

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

### 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

#### 4.12.1 Environmental Setting

##### **Fire Protection and Emergency Services**

The majority of the proposed project is located within the City. The CVFD provides the City with fire and life-saving services, including fire protection, fire inspections, rescue services, emergency medical services, plan checking, disaster preparedness, public education, and hazardous materials response. The CVFD medical transport is provided through a contract with American Medical Response (City of Chula Vista 2013). Three CVFD fire stations are located near the project area (Figure 4.12-1). Fire Stations 7 and 8 are approximately two miles from the proposed substation. Fire Station 6 is approximately 0.5 miles south of Miguel Substation, and less than 0.25 miles from the proposed TL 6965. All three fire stations provide fire protection and medical services.

The northernmost portion of the proposed project, including the Miguel Substation, is located in the Sweetwater District of unincorporated San Diego County. Fire and emergency medical services are provided to the unincorporated regions by the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (County of San Diego 2011). The Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District is located approximately 2.5 miles east of Miguel Substation.

##### **Police Services**

The proposed substation and most of TL 6965 would be located within the jurisdiction of the Chula Vista Police Department. The Patrol Operations Division provides law enforcement to the City 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

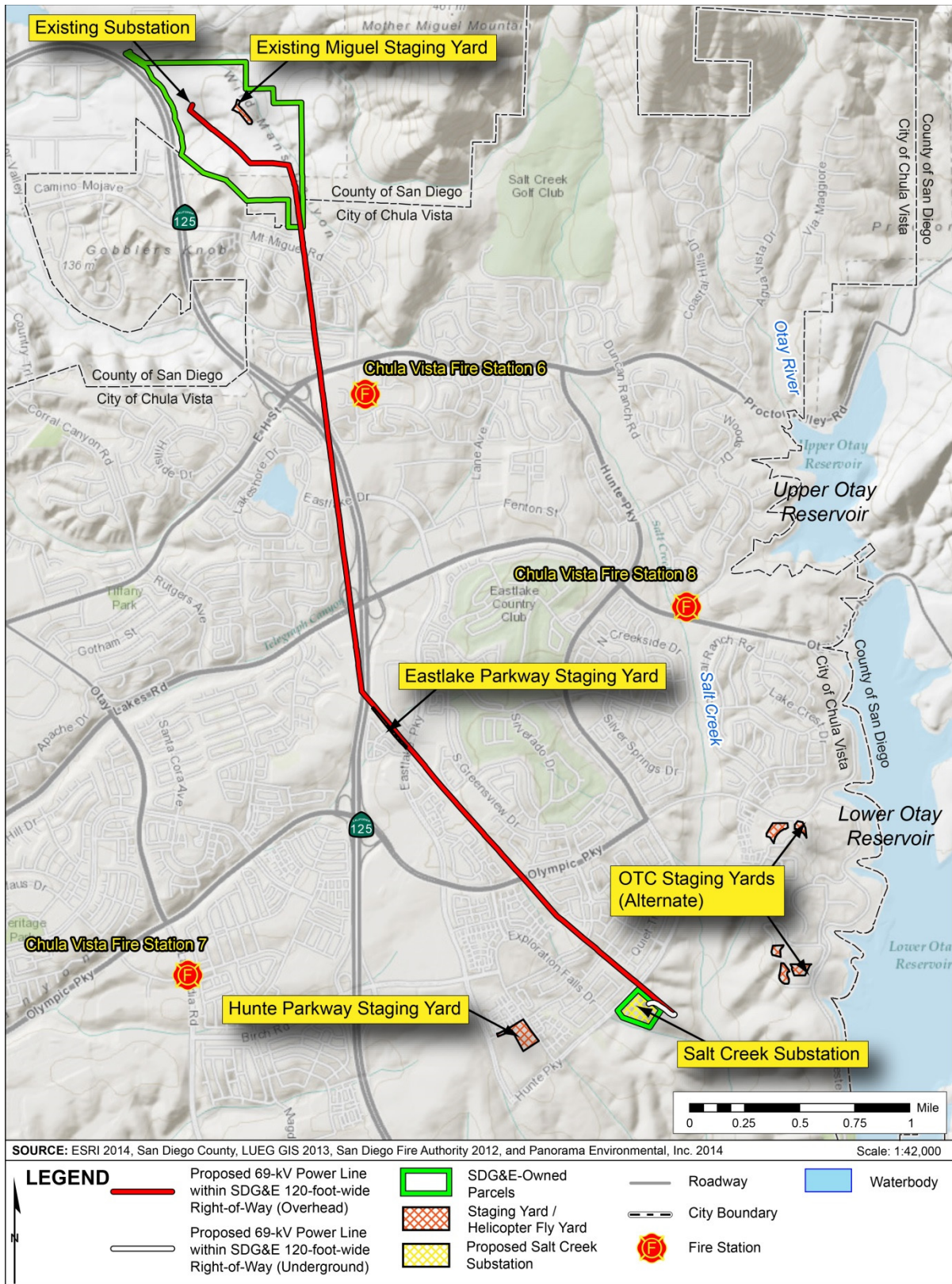
The Miguel Substation is located in unincorporated San Diego County and is within the San Diego County Sheriff Department's jurisdiction. The department provides general law enforcement, detention, and court services for the people of San Diego County in a service area of approximately 4,200 square miles (San Diego County Sheriff's Department 2013). The sheriff's station closest to Miguel Substation is the Lemon Grove station, located approximately 6 miles northwest of the substation.

##### **Schools**

The proposed substation would be situated within the Chula Vista Elementary School District and the Sweetwater Union High School District. Four schools are within 1,000 feet of the project area, including: the High Tech Schools, Olympic View Elementary School, East Lake Elementary School, and Liberty Elementary School. Schools located near the project area are shown on Figure 4.11-2 and 4.11-3 in Section 4.11: Noise.

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

Figure 4.12-1 Location of CVFD Fire Stations near the Project Area



## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

### Parks

Eleven public or city parks are located within 1,000 feet of the project. Parks located within 1,000 feet of the project area are summarized in Table 4.13-1 and shown on Figures 4.13-1 and 4.13-2 of Section 4.13: Recreation. Sweetwater Regional Park and Otay Valley Regional Park are located within a mile of the project area.

### Hospitals

The major medical facility closest to the proposed project is the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, located approximately 6 miles west of the proposed substation.

### 4.12.2 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

There are no federal laws or regulations pertaining to public services that are applicable to the proposed project. Public services are generally regulated by county and municipal governments based on state and national standards and guidelines.

#### State

#### Fire Protection

The California Fire Code contains regulations related to construction, maintenance of buildings, and the use of premises. Topics addressed in the Code include:

- Fire hydrants
- Automatic sprinkler systems
- Fire alarm systems
- Provisions intended to protect and assist first responders
- General and specialized fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises

#### Local

Local jurisdictions or regional agencies are responsible for studying the needs and conditions of a region and for developing strategies that enhance the region's public services. Capacities and effective access to public services are addressed in regional plans and municipal ordinances. Local governments also have the primary responsibility for response to and recovery from disasters and emergencies.

### 4.12.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E did not propose any measures to reduce impacts on public services.

### 4.12.4 Significance Criteria

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project will have significant impacts on the environment. Consistent with Appendix G, the proposed project would have significant impacts on public services if it would:

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
  - i. Fire protection
  - ii. Police protