Mesa Substation. Once the 500 East
18 Markland Drive Specific Plan is built, it would enhance the visual quality of the area and would not
19 contribute to cumulative negative visual impacts. Sewer spot repairs would only have temporary
20 visual impacts during construction but would not affect visual quality once completed. As a result,
21 the spot sewer repairs would not contribute to cumulative visual impacts.

22
23 Drivers on East Markland Drive north of SR 60 and south of Potrero Grande Drive could see
24 construction at 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and construction at the Mesa Substation site
25 at the same time. Active construction would only temporarily degrade the visual quality in the area.
26 Degradation would not be substantial because the portion of the Mesa Substation site visible in the
27 foreground would be construction of a detention basin and some grading, which mostly involves
28 soil movement. This segment of East Markland Drive is approximately 370 feet. Traveling 25 miles
29 per hour, motorists would potentially see both construction sites for about 10 seconds. The
30 cumulative impact to visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) near East Markland Drive would
31 therefore be less than significant.

32
33 Construction of Telecommunications Route 1 may be visible at the same time as construction and
34 post-construction phases for Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
35 Plan Amendment. Construction in this area would be limited to trenching and line stringing, which
36 would be a minimal visual impact. Construction of homes is also a common sight along a large
37 thoroughfare and would not substantially degrade visual quality. The post-construction phase of
38 the Encanto Walk project would enhance the visual quality of the area. Cumulative impacts to
39 visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) would therefore be less than significant

40
41 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs may be visible to motorists at the same time as
42 construction at the Mesa Substation site and in adjacent transmission line rights-of-way (ROWS).
43 Sewer spot repairs could involve trenching and pipe replacement in the street. These repairs would
44 be short-term. While they would temporarily degrade the visual quality of the area, degradation
45 would not be substantial because viewers would expect to see these types of activities in the street
46 and the activities would be short-term. Visual impacts to motorists on Potrero Grande also would
47 not be substantial, as described in Section 4.1, "Aesthetics." Together, these impacts would not
48 result in a cumulative visual character and quality impact (Impact AES-1) to motorists on Potrero
49 Grande.

1
2 Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications may be visible to motorists on East Lincoln Avenue,
3 where stringing of Telecommunications Route 3 would take place. Part of the dam is visible to east-
4 bound travelers for about 24 seconds; activities visible could include earth moving and other heavy
5 equipment. Work on Telecommunications Route 3 would be limited to line stringing, which
6 involves a crew truck with stringing equipment. Construction would be temporary and use limited
7 equipment and crews; therefore, cumulative aesthetic impacts to visual character and quality
8 (Impact AES-1) would be less than significant.
9

10 South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements may be visible at the same time as work on
11 Telecommunications Route 1. Bikeway Access Improvements would involve installation of bike
12 lanes, which would be temporary and consistent with typical road work. Work on
13 Telecommunications Route 1 visible in the same viewshed as the Bikeway Access Improvements
14 would be limited to line stringing, which involves a crew truck with stringing equipment.
15 Construction would be temporary and use limited equipment and crews; therefore, cumulative
16 impacts to visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) would be less than significant.
17

18 During operation of the Mesa Substation, lighting would be visible from the Mesa Substation, as
19 well as from the homes and exterior lighting for Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific
20 Plan and the storage facility and external lighting for the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan.
21 The Mesa Substation on its own would introduce a new source of light due to its large size, which
22 means there would be a cumulative significant impact in combination with the lighting from the
23 other two projects. Mitigation Measure (MM) AES-6 would be implemented to reduce the Mesa
24 Substation's lighting impacts to less than significant. The cumulative impact related to nighttime
25 lighting (Impact AES-2) would be less than significant after this mitigation. There are no nearby
26 projects that would introduce a new source of glare to the area; therefore, there would be no
27 cumulative glare impact (Impact AES-2).
28

29 **6.1.2.3 Air Quality**

30 **Approach**

31
32 The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). Because the SCAB
33 (including Los Angeles County) is currently classified as a federal nonattainment area for lead,
34 ozone and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), and a state
35 nonattainment area for ozone, particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter
36 (PM₁₀) and PM_{2.5}, cumulative development in the SCAB as a whole could violate an air quality
37 standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. However, based on the
38 South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) cumulative air quality impact
39 methodology, SCAQMD recommends that if an individual project results in air emissions of criteria
40 pollutants (reactive organic gases, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), SO_x, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})
41 that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts, then it
42 would also result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants for which
43 the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality
44 standard (SCAQMD 2015).
45

46 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

47 The geographic scope for cumulative air quality impacts is the air basin in which the proposed
48 project is located—the SCAB—given that air basins are defined for air quality management based
49 on their “similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout” the basin (CARB 2014).

1 The geographic extent for odor impacts is 36 feet, given that is the maximum distance at which
2 perception of diesel exhaust emissions can be perceived (Colucci and Barnes 1970). The
3 geographic scope for toxic air contaminant (TAC) exposure is projects where sensitive receptors
4 are within 280 meters of the cumulative project and the substation site and where receptors are
5 within 30 meters of the cumulative project and transmission and subtransmission lines, consistent
6 with the analysis in Section 4.2, "Air Quality."

8 **Cumulative Scenario**

9 The cumulative scenario for criteria pollutant emissions involves projects and emissions sources in
10 the SCAB since conditions are assessed in the context of the entire air basin.

11
12 There is no cumulative scenario for odors. The only receptor subject to odors is the Best Western
13 Markland Hotel. None of the cumulative projects are located within 36 feet of this receptor.

14
15 The cumulative scenario for TAC exposure includes the following projects that are within 280
16 meters of the project site:

- 17 • Mesa Substation Site
 - Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs
 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
- Transmission and Subtransmission Lines
 - Encanto Walk/500 Potrero Grande
 - Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs

18 19 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

20 The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to a conflict or
21 obstruction of implementation of the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (Impact AQ-1).

22
23 The SCAB, where the proposed project would be located, is in nonattainment for the following
24 criteria pollutants, meaning that if the proposed project would exceed SCAQMD's project-specific
25 thresholds for any of these pollutants, it would be a significant cumulative impact:

- 26 • National Ambient Air Quality Standards
 - Lead
 - Ozone
 - PM_{2.5}
- California Ambient Air Quality Standards
 - Ozone
 - PM₁₀
 - PM_{2.5}

27
28 As discussed in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," Impact AQ-2, the proposed project would exceed daily
29 thresholds for NO_x and ROG (ozone precursors), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions that cause
30 nonattainment. Therefore, the proposed project's contribution to the basin-wide impact would be
31 cumulatively considerable. As described in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," an applicant proposed
32 measure (APM) (APM-AIR-01) would reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions to less than significant such
33 that their contribution would not be cumulatively considerable. APM-AIR-02 would be
34 implemented, but NO_x emissions would still be cumulatively considerable. MM AQ-1, MM AQ-3,
35 and MM AQ-4 would be implemented to reduce NO_x emissions to below the significance threshold.
36 Likewise, implementation of APM-AIR-02 could reduce ROG emissions to less than significant; if
37 the APM is insufficient to reduce impacts, MM AQ-2 would be implemented. As discussed in greater

1 detail for Impact AQ-2 in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," the proposed project's contribution to ozone
2 nonattainment would not be cumulatively considerable (Impacts AQ-2 and AQ-3) after
3 implementation of MM AQ-1, MM AQ-2, MM AQ-3, and MM AQ-4.

4
5 Diesel particulate matter emissions from the Mesa Substation site construction activities would
6 combine with the same kind of emissions from the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and
7 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the
8 transmission and subtransmission line construction would combine with emissions from the
9 Encanto Walk/500 Potrero Grande and Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs project. Sensitive
10 receptors include residences and guests at the Best Western Markland Hotel. Construction of all
11 three projects would be limited in time in this geographic area and would be far below the 8-year
12 (96-month) threshold for chronic exposure. The cumulative TAC impact (Impact AQ-4) in these
13 areas would therefore be less than significant.

14
15 The proposed project would exceed Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) for NO_x at the Mesa
16 Substation site. These emissions would combine with NO_x emissions from Potrero Grande Drive
17 Sewer Spot Repairs and the construction of 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan to result in a
18 cumulative significant impact to local air quality. Given that the Mesa Substation Project exceeds
19 the LSTs on its own, the cumulative impact would be significant. MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-3 would
20 reduce impacts, but not to less than significant. The project's contribution to a local exceedance of
21 air quality standards (Impact AQ-4) would be cumulatively considerable.

22
23 There is no cumulative scenario related to exposure to odor and the project would not contribute
24 to a cumulative odor exposure impact (Impact AQ-5).

25 26 **6.1.2.4 Biological Resources**

27 **Approach**

28
29 The approach for the biological resources cumulative analysis is the List Approach (CEQA
30 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). The Western Los Angeles Basin is highly urbanized, such that
31 habitat is discontinuous and fragmented. Species in general are not expected to travel large
32 distances and pockets of local habitat are locally important, given they may be the last remaining
33 habitat in a given geographic area.

34 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

35
36 The geographic extent for considering project-related, cumulative impacts on biological resources
37 includes projects within 1 mile of the proposed project, since the immediate area is urbanized and
38 provides limited suitable habitat for plants and animals impacted by the proposed project. Species
39 in general are not expected to travel long distances and pockets of local habitat are locally
40 important, given they may be the last remaining habitat in a given geographic area.

41 **Cumulative Scenario**

42
43 Analysis in this section evaluates cumulative impacts to biological resources that would be affected
44 by the proposed project. Not all of the projects listed in Table 6-1 are located within a 1-mile radius
45 of the proposed project or would result in impacts to biological resources. The project considered
46 in this cumulative impacts analysis is the Montebello Hills Specific Plan.

1 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

2 This analysis focuses on biological resources that the Montebello Hills Specific Plan and the
3 proposed project would both impact. Biological resources that would not be impacted by both the
4 proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan are not discussed in this cumulative
5 analysis.

6
7 The proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would impact coastal sage scrub. The
8 proposed project would impact 0.16 acre of coastal sage scrub; MM BR-3 would require
9 restoration. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in the removal of approximately 96.0
10 acres of coastal sage scrub; 56.1 acres would be replanted on site and additional coastal sage scrub
11 would be created or enhanced in a reserve on the site, such that there would be no net impact to
12 coastal sage scrub (City of Montebello 2014). As a result of no net impact to coastal sage scrub for
13 the Montebello Hills Specific Plan, there would be no cumulative impacts (Impacts BR-1 and BR-2).

14
15 The proposed project would impact California gnatcatcher habitat and potentially result in
16 mortality of individual birds. Mitigation is identified that would reduce impacts to habitat and
17 avoid mortality to birds. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan Biological Opinion resulted in a no
18 jeopardy decision for the California gnatcatcher due to implementation of certain mitigation
19 measures. The cumulative impact to California gnatcatcher (Impact BR-1) would therefore be less
20 than significant.

21
22 The proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in impacts to habitat for
23 least Bell's vireo. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan includes mitigation for the least Bell's vireo to
24 offset impacts caused by projects in the Plan; mitigation measures include clearing vegetation
25 outside of the majority of nesting season and confirmation that least Bell's vireo are absent prior to
26 clearing. SCE would implement APMs and MM BR-2, MM BR-3, MM BR-5, MM BR-9, MM BR-11, and
27 MM BR-13 as part of the Mesa Substation Project; impacts to least Bell's vireo would be reduced to
28 less than significant. Therefore, there would be a less than significant cumulative impact (Impact
29 BR-1).

30
31 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in the permanent fill of 0.47 acre of Waters of the
32 U.S. and 3.6 acres of Waters of the State, concluding 3.3 acres of vegetated riparian habitat. These
33 waters contain some sensitive riparian vegetation; the impact was deemed significant in the EIR
34 (City of Montebello 2014). The proposed Mesa Substation Project would result in permanent fill of
35 3.7 acres of potentially jurisdictional waters. Short extents of the potentially jurisdictional waters
36 on the substation site are associated with riparian vegetation, including mulefat scrub and riparian
37 woodland (which is atypical for its type due to high levels of disturbance). These impacts would be
38 significant but mitigatable. The Mesa Substation Project would contribute to a cumulative impact
39 due to filling of jurisdictional waters. Given the significant impact of the Montebello Hills Specific
40 Plan alone, the cumulative impact would also be significant. The Mesa Substation Project's
41 contribution to the significant cumulative impact would be minimal. Only 0.34 acre of riparian
42 vegetation (0.20 acre of mulefat scrub and 0.14 acre of riparian woodland) would be permanently
43 impacted by the proposed project once temporarily disturbed areas are revegetated per MM BR-3.
44 The total of 0.34 acre of riparian habitat associated with potentially jurisdictional drainages would
45 not be a cumulatively considerable contribution to the significant cumulative impact (Impacts BR-2
46 and BR-3).

47
48 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan EIR concluded that connectivity for terrestrial species would not
49 be impacted due to fences and roadways that separate it from other areas of habitat. That EIR also

1 concluded that the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would potentially increase avian connectivity due
2 to creation of a long-term reserve area (City of Montebello 2014). The Mesa Substation Project also
3 would not adversely impact connectivity or migration. There would be no cumulative impact
4 (Impact BR-4).

5
6 The proposed Montebello Hills Reserve (part of the Montebello Hills Specific Plan area) would
7 meet the Montebello General Plan Conservation Element pertaining to vegetation preservation for
8 habitat (City of Montebello 2014). The Mesa Substation Project would result in vegetation removal
9 and trimming in Montebello along Telecommunications Routes 1, 2, and 3. Temporarily impacted
10 areas would be restored per MM BR-3, leaving minimal areas with permanent vegetation impacts.
11 These areas would not noticeably impact habitat availability and would not conflict with the
12 Montebello General Plan Conservation Element. As a result, there would be no cumulative impact
13 (Impact BR-5) when considering conflict of the proposed project and the Montebello General Plan
14 Conservation Element.

15 16 **6.1.2.5 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

17 **Approach**

18
19 Cultural and paleontological resources impacts are highly localized in that they impact resources in
20 discreet areas; therefore, the cumulative cultural resources analysis used the List Approach (CEQA
21 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). The cultural resources impacts of nearby projects, set forth
22 below, were evaluated to determine whether, in combination with the proposed project, there
23 would be significant cumulative cultural resources impacts.

24 25 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

26 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts to cultural resources includes ground-disturbing
27 projects within 100 feet of elements of ground-disturbing elements of the proposed project that
28 could impact known or undiscovered cultural resources because cultural resources impacts are
29 highly localized in that they impact resources in discreet and usually small areas.

30 31 **Cumulative Scenario**

32 Projects within 100 feet of the proposed project that would also have ground disturbance include
33 the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan, which is located across East Markland Drive to the west
34 of the substation site; Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan
35 Amendment, which is located adjacent to an undergrounded portion of Telecommunications Route
36 1; and Sewer Spot Repairs on Potrero Grande Drive, which are located adjacent to the Mesa
37 Substation and the undergrounded portion of Telecommunications Route 1.

38
39 While the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well) is within 100
40 feet of Goodrich Substation, the project would have no impact on cultural resources as the well
41 work was mainly aboveground, and the water line was installed in areas of previously disturbed
42 soils (City of Pasadena 2012).

43 44 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

45 The proposed project would not affect any known cultural or paleontological resources that could
46 also be affected by cumulative scenario projects. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact
47 CR-1 and CR-3).

1
2 The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan includes construction of a storage facility and parking
3 lot. Grading would be necessary for the storage facility basement. Construction of the storage
4 facility would not affect any known historic, archaeological, or paleontological resources but may
5 affect previously undisturbed resources during excavation for the basement (City of Monterey Park
6 2013). The project involves mitigation to reduce impacts to any discovered resources. Further, the
7 proposed project and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan are at least 65 feet apart, so only a
8 very large resource could be affected by both projects. Uncovering a large resource at depth would
9 be unlikely given the existing disturbance in the area that occurred for construction of the nearby
10 off-ramp. The proposed project would also involve limited excavation in the western area of the
11 site and would mostly involve fill. As a result, cumulative impacts to previously unknown historical,
12 archaeological, and paleontological resources and burials (Impacts CR-2, CR-3, and CR-4) would be
13 less than significant.

14
15 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment would not
16 impact a paleontological, historic, or archaeological resource (City of Monterey Park 2014a). It
17 would therefore not contribute to a cumulative impact (Impacts CR-2 and CR-3) with the Mesa
18 Substation Project. For two projects to affect the same human remains, the projects must be
19 directly adjacent to each other. Human remains are not known in the area and it is not foreseeable
20 that the cumulative projects would affect the same undiscovered human burial as the proposed
21 project because of the distance between the two projects. Therefore, there would be no cumulative
22 impact (Impact CR-4).

23
24 Sewer Spot Repairs on Potrero Grande Drive could be located in the same area as
25 Telecommunications Route 1 undergrounding and the relocation of the Metropolitan Water
26 District of Southern California pipeline across Potrero Grande Road. However, the repairs would
27 take place on existing infrastructure and would not impact undisturbed soils. Therefore, the sewer
28 spot repairs would not impact cultural or paleontological resources or affect human burials
29 (Impacts CR-2, CR-3, and CR-4) and would not contribute to a cumulative impact.

30 31 **6.1.2.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources**

32 33 **Approach**

34 Geology, soils, and mineral resources impacts are project-specific and highly localized; therefore,
35 the cumulative geology, soils, and mineral resources analysis used the List Approach (CEQA
36 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). Geology, soil, and mineral resources impacts of nearby
37 projects were evaluated to determine whether there would be significant cumulative geology, soils,
38 and mineral resources impacts. The proposed project would not contribute to mineral resources
39 impacts (Impacts MR-1 and MR-2). Therefore, mineral resources impacts are not analyzed.

40 41 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

42 The geographic extent for considering cumulative impacts to geology, soils, and minerals was a
43 0.1-mile radius from the footprint of the proposed project components because geologic hazards
44 are generally dependent on localized geologic and soil conditions. Projects must also result in
45 impacts to geology and soils resources such that they would contribute to a cumulative impact with
46 the proposed project.
47

1 **Cumulative Scenario**

2 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:

- 3
- 4 • North Area
 - 5 - East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well and Foothill
 - 6 Boulevard Pipeline)
 - 7 • Main Project Area
 - 8 - Monterey Park Market Place
 - 9 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment
 - 10 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 11 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 12 Repairs)
 - 13 - Jay Imperial Park
 - 14 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- 15

16 The OII Landfill Superfund site and SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field project would
17 not undergo ground disturbance or additional construction. Therefore, these projects would not
18 contribute to a cumulative impact and were excluded from the cumulative scenario. Whittier
19 Narrows Dam is located in an area where Telecommunications Route 2 work would require
20 stringing on existing poles; the proposed project would not contribute to seismic, erosion, geologic
21 hazards, erosion, or land stability impacts (Impacts GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-6,
22 GEO-7) in this area. The Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications project was therefore
23 excluded from the cumulative scenario.

24

25 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3; however, this area
26 of the Specific Plan would be preserved as open space and construction would not occur in this
27 area. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is therefore excluded from the scenario because it would
28 not contribute to a cumulative impact. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion is about 150 feet from an
29 overhead segment of Telecommunications Route 1, while the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
30 condominiums project is about 80 feet from an overhead portion of Telecommunications Route 1.
31 Overhead construction work on Telecommunications Route 1 would not result in geology, soils, or
32 minerals impacts. The projects are therefore excluded from this discussion.

33

34 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

35 ***North Area***

36 East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well and Foothill Boulevard
37 Pipeline) are close to the Goodrich Substation. Permanent structures associated with Twombly
38 Well and Foothill Boulevard Pipeline caused minimal ground disturbance. Sediment erosion
39 control measures were also implemented (City of Pasadena 2012). Soils in the area are considered
40 stable. The proposed project and the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility
41 project would not appreciably increase seismic risk in this area because both would be built to
42 applicable seismic standards, which would ensure impacts are less than significant. Cumulative
43 impacts (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, and GEO-5) in the North Area would be less than
44 significant. The North Area is not located on a fault and would not experience fault rupture impacts

1 (Impact GEO-1). The North Area is located in a flat area, would not be subject to extensive grading,
2 and is in an area mapped for low landslide susceptibility. There would be no cumulative soil
3 stability impact (Impact GEO-6). Soil in the North Area has a low shrink-swell potential and
4 therefore there would be no cumulative impact related to expansive soil (Impact GEO-7).

5
6 **Main Project Area**

7 The Mesa Substation Project would be located in a seismically hazardous area, as would all of the
8 projects considered in the analysis. The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and Monterey Park
9 Market Place are required to comply with the California Building Code seismic design criteria to
10 determine any special measures needed to address seismic risk (City of Monterey Park 2013; City
11 of Monterey Park 2010). The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
12 Plan Amendment project is being implemented according to the California Building Code and a
13 geotechnical report would be prepared to address seismic impacts (City of Monterey Park 2014a).
14 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs would be constructed in accordance with any applicable
15 seismic guidelines for sewer lines. The proposed project would be subject to seismic risk, but
16 would not exacerbate existing conditions and mitigation recommended in the geotechnical study
17 will be incorporated into project design. As a result, the cumulative impacts related to seismic
18 hazards (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4) would be less than significant.

19
20 The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan, Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
21 and General Plan Amendment, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs, and Monterey Park
22 Market Place would all require ground disturbance. The 500 East Markland Specific Plan and The
23 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive project is being implemented with best management
24 practices that would prevent erosion (City of Monterey Park 2013; Monterey Park 2014a). The
25 Monterey Park Market Place involves implementation of a long-term plan for controlling soil
26 erosion as well as recommendations from the project geotechnical report (City of Monterey Park
27 2010). The proposed project would involve a substantial amount of grading, which poses a large
28 risk of erosion and topsoil loss. Given the large areas subject to grading at the Mesa Substation site
29 (about 72 acres) there could be a significant cumulative impact related to erosion and topsoil loss.
30 The Mesa Substation's contribution may be cumulatively considerable due to the grading at the
31 site. This would be a significant impact. The project applicant would be required to prepare a
32 SWPPP per MM HY-1, which will require erosion control devices. These measures would be scaled
33 as appropriate to the project site to prevent wind and water erosion on the site. The proposed
34 project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact (Impact GEO-5) would not be cumulatively
35 considerable after implementation of mitigation.

36
37 The 500 East Markland Specific Plan and Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
38 and General Plan Amendment sites are not located in areas with landslide risk or liquefaction risk
39 (City of Monterey Park 2013, City of Monterey Park 2014a). The Monterey Park Marketplace would
40 be designed in accordance with the geotechnical report that made recommendations to reduce
41 landslide risk on adjacent permanent slopes; this area is not susceptible to liquefaction (City of
42 Monterey Park 2010). The proposed project would be located on graded land and would be
43 constructed in accordance with the recommendations in the geotechnical report. As a result, the
44 landslide related cumulative impact (Impact GEO-6) would be less than significant.

45
46 The 500 East Markland Specific Plan site is not located in an area with expansive soils (City of
47 Monterey Park 2013). The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
48 Plan Amendment project and Monterey Park Market Place were to be designed in accordance with
49 the project geotechnical report if it is determined that there are expansive soils on site (City of

1 Monterey Park 2014a; City of Monterey Park 2011). The proposed project would be partially
2 located on areas with expansive soil. The proposed project would not exacerbate existing
3 conditions related to expansive soils and would be designed in accordance with the
4 recommendations in the geotechnical report. As a result, the cumulative impact related to
5 expansive soil (Impact GEO-7) would be less than significant.
6

7 The South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements project would be close to the undergrounded
8 portion of Telecommunications Route 1. The bikeway project would involve minimal ground
9 disturbance in the vicinity of the undergrounded segment of Telecommunications Route 1;
10 disturbed areas would be covered with asphalt for new bike lanes. The undergrounded portion of
11 Telecommunications Route 1 is about 150 feet long and would require very minimal ground
12 disturbance. Cumulative erosion impacts (Impact GEO-5) in this area would be minimal and the
13 cumulative impact would be less than significant. Construction of elements such as extra pavement
14 and telecommunications lines on existing poles would not pose a substantial risk related to
15 landslides or seismic activities or unstable land (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-6, and GEO-7).
16 As a result, the cumulative impact would be less than significant.
17

18 Jay Imperial Park is located in the East Montebello Fault proximate to Staging Yard 6. Permanent
19 structures at Jay Imperial Park would be limited to tables, fitness stations, and benches that would
20 not pose a great risk in the case of fault rupture or seismic activity. Staging Area 6 would not have
21 permanent structures that could cause damage in the case of fault rupture, seismic activity, or
22 unstable soils. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant (Impacts GEO-1, GEO-2, and GEO-
23 3). The area around Jay Imperial Park and Staging Yard 6 is relatively flat and not subject to
24 landslides, substantial erosion, or soil instability. Cumulative impacts (Impacts GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-
25 6, and GEO-7) would therefore be less than significant in this area.
26

27 **6.1.2.7 Greenhouse Gases**

28 **Approach**

29 The CEQA Guidelines address how a lead agency can assess cumulative impacts of projects that
30 emit greenhouse gases (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h)(3)):
31

32
33 A lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative
34 effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project will comply with the requirements in a
35 previously approved plan or mitigation program (including, but not limited to . . .
36 regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions) that provides specific
37 requirements that will avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem within the
38 geographic area in which the project is located.
39

40 For this analysis, compliance with state-level policies is used to assess cumulative impacts, given
41 that a substantial amount of greenhouse gas reduction programs and policies are undertaken or
42 spearheaded at the state level.
43

44 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

45 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts from greenhouse gases (GHGs) is global; however,
46 state-level projections were used given that a substantial amount of greenhouse gas reduction
47 programs are undertaken at the state level.
48

1 **Cumulative Scenario**

2 The cumulative scenario includes all greenhouse gas emissions sources in California, which
3 includes sources such as transportation, manufacturing, energy production, and agriculture.
4

5 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

6 Regional and global development patterns continue to rely on methods and practices that
7 contribute large volumes of GHGs to the atmosphere, and impacts related to GHGs have widespread
8 and potentially harmful consequences. The increase in GHGs in the atmosphere, caused in large
9 part by human activity, is now considered one of the key causes of global climate change. Current
10 scientific research indicates that potential effects of climate change include variations in
11 temperature and precipitation, sea-level rise, impacts on biodiversity and habitat, impacts on
12 agriculture and forestry, and human health and social impacts. As described in the state's Climate
13 Change Scoping Plan of 2008 (CARB 2008), GHG sources in the state collectively result in emissions
14 that are higher than the targets established by Assembly Bill 32, which indicates that GHG
15 emissions in the state continue to contribute to a total significant, state-wide cumulative impact.
16

17 The Mesa Substation Project would contribute to the significant cumulative greenhouse gas impact
18 because the project would result in emissions of greenhouse gases. During construction, emissions
19 would be generated by equipment/vehicle usage. During operation, emissions would be generated
20 by equipment/vehicle usage and through SF₆ leakage from transformers.
21

22 The proposed project would comply with regulations related to reduction of GHG emissions from
23 heavy-duty trucks during construction, including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and, if applicable
24 by the start of the proposed project, "Phase 2" heavy-duty truck GHG standards and other
25 standards and regulations adopted over time. Compliance with these standards is discussed in
26 greater detail in Section 4.6, "Greenhouse Gases." The project's contribution to the cumulative
27 significant impact would therefore not be cumulatively considerable.
28

29 **6.1.2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

30 **Approach**

31
32 The cumulative hazards and hazardous materials analysis uses the List Approach (CEQA Guidelines
33 Section 15130(b)(1)(A)) for hazardous materials and fire impacts. Hazardous materials impacts
34 are project-specific and highly localized. Fires in urban areas also tend to be contained to small
35 areas. Hazardous materials impacts of nearby projects were evaluated to determine whether there
36 would be significant cumulative hazards and fire impacts.
37

38 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

39 The geographic scope of hazardous material cumulative impacts would be the area within 100 feet
40 of the proposed project disturbance areas. The limited geographic scope is due to the fact that
41 there is low risk for a geographically large and dispersed hazardous material spill or release as a
42 result of the proposed project. The greatest risk includes spillage of gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and
43 lubricants during construction. In the event of an accident, none of the aforementioned substances
44 would be expected to be released in large quantities or to travel long distances.
45

1 **Cumulative Scenario**

2 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:

- 3
- 4 • Main Project Area
 - 5 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
 - 6 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 7 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 8 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Spot Repairs)
 - 9 - SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
 - 10 - Jay Imperial Park
 - 11 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
 - 12 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 13

14 Montebello Hills Specific Plan was excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario
15 because the area closest to Telecommunications Route 3 would be left as open space and would not
16 contribute to a cumulative impact.

17
18 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area because the East Well Collector and Centralized
19 Disinfection Facility components near Goodrich Substation have been constructed. The pipeline in
20 Foothill Boulevard is underground in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Twombly Well
21 modification involves installation of a surge tank, which protects wells by dissipating velocity and
22 pressure. The project therefore would not contribute to a cumulative hazards impact.

23
24 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

25 All of the projects in the cumulative scenario would involve the use of hazardous materials in some
26 form and to some degree. There is an intrinsic risk of spill of materials used during construction.
27 The risk would be greatest at the Mesa Substation, given that most construction activities would
28 occur at the substation site. The cumulative projects in the cumulative scenario near the Mesa
29 Substation site are the Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan
30 Amendment, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs, and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific
31 Plan, which would utilize typical hazardous materials during construction, such as oils, lubricants,
32 and fuels. The potential for a hazard spill to occur at the Mesa Substation site near the 500 East
33 Markland Drive Specific Plan site or on Telecommunications Route 1 near the 2015 Potrero Grande
34 Drive Specific Plan site and Potrero Grande Sewer Repairs is low given that only grading and
35 trenching would occur in the area. All projects would adhere to all applicable regulations if a spill
36 were to occur. The risk of a fire occurring at either site is low; a fire at 500 East Markland Drive or
37 at 2015 Potrero Grande Drive would be contained given that they are located in an area
38 surrounded by roadways that would act as fuelbreaks. As a result, cumulative hazards impacts
39 (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) around the Mesa Substation site would be less than significant.

40
41 SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field project is located adjacent to Telecommunications
42 Route 2. In this location, Telecommunications Route 2 would involve stringing on existing poles,
43 which poses an extremely low and temporary risk of spills or fires. The SoCalGas Montebello Gas
44 Storage Project would be subject to regulations regarding hazardous materials and natural gas
45 operations. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed project, coupled

1 with the regulated conditions at the SoCalGas Montebello Gas Storage Project, cumulative impacts
2 (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) in this area related to fire and hazardous materials would be less
3 than significant.

4
5 Telecommunications Route 3 would be located close to the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety
6 Modifications project. In this area, Telecommunications Route 3 would involve stringing on
7 existing poles, which poses an extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work at the dam would be
8 subject to hazardous materials regulations, and there is limited natural vegetation that would act
9 as fuel in the case of a fire. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed
10 project, coupled with the regulated conditions at the dam, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2,
11 and HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.

12
13 Telecommunications Route 1 would be located adjacent to the South San Gabriel Bikeway Access
14 Improvements project. Telecommunications Route 1 work within 100 feet of the South San Gabriel
15 Bikeway Access Improvements project would involve stringing on existing poles, which poses an
16 extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work on the bikeway project would be subject to hazardous
17 materials regulations, and there is limited vegetation that could fuel a fire. Given the extremely low
18 potential for spills or fires from the proposed project, coupled with the regulated conditions of the
19 bike project and the limited vegetation in the area, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and
20 HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.

21
22 Telecommunications Route 1 would be located adjacent to the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
23 Condominiums project. Telecommunications Route 1 work in this location would involve stringing
24 on existing poles, which poses an extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work on the condominiums
25 project would be subject to hazardous materials regulations, and there is limited vegetation that
26 could fuel a fire. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed project,
27 coupled with the regulated conditions of the condominiums project and the limited vegetation in
28 the area, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) would therefore be less than
29 significant in this area.

30
31 Staging Area 6 and Jay Imperial Park are separated by San Gabriel Boulevard, which would act as a
32 physical barrier to the combination of spills between the two areas, making it highly unlikely that a
33 spill would extend beyond the roadway and into the area on either side of the road. Furthermore,
34 Jay Imperial Park construction would involve only minimal use of common hazardous materials
35 such as fuels and oils. The cumulative hazardous materials impacts (Impacts HZ-1 and HZ-2) would
36 be less than significant. Because the staging area and park would be located in an existing
37 transmission ROW, and because vegetation in the ROW is managed to reduce the risk of fire,
38 cumulative impacts (Impact HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.

39
40 Several cumulative projects are located within 0.25 mile of the same schools as the proposed
41 project:

- 42
- 43 • *Schurr High School and Schurr Community Adult Center*: 500 East Markland Drive, Mesa
- 44 Main Project Area, Mesa Staging Yard 2
- 45 • *La Merced Middle School*: Telecommunications Route 3 and Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 46 • *Don Bosco Technical Institute*: 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard project, Telecommunications
- 47 Route 1
- 48

1 The 500 East Markland Drive project is on the opposite side of SR 60 and Via Campo Drive. The
2 project would involve equipment for excavation and construction. It is highly unlikely that a spill of
3 a substance such as fuel would be large and uncontrolled enough so that it would travel under
4 SR 60 to combine with a spill from the work on the proposed project and then impact Schurr High
5 School and Schurr Community Adult Center, which are south of both projects. Cumulative impacts
6 (Impact HZ-3) would be less than significant. Work along Telecommunications Route 3 would
7 involve stringing telecommunications line on existing poles. The area of the Montebello Hills
8 Specific Plan within 0.25 mile of La Merced Middle School would not be subject to construction
9 activities. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact HZ-3) to La Merced Middle School.
10 Telecommunications Route 1 work in the vicinity of Don Bosco Technical Institute would be
11 limited to line stringing on existing poles. The work at 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard would be
12 limited to building construction. Telecommunications Route 1 work would take place for a very
13 limited time in the vicinity of 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard such that a cumulative impact would be
14 highly unlikely. Cumulative impacts to Don Bosco Technical Institute (Impact HZ-3) would be less
15 than significant.

16
17 The Mesa Substation project is the only project located on or near the OII Superfund site with
18 extensive, deep excavation that could potentially unearth contaminated soils from the Superfund
19 site. Thus, there would be no cumulative impact (Impact HZ-4).

20
21 The proposed project would not interfere with or impair implementation of an adopted emergency
22 response plan. Cumulative impacts (Impact HZ-5) are therefore not assessed.

23 24 **6.1.2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality**

25 26 **Approach**

27 The cumulative hydrology and water quality analysis uses the List Approach and the Projection
28 Approach, depending on the impact. Certain hydrology and water quality impacts were project-
29 specific and highly localized, including water quality, drainage impacts, and runoff. In these cases,
30 the project List Approach was used to assess the hydrology and water quality resources impacts of
31 nearby projects to determine whether there would be significant cumulative hydrology and water
32 quality impacts. Some impacts; however, were basin- or County-wide, such as groundwater supply,
33 making the Projection approach most appropriate to evaluate cumulative impacts.

34 35 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

36 The scope for considering cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality using the List
37 Approach is any project that could:

- 38
- 39 • Violate water quality standards,
- 40 • Impact groundwater supplies,
- 41 • Alter existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or
- 42 siltation or result in flooding, and/or
- 43 • Impede or redirect flood flows or otherwise contribute to a risk of loss, injury, or death
- 44 involving water-related hazards.
- 45

1 The geographic extent for considering project-related cumulative impacts on hydrology and water
2 quality includes projects within 0.5 miles of proposed project components because this distance
3 encompasses the majority of the areas of the sub-watersheds that the project crosses.

4 5 **Cumulative Scenario**

6 The cumulative scenario for water quality and drainage, and exposure of people to flooding is 0.5
7 miles from the project area, since that is an area in which pollutants from different projects may
8 combine in an urbanized area. Projects in the cumulative scenario were those that would have an
9 impact on water quality, and drainages. Projects in this scenario include:

- 10 • Monterey Park Market Place
- 11 • Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
12 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
- 13 • 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
- 14 • Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Spot Repairs)
- 15 • Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 16 • South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- 17 • Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 18 • Doubletree Hotel Expansion
- 19 • 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums
- 20

21
22 OII Landfill Superfund site was excluded because the project has a beneficial impact on
23 groundwater quality and has no impact to drainages. South Garfield Village Specific Plan is
24 excluded from the scenario because it pertains to neighborhood improvements that would not
25 impact water quality or drainages. SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field was excluded
26 from the cumulative scenario because the project is operating and is part of baseline. East Well
27 Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility was excluded from the cumulative scenario because
28 it has a beneficial impact on groundwater quality and did not affect drags. Cal Royal Products was
29 excluded from the cumulative scenario because it involves expanding an existing building and
30 would not affect water quality or drainages. Likewise, Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project and
31 New Garvey 168 Plaza Project are not included in the cumulative scenario because they involve
32 construction on already developed parcels.

33
34 Jay Imperial Park is excluded from the cumulative scenario because it is on the other side of San
35 Gabriel Boulevard from Staging Yard 6. The road acts as a physical barrier to water flow between
36 the Staging Yard 6 area and the park area, preventing any combination of impacts of the proposed
37 project and the Jay Imperial Park project.

38
39 Water used during operation would be supplied by the City of Monterey Park Water System, which
40 receives all of their water supply from the San Gabriel Valley groundwater basin. Projections for
41 the San Gabriel Valley groundwater basin were therefore used for the cumulative scenario for
42 groundwater use.

43
44 There was no cumulative scenario for exposure to risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding
45 because only two 220-kV towers and one telecommunications pole are located in flood zones in the

1 Main Project Area. Other projects would not have components in this same area such that there
2 would be a cumulative increase in risk of flood exposure. The South Project area is located in a dam
3 inundation zone, but there are no projects in within 0.5 miles of Mesa Substation Project
4 components.

6 Cumulative Impact Analysis

7 All projects evaluated for cumulative impacts would be required to comply with applicable state
8 and federal water quality requirements, including those related to siltation. This would include
9 coverage under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Water Quality Certification) and/or Waste
10 Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and Encanto
11 Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment projects were
12 required to demonstrate NPDES compliance (City of Monterey Park 2014a; City of Monterey Park
13 2013). The Montebello Hills Specific Plan, Monterey Park Market Place, and Whittier Narrows Dam
14 Safety Modifications projects would also be required to comply with NPDES permit requirements.
15 The San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements project, 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard, and Sewer
16 System Capital Improvement Program project are small and would not generate substantial
17 siltation. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion project was built on an existing parking lot, limiting
18 ground disturbance and siltation. The Mesa Substation Project would have a SWPPP with siltation
19 and water quality best management practices to prevent adverse water quality impacts.
20 Cumulative water quality impacts (Impacts HY-1 and HY-5) would therefore be less than
21 significant.

22
23 The Mesa Substation Project would use water from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The
24 Main San Gabriel Basin is in overdraft conditions and has experienced historic lowering of the
25 groundwater table. The preliminary Operating Safe Yield recommendation for the Main San Gabriel
26 Basin for fiscal year 2015–2016 is 150,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), and for subsequent years
27 through 2020 is approximately 130,000 AFY. About 195,000 acre-feet were pumped in 2014–2015.
28 Groundwater levels at one well have also decreased from 294 feet in 1983 to 175 feet in 2015
29 (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster 2015). The Mesa Substation Project's water use, in
30 combination with existing and reasonably foreseeable future use of groundwater from other
31 projects in the Main San Gabriel Basin would result in a significant cumulative impact. However,
32 even though the basin is in overdraft and groundwater levels are below the 200-foot goal, the
33 proposed project's water use would not be a substantial use of groundwater that would result in a
34 net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. One hundred-forty
35 (140) AFY equates to about 0.3 percent of the 2014–2015 overdraft. Spread across the basin, this
36 would not cause a noticeable decrease in groundwater volume or groundwater level. This pumping
37 level would also last only one year, with consecutive construction years using less and less water.
38 Therefore, the proposed project's contribution to the significant cumulative impact (Impact HY-2)
39 would not be cumulatively considerable.

40
41 The Mesa Substation Project would alter drainages on the substation site, which would be a
42 significant impact before mitigation. Of the cumulative projects, only the Monterey Park
43 Marketplace may be located in areas with drainages that are connected to the drainages on the
44 substation site. It was found that the Monterey Park Marketplace would not significantly impact
45 drainages (City of Monterey Park 2011). The cumulative impact would be significant given that the
46 Mesa Substation impacts alone would be significant. Mitigation measures would be implemented
47 for the proposed project (MM HY-3 and MM HY-4) to require adequate design of drainage on the
48 substation site. The cumulative impact to drainages (Impacts HY-3, HY-4, and HY-5) would be less
49 than significant after mitigation.

1
2 The proposed project would use herbicides in quantities small enough that they would not create
3 runoff that would substantially degrade water quality. There would not be runoff that would
4 combine with runoff from other projects; therefore, the project would not contribute to any
5 cumulative impacts (Impact HY-6). The proposed project would not have impacts related to a
6 100-year flood zone and therefore would not contribute to any cumulative impacts (Impact HY-7).
7

8 **6.1.2.10 Noise and Vibration**

9 10 **Approach**

11 Noise and vibration impacts are highly localized; therefore, the cumulative noise and vibration
12 analysis uses the project List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). Noise and
13 vibration impacts of nearby projects, set forth below, were evaluated to determine whether there
14 would be significant cumulative noise and vibration impacts.
15

16 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

17 The scope for considering cumulative noise impacts included any project that would result in an
18 increase in ambient daytime noise levels. The geographic extent for considering cumulative noise
19 impacts was any project within 1,000 feet of the project component areas, because any project
20 operating within the noise standards established by the applicable local jurisdictions at this
21 distance would not contribute to increases in ambient noise levels at the nearest sensitive
22 receptors to the proposed project component areas.
23

24 **Cumulative Scenario**

25 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:

- 26 • Main Project Area
- 27
 - 28 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
 - 29 - Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 30 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 31 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 32 - Repairs)
 - 33 - Jay Imperial Park
 - 34 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
 - 35 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
 - 36 - 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums

37
38 The OII Landfill Superfund site, Doubletree Hotel Expansion, and SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas
39 Storage Field project were excluded from the Main Project Area scenario because all work has been
40 completed; noise from these projects was taken into account as the environmental baseline for the
41 project-level analysis. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan project was excluded from the cumulative
42 scenario because the area nearest Telecommunications Route 3 would be maintained as open
43 space and no construction would be completed in the area. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion project
44 was excluded from the noise cumulative scenario because construction has been completed.

1 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area because the East Well Collector and Centralized
2 Disinfection Facility components near Goodrich Substation have been constructed and do not
3 generate substantial noise during operation.

4
5 There is no cumulative scenario for the Existing Substations because modifications at existing
6 substations would not generate perceptible noise.

7 8 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

9 The cumulative impact analysis focuses on the construction period of the Mesa Substation Project
10 and other projects, since those may overlap and because the operation of the cumulative projects
11 would not generate appreciable amounts of noise or contribute to a cumulative noise impact. Noise
12 during operation of the Mesa Substation would not contribute to a cumulative impact (Impact
13 NV-3) and is therefore not discussed.

14
15 To the north of the Mesa Substation site, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs would generate
16 noise from asphalt cutting, trenching, and road paving. Construction noise from the Monterey Park
17 Market Place may also combine with this noise. This sound would combine with construction noise
18 at the Mesa Substation should the two projects be constructed at the same time, resulting in a
19 significant increase in noise at sensitive receptors in Monterey Park, including the lodgers at the
20 Best Western Plus Markland Hotel, residents on Holly Oak Drive, or residents on Potrero Grande
21 Drive near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel.

22
23 The Potrero Grande Sewer Spot Repairs project, the Mesa Substation Project, and Monterey Park
24 Market Place would generate cumulative noise impacts from construction but they would only
25 occur for a short duration. Mesa Substation Project construction would take place near Potrero
26 Grande Drive between the second quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2021, while Potrero
27 Grande Drive sewer spot repairs would take place in fiscal year 2017/2018. The construction
28 schedule for the Monterey Park Market Place is unknown but to be conservative it is assumed it
29 would overlap with the construction activities of the Mesa Substation Project. There may be about
30 3 months of overlap between the two projects. Given that the sewer project would involve only
31 spot repairs, noise would be short-term, transient, and during the day along Potrero Grande Drive
32 and would not appreciably add to the ambient noise environment. Monterey Park Marketplace
33 Noise would be less than substation construction noise because less grading would be involved.
34 Mesa Substation Project activities are subject to mitigation to reduce noise at sensitive receptors
35 per MM NV-1, but would still result in significant impacts at several sensitive receptors near the
36 east portion of the project site. As a result, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be significant.
37 Given that the Mesa Substation Project on its own would result in significant noise impacts, its
38 contribution to the significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable. The impact
39 could not be mitigated to less than significant for the same reasons provided in Section 4.10, "Noise
40 and Vibration," that the project-level impact cannot be mitigated to below the level of significance.
41 The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of
42 Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the
43 noise ordinance.

44
45 Phase I activities at Mesa Substation would take place near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel
46 and near the residential receptors on Potrero Grande Drive. Phase I would take place between the
47 second quarter of 2016 and the fourth quarter of 2018. Phase I would therefore overlap with
48 Potrero Grande sewer spot repairs and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan construction in
49 this area. Given that the sewer project would involve only spot repairs, noise would be short-term,

1 transient, and during the day along Potrero Grande Drive and would not appreciably add to the
2 ambient noise environment. Construction of the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan project
3 would result in noise that could affect the same sensitive receptors as the Mesa Substation Project.
4 Noise mitigation will be required during construction of the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
5 project (City of Monterey Park 2013). Mesa Substation construction will also require noise control
6 measures as shown in MM NV-1, but would still result in significant impacts at several sensitive
7 receptors. As a result, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be significant. Given that the Mesa
8 Substation Project on its own would result in significant noise impacts, its contribution to the
9 significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable. Impacts cannot be mitigated to
10 less than significant for the same reasons provided in Section 4.10 that the project-level impact
11 cannot be mitigated to below the level of significance. The proposed project would not contribute
12 to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact
13 NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance.

14
15 Activities associated with the Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs may generate vibration
16 that could combine with the Mesa Substation project generated vibration. The vibration from the
17 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs would be transient and would be similar to those
18 generated for the proposed project (about 0.210 peak particle velocity (PPV) at 25 feet for use of a
19 vibratory roller). Given the significance threshold is 0.9 PPV, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-2)
20 would be less than significant.

21
22 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment construction
23 could overlap with Phase I of the Mesa Substation Project. Phase I activities at Mesa Substation
24 would take place near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel and near the residential receptors on
25 Potrero Grande Drive on the western portion of the project site. This would be about 0.7 mile from
26 the Encanto Walk site and cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be less than significant. The
27 proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of
28 Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the
29 noise ordinance.

30
31 Construction of the South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements and Telecommunications
32 Route 2 would occur close to San Gabriel Boulevard in Rosemead and unincorporated Los Angeles
33 County. Construction noise and vibration from both projects would combine if both projects would
34 undergo construction at the same time. Noise and vibration from construction of a bike lane would
35 be transient and would be close to Telecommunications Route 2 for a very minimal amount of time,
36 considering that telecommunications stringing takes a period of only up to a matter of hours in any
37 one location. Vibration generated would be minimal due to the nature of work of both projects.
38 Trenching for the short undergrounded segment of Telecommunications Route 2 would be near the
39 bike lane work for a minimal amount of time (i.e., less than a day) if the work overlaps. Cumulative
40 impacts (Impacts NV-2 and NV-4) in this area would therefore be less than significant. The
41 proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of
42 Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the
43 noise ordinance. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, the Mesa Substation project would not
44 violate the Los Angeles County noise ordinance at the closest sensitive receptor, which is 125 feet
45 from Telecommunications Route 1 trenching. The bike project is almost 500 feet away from the
46 closest sensitive receptor to the Mesa Project telecommunications trenching. Cumulative impacts
47 related to the Los Angeles County noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) would therefore be less than
48 significant.

1 Construction of the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums and Telecommunications Route 2
2 would occur close to San Gabriel Boulevard. Construction noise from both projects would combine
3 if both projects would undergo construction at the same time. Noise from construction of the
4 condominiums would be transient and would be close to Telecommunications Route 2 for a very
5 minimal amount of time, considering that telecommunications stringing takes a period of only up
6 to a matter of hours in any one location. Cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) in this area would
7 therefore be less than significant. The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative
8 impact related to violation of the City of Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area
9 because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance. The trenching for Telecommunications
10 Route 1 is located about 400 feet from the bike project, with no sensitive receptors in between.
11 There would be no cumulative vibration impact (Impact NV-2).

12
13 The Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications work would be located near Telecommunications
14 Route 3. Whittier Narrows Dam project work could generate a substantial amount of noise near
15 sensitive receptors—loud earth moving may be required and there are houses adjacent to the dam.
16 Due to the volume of earthmoving and the proximity of sensitive receptors, this would result in a
17 significant cumulative noise impact. Telecommunications Route 3 construction in this area would
18 involve only stringing on existing poles, which would generate some noise from vehicle use. The
19 proposed project's contribution to a cumulative noise impact (Impacts NV-1 and NV-4) would not
20 be cumulatively considerable. Line stringing would generate an imperceptible amount of vibration
21 that would dissipate before combining with any vibration from the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety
22 Modifications project work. The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative vibration
23 impact (Impact NV-2) in this area.

24
25 Jay Imperial Park construction may take place during SCE's use of Staging Yard 6. Construction
26 noise at Jay Imperial Park would be low because improvements planned would include installing
27 walkways, benches, and exercise structures and planting grass or other vegetation. Staging yard
28 use would generate minimal noise, as activities would generally be limited to vehicles and
29 equipment entering and exiting the staging area. Cumulative noise impacts (Impact NV-4) would
30 therefore be less than significant. Vibration would likewise be minimal at both sites due to the
31 limited ground disturbance. Furthermore, there are no receptors between Staging Yard 6 and the
32 Jay Imperial Park site that would be subject to vibration from both sites. Cumulative vibration
33 impacts (Impact NV-2) would be less than significant. The proposed project would not contribute
34 to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-
35 1) in this area because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance.

36 37 **6.1.2.11 Population and Housing**

38 39 **Approach**

40 The Projection Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)) was used for analyzing the
41 proposed project's cumulative impact on population and housing. Because population growth
42 occurs at a city, county, and regional level, a project List Approach would not adequately represent
43 the cumulative scenario. Therefore, a summary of projections was used to evaluate potentially
44 cumulative impacts.

45 46 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

47 As discussed further in Section 4.11, "Population and Housing," many residents in Los Angeles
48 work in different cities than where they live. Based on travel commutes, population, and data on
49 County level housing projections, the cumulative scenario was examined at the level of Los Angeles

1 County. The geographic scope of cumulative impacts therefore includes Los Angeles County, based
2 on the assumption that projected population growth across the County would take into account the
3 average growth of cities to which workers may relocate if they are working on the proposed project
4 or on any of the cumulative projects.

6 Cumulative Scenario

7 The projections used to identify the cumulative scenario for the Mesa Substation Project were from
8 2014 California Department of Finance Data.

10 Cumulative Impacts Analysis

11 The population in Los Angeles County, which includes Montebello, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and
12 El Monte, is predicted to grow by approximately 3 percent by the year 2020 and housing growth is
13 projected to be around the same amount (2.9 percent) (TableS 4.11-1 and 4.11-2). Construction of
14 2.9 percent more housing could result in a significant cumulative environmental impact depending
15 on the location and timing of construction, which would likely occur in different areas and years as
16 the planning timeframe was until 2035. However, the proposed project's contribution to this
17 significant cumulative impact would not be significant because, while unlikely, even if the 435
18 construction workers relocated to the project area, vacancy rates near 6 percent for the County of
19 Los Angeles (California Department of Finance 2015) indicate that existing housing could
20 accommodate any temporary population growth. The contribution to a cumulative significant
21 impact (Impact POP-1) would not be cumulatively considerable.

22
23 Over time it is not anticipated that there will be significant impacts related to displacement of
24 housing in Los Angeles County (County of Los Angeles 2014). The cumulative impact (Impact
25 POP-2) would be less than significant.

27 6.1.2.12 Public Services and Utilities

29 Approach

30 The Projection Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)) was used to analyze the
31 proposed project's cumulative impact to public services and utilities. Public services and utilities
32 are provided at the city and county levels, and effects to public services and utilities are measured
33 and planned for by service providers at the city and county levels. The proposed project covers a
34 geographic range across multiple jurisdictions. Accordingly, a summary of projections was used to
35 evaluate potentially cumulative impacts for most impact areas (Impacts PSU-1, PSU-2, PSU-3, PSU-
36 5, PSU-6, PSU-7, and PSU-8). However, for stormwater drainage capacity (Impact PSU-4) and
37 interruption of utilities (Impact PSU-9), a project List Approach was used because interruption of
38 utilities is a more local impact and depends on the type of project being considered.

40 Geographic Scope

41 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts for public services and utilities include Los Angeles
42 County and the jurisdictions within it that provide these services and utilities. The only exceptions
43 are interruption of utilities and stormwater drainage capacity. Interruption of utilities considered
44 only those projects that could cause interruption of utilities in the same service area(s) as the
45 proposed project (i.e., areas served by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and
46 areas served through the Mesa Substation). The scope of the cumulative scenario for stormwater

1 drainage capacity included those projects that could contribute stormwater to the same drainages
2 as the proposed project.

3 4 **Cumulative Scenario**

5 As discussed in Section 4.12, “Public Services and Utilities,” the demand for public services and
6 utilities is largely affected by an area’s population. There is a direct correlation between population
7 size and demand for public services such as fire and police protection, schools, parks, hospitals, and
8 libraries. The cumulative scenario within which the Mesa Substation Project’s contribution to
9 impacts was evaluated was based on the *Los Angeles County General Plan Update—Draft*
10 *Environmental Impact Report* (County of Los Angeles 2014). This Draft EIR examined public
11 services across the entire County and is a recent document that evaluated cumulative impacts.

12
13 For interruption of utilities, a project List Approach was used because interruption of utilities is a
14 more local impact and depends on the type of project being considered. No projects were identified
15 in the vicinity of the proposed project that would require electrical or water service outages in the
16 same area as the Mesa Substation during line stringing. There would be no cumulative scenario and
17 therefore no cumulative impacts on utility interruption (Impact PSU-9).

18
19 Similarly, stormwater drainage capacity is managed on a local level. Projects in the cumulative
20 stormwater drainage scenario would include those that would generate stormwater released to the
21 same stormwater drains as the proposed project; stormwater on the Mesa Substation site flows
22 from northeast to southwest. Projects in the cumulative scenario for stormwater drainage impacts
23 include:

- 24 • Monterey Park Market Place
- 25 • Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
26 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
- 27 • 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)

28 29 30 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

31 As Los Angeles County grows in population, there would be additional need for fire and police
32 protection services. This would require construction and/or expansion of police and fire protection
33 facilities (County of Los Angeles 2014). The construction could potentially result in a significant
34 cumulative impact depending on the location and timing of construction, which would likely occur
35 in different areas and years as the planning timeframe was until 2035. The proposed project would
36 result in only a temporary increase in fire risk and potential need for police services due to
37 construction and would not require increased fire or police services in any jurisdiction. As a result,
38 the proposed project’s contribution to any significant cumulative impact (Impact PSU-1) related to
39 fire or police protection would not be cumulatively considerable.

40
41 Wastewater treatment capacity in Los Angeles County would be sufficient to treat all projects
42 anticipated in Los Angeles County through 2035 (County of Los Angeles 2014). Cumulative impacts
43 related to wastewater treatment capacity (Impact PSU-6), waste discharge requirements (Impact
44 PSU-2), and construction of new wastewater treatment plants (Impact PSU-3) would be less than
45 significant.

46
47 The proposed project is located in the West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area. In this area, there is
48 sufficient water (Impact PSU-5) and sufficient water treatment capacity (Impact PSU-3) through

2035 to serve the project area at the City and County levels, as well as all anticipated growth in the area (County of Los Angeles 2014). Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Landfill capacity in Los Angeles County is adequate to support projected growth through 2035 and would be within countywide landfill capacity (County of Los Angeles 2014). Individual projects would have to comply with applicable regulations. Cumulative landfill capacity and solid waste regulation impacts (Impacts PSU-7 and PSU-8) would be less than significant.

The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment stormwater drainage would consist of private drain lines and infiltration drywells on the site. Other runoff would flow into on-site catch basins. Basins would not exceed capacity, but in major storm events, runoff would overflow onto Potrero Grande Drive (City of Monterey Park 2014a). The Monterey Park Market Place plan includes on-site detention basins to collect water so as to not exceed capacity of the stormwater drainage system that exists on the site (City of Monterey Park 2010). The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan would utilize an on-site drainage facility that existed prior to project implementation (City of Monterey Park 2013). The Mesa Substation Project would have a detention basin designed to maintain or lessen the amount of stormwater runoff from current conditions. As demonstrated, each project would effectively manage stormwater runoff on site. Cumulative impacts (Impact PSU-4) would therefore be less than significant.

6.1.2.13 Recreation

Approach

The proposed project's geographic range is relatively small, and most of the construction impacts would occur at the Mesa Substation. The List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)) was therefore used for analyzing the proposed projects cumulative impact to recreation.

Geographic Scope

The geographic scope for considering cumulative impacts related to recreation includes any project that would increase the use of the same recreational facilities that would be impacted by the Mesa Substation Project. The geographic scope for recreation cumulative impacts is within 1.0 mile of the Mesa Substation site because it is a distance people could be expected to travel for recreational activities in an urban area with several parks.

Cumulative Scenario

Projects that form the cumulative scenario for the recreation impacts are:

- Monterey Park Market Place
- Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan Amendment (GPA-13-02)
- Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums

Several projects are within the 1.0-mile buffer from the Mesa Substation but were excluded from the cumulative scenario. The Pomona Boulevard Sewer Spot Repairs and Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs Projects (part of the Sewer System Capital Improvement Program) would most likely be completed by local staff, since they are relatively small jobs and would therefore not

1 increase use of local recreational facilities. The SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
2 project and OII Landfill Superfund site are ongoing projects and do not require relocation of people
3 to the area. The South Garfield Village Specific Plan involves improvements to an existing
4 neighborhood that would not increase population or use of recreational facilities. Local
5 construction workers would be expected to be used for the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan,
6 since it is small, and would not result in increased use of recreational facilities. The South Garfield
7 Village Specific Plan does not propose new residential uses and would not increase use of
8 recreational facilities.

9 10 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

11 The Monterey Park Market Place and Montebello Hills Specific Plan would potentially be under
12 construction at the same time as the proposed project. Construction workers may be brought in
13 from elsewhere for these projects because of their size. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would
14 require up to 645 people (City of Montebello 2014). It is unclear how many construction workers
15 would be needed to construct the Monterey Park Market Place, but the project is large and
16 presumably could require hundreds of workers. The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Specific
17 Plan and General Plan Amendment project may be fully constructed and occupied by the time that
18 the Mesa Substation Project is constructed. There could be up to 243 residents at the Specific Plan
19 area, and it would have only a small private-access park area (City of Monterey Park 2014a). The
20 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard condominiums project would have 20 units, which could mean that up
21 to 60 people may live there. Mesa Substation Project construction would require up to 435
22 employees. In the worst-case scenario, up to about 1,800 people may be temporarily relocated in
23 the Mesa Substation vicinity, with 303 new permanent residents located in the vicinity at the same
24 time. All construction workers would be unlikely to relocate. There are several parks within 1 mile
25 of the Mesa Substation, including La Loma Park, Garvey Ranch Park, Potrero Heights Park, and
26 Acuna Park. The Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, a large recreational facility, is only 2 miles
27 from the Mesa Substation site. Not all 1,800 construction workers and permanent residents would
28 be expected to use recreational facilities because they would only be temporarily located in the
29 area. Further, the population of the area is urbanized (e.g., the population density of Monterey Park
30 is 7,856 people per square mile), such that parks are maintained to handle high use levels and the
31 temporary addition of 1,800 people to the vicinity of the Mesa Substation and surrounding
32 communities would not be appreciable. The temporary increase in population would not result in
33 heightened physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Cumulative impacts (Impact RE-1)
34 would be less than significant.

35 36 **6.1.2.14 Traffic and Transportation**

37 **Approach**

38
39 The impacts to traffic from the proposed project would be most concentrated near the Mesa
40 Substation site; therefore, the List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)) coupled
41 with growth projections was used for analyzing cumulative impact to traffic and transportation.
42 This best accounts for traffic generated from individual projects as well as anticipated population
43 growth that causes increased traffic in the area over time.

44 45 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

46 Traffic and transportation cumulative impacts evaluated projects that would increase background
47 traffic on the same intersections and roadway segments studied in the EIR.
48

1 **Cumulative Scenario**

2 Projects considered for the cumulative scenario for the traffic and transportation impacts were:

- 3
- 4 • Main Project Area
 - 5 - Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan
 - 6 - Monterey Park Market Place
 - 7 - Montebello Hills Specific Plan
 - 8 - Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project
 - 9 - Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project
 - 10 - New Garvey 168 Plaza Project
 - 11 - New Garvey Market Plaza
 - 12 - Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel
 - 13 - Doubletree Hotel Expansion
 - 14 - 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums
 - 15 • South Project Area
 - 16 - Cal Royal Products
- 17

18 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Project Area because the East Well Collector and
19 Centralized Disinfection Facility is already constructed and operation of the well and pipeline in the
20 vicinity of the Goodrich Substation would have no impact on traffic performance or safety.

21

22 **Cumulative Impacts Analysis**

23 ***Main Project Area***

24 The cumulative impacts analysis for the main project area is the same as the project level analysis
25 because the project level analysis takes into account future projects in determining the
26 environmental baseline, as described in Section 4.14.3.1, "Methodology and Significance Criteria."
27 As demonstrated in Section 4.14, "Traffic and Transportation," several intersections would exceed
28 significance thresholds when taking into account the proposed project and the projects in the
29 cumulative scenario. There would be a significant cumulative impact (Impact TT-1) to traffic at
30 several intersections at all three construction phases of the proposed project. The project could
31 result in delays along Potrero Grande Drive, which alone could cause a significant impact. Other
32 projects in the area would also contribute traffic to Potrero Grande Drive, causing a significant
33 cumulative impact to roadway segment performance (Impact TT-1). The proposed project would
34 be implemented with MM TT-1 to reduce impacts to peak traffic and with MM TT-2 to reduce
35 project impacts from road and lane closure. MM TT-1 and MM TT-2 would take into account the
36 cumulative traffic from other projects, reducing the cumulative impact to less than significant.

37

38 As discussed in Section 4.14, "Traffic and Transportation," the cumulative impact (Impact TT-2) to
39 Congestion Management Program (CMP) roadways for most components would be less than
40 significant. Construction of Telecommunications Route 2A may require temporary closure of SR 60
41 and may result in a cumulative significant impact if done during peak or daytime hours. The
42 significant impact would be mitigated to less than significant with MM TT-3.

1
2 None of the cumulative projects have components expected to interfere with air traffic; therefore,
3 there would be no cumulative impact to air traffic patterns (Impact TT-3).

4
5 The driveway to the project site from East Markland Drive may be directly across from the
6 driveway for the 500 East Markland Drive project. Given the low volume of vehicles exiting from
7 the substation site, particularly the driveway on East Markland that is reserved generally for
8 emergency access, cumulative impacts from driveway use (Impact TT-4) would be less than
9 significant. All potential construction projects may result in road damage due to heavy truck traffic,
10 which could cause a significant cumulative safety impact. The proposed project would adhere to
11 MM TT-7, which would require repair of damaged roads caused by the proposed project. The
12 proposed project's contribution to the significant safety impact (Impact TT-4) would therefore not
13 be cumulatively considerable. Potential circulation hazards from the Monterey Park Market Place
14 were identified for customers and employees of the Market Place and employees working at the
15 leachate treatment plant accessed via Greenwood Avenue. Stringing activities for the proposed
16 project would take place in this area, which could add to the hazards. The Monterey Park Market
17 Place would involve measures to reduce circulation hazards. Stringing from the Mesa project would
18 be done using guard structures or other similar measures to prevent conductors from falling on the
19 roadway. Cumulative traffic hazards impacts (Impact TT-4) would be less than significant.

20
21 The Monterey Park Market Place would have a less than significant impact on emergency access
22 because of project review by the Monterey Park Fire Department that would ensure emergency
23 access remains adequate. The proposed project could cause roadway closure that would
24 significantly impact emergency access, including to the Monterey Park Market Place area during
25 line stringing. This would be a cumulative significant impact. The proposed project would require
26 implementation of MM TT-8 to require emergency access coordination. Cumulative impacts
27 (Impact TT-5) would be less than significant with mitigation.

28
29 The proposed project would affect pedestrian and bicycle facilities temporarily during construction
30 in the vicinity of the project components. Cumulative projects would not cause an adverse impact
31 to pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the same areas as the proposed project. There would be no
32 cumulative impact (Impact TT-6).

33
34 The cumulative projects and the proposed project would not impact the same parking areas. There
35 would be no cumulative impact to parking that would result in an environmental impact (Impact
36 TT-7).

37
38 ***South Project Area***

39 The Cal Royal Products project would involve expansion of an existing building; construction may
40 take place during construction in the South Project Area. The Cal Royal Products project would
41 generate minimal traffic during construction given the small size of the project. Proposed project
42 work in the South Project Area would require one to two additional truck trips. Traffic generation
43 related to cumulative impacts (Impact TT-1) in the South Project Area would be less than
44 significant. The Cal Royal Products project would not conflict with a CMP, would not affect air
45 traffic, and would not affect emergency access; there would be no related cumulative impacts
46 (Impacts TT-2, TT-3, and TT-5). The Cal Royal driveway to Garfield Avenue may result in safety
47 impacts due to traffic entering Garfield Avenue from the Cal Royal parking lot and traffic traveling
48 northbound on Garfield Avenue from Flotilla Street (City of Commerce 2012), but the proposed
49 project would not involve circulation-related safety impacts in this location and there would be no

1 cumulative impact (Impact TT-4). Although the Cal Royal project's additional employment may
2 result in increased use of certain bus lines (City of Commerce 2012), the proposed project is not
3 expected to have this effect. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact TT-6). No on-street
4 parking would be required for the proposed project in Commerce, and there would be no
5 cumulative impact (Impact TT-7).
6

7 **6.2 Growth-Inducing Impacts**

8

9 A project could induce growth if it results in additional development, such as an increase in
10 population, employment and/or housing above and beyond what is already assumed will occur in
11 local and regional land use plans or in projections made by regional planning authorities,
12 irrespective of the proposed project. Under CEQA (Section 15126.2(d)), a project would be growth
13 inducing if it:

- 14
 - 15 • Directly or indirectly fosters economic or population growth or the construction of
16 additional housing;
 - 17 • Taxes community facilities to the extent that the construction of new facilities would be
18 necessary;
 - 19 • Removes obstacles to population growth; or
 - 20 • Encourages or facilitates other activities that cause significant environmental effects.
- 21

22 Typical growth-inducing factors might include the extension of urban services or transportation
23 infrastructure to a previously unserved or under-served area or the removal of major barriers to
24 development. This section evaluates the potential for the proposed project to create such growth
25 inducements. Growth inducement can be positive or negative depending on the resulting effects
26 and the development objectives of the planning authorities in the proposed project area. Negative
27 impacts associated with growth inducement would occur only where growth associated with the
28 proposed project would result in significant/adverse environmental impacts.
29

30 The proposed project would not result in population growth through direct or indirect
31 employment of workers needed to construct and operate the facilities. Construction labor demands
32 would be met by the applicant's existing employees or by hiring a small number of specialized
33 electrical transmission contractors; most of the construction workers are expected to be local
34 workers who would not relocate to the area. The small number of positions required during the
35 construction phase, given the high population of the area, would not directly or indirectly induce
36 any population growth in the area, even if they temporarily relocated to the area (refer to
37 discussion in Section 4.11, "Population and Housing").
38

39 The local communities in the vicinity of the proposed project have adequate infrastructure and
40 services to meet the needs of temporary workers. Los Angeles County has a vacancy rate of 5.8
41 percent for permanent housing or approximately 167,129 homes. As shown in Section 4.11.1.2,
42 hotel properties have an average vacancy rate of 21.1 percent or approximately 20,655 rooms. The
43 amount of available long-term housing and hotel/motel rooms would be sufficient for the peak
44 construction workers. In addition, the proposed project would not result in or require construction
45 of any new or upgraded community facilities, would not build public roads that would provide new
46 access to undeveloped or underdeveloped areas, and would not extend public services to new
47 areas. Operation and maintenance activities would be carried out by existing employees and would
48 have no impact on infrastructure and services in the area (refer to discussion in Section 4.12,

1 “Public Services and Utilities”). Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed Project
2 would not tax community facilities to the extent that the construction of new facilities would be
3 necessary.

4
5 The purpose of the proposed project is to ensure the availability of safe and reliable electric service
6 to meet customer demand in the Electrical Needs Area during emergency conditions. The proposed
7 project would not provide new electrical service that might induce economic or population growth
8 and has not been designed to provide new electrical service to areas that are currently unserved or
9 under-served. Electrical demand would not be anticipated to exceed the current capacity under
10 normal operating conditions in the Electrical Needs Area within the current 10-year planning
11 period. Growth in Los Angeles County and local communities is planned and regulated by
12 applicable local general plans and zoning ordinances. The provision of electricity is generally not
13 considered an obstacle to growth, and the availability of electrical capacity by itself does not
14 normally encourage growth. Other factors such as economic conditions, land and water supply
15 availability, and local planning policies have a more direct effect on growth. Therefore, the
16 proposed project would not remove obstacles to population growth.

17
18 The proposed project would reinforce the existing electrical system and allow for greater flexibility
19 in siting renewable resources to meet expected electrical load growth. It would not encourage
20 population growth or new residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural construction.
21 Therefore, the proposed project would not encourage or facilitate other activities that could
22 significantly affect the environment.

23
24 The proposed project would not result in increases in employment, housing, or demands for
25 community facilities and services or result in the removal of existing constraints to growth or the
26 creation of factors that encourage or facilitate development that would not otherwise have
27 occurred. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in any growth-
28 inducing impacts.

29 30 **6.3 Significant and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

31
32 CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(b) requires that an EIR identify significant impacts that cannot
33 be avoided by implementing the proposed project, including those which cannot be mitigated to
34 less than significant. The proposed project would result in the following significant, unavoidable
35 impacts:

- 36
37 • **Impact AE-1: Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site
38 and its surroundings.** Under Landscape Option 1, aesthetic impacts at the substation site
39 would be significant and unavoidable with mitigation until landscaping trees mature. Under
40 Landscape Option 2, aesthetic impacts at the substation site would be significant even after
41 implementation of mitigation. The view of the substation from North Vail Avenue would
42 result in significant impacts to aesthetics after mitigation.
- 43 • **Impact AQ-2: Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an
44 existing or projected air quality violation.** The project would result in significant
45 unavoidable impacts after mitigation related to construction emissions of carbon
46 monoxide.

- 1 • **Impact AQ-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.** The
2 project would result in significant unavoidable impacts after mitigation related to
3 construction emissions of nitrogen oxides.
- 4 • **Impact NV-1: Noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan
5 or noise ordinance.** Construction of the project would result in significant noise impacts as
6 a result of conflicting with noise ordinances of Montebello, South El Monte, Commerce, and
7 Pasadena.
- 8 • **Impact NV-4: Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in
9 the project vicinity.** Construction of the substation and telecommunications routes,
10 conversion of the street light source line, and modifications at Walnut Substation would
11 result in significant temporary increases in ambient noise levels that cannot be reduced to
12 less than significant after mitigation.
13

14 **6.4 Significant and Irreversible Environmental Changes**

15
16 CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c) requires that an EIR identify significant irreversible
17 environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project. These changes may include,
18 for example, uses of nonrenewable resources, provision of access to previously inaccessible areas,
19 or accidents that could change the environment in the long term. Significant irreversible changes to
20 and irretrievable commitments of resources could occur from construction and operation of the
21 proposed project as a result of energy and materials consumption, land disturbance (and
22 associated habitat loss for sensitive biological resources), and damage to or the loss of cultural or
23 paleontological resources.

24
25 Construction of the proposed project would require a permanent commitment of natural resources
26 from the direct consumption of fossil fuels, construction materials, and energy required for the
27 production of materials as well as the manufacture of new components that largely cannot be
28 recycled at the end of the project's useful lifetime (see Chapter 2, "Project Description"). During
29 construction and operation there would also be the risk of impacts on undiscovered cultural
30 and/or paleontological resources. The proposed project would also result in irreversible impacts
31 on air quality due to emissions of NO_x, reactive organic gases, and other pollutants and greenhouse
32 gases during construction.
33

34 Accidents, such as the release of hazardous materials, can trigger irreversible environmental
35 damage. As discussed in Section 4.7, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials," construction and
36 operation of the proposed project would involve the use of small quantities of hazardous materials
37 and other potentially dangerous materials such as gasoline, diesel fuel, transmission fluid, brake
38 fluid, hydraulic fluid, and solvents, and oil and grease such as motor oils and lubricating grease. An
39 accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water quality and biological resources, and
40 could pose a hazard to people if a large spill were to occur. However, given the small volumes of
41 these materials and mandatory compliance with applicable regulations (as described in Section
42 4.7) aimed at preventing spills, or reducing the severity of a spill should it occur, accidents
43 resulting in significant environmental or health effects would be unlikely.

44 **6.5 Energy Conservation**

45
46 Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines requires consideration of potentially significant energy
47 implications of a project "to the extent relevant and applicable to the project."

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6.5.1 Construction

The proposed project would directly consume energy during construction and through the use of equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Intensity of direct energy consumption would be greater during construction than in operation. Vehicle trips are discussed in Section 4.14, "Traffic and Transportation." Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality calculations presented in Appendix C.

6.5.2 Operation

The proposed project would directly consume energy during operation and through the use of equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Vehicle trips are discussed in Section 4.15, "Traffic and Transportation." Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality calculations presented in Appendix C. Vehicle trips and equipment use during operation would be negligible over current activities and would have a negligible impact on energy consumption.

The project is not intended to facilitate increased consumption of energy or require additional local or regional capacity, but is instead meant to address reliability concerns resulting from retirement of certain generating units as explained in Section 1.2, "Project Objectives." No energy impacts are expected to occur as a result of operation of the proposed project.

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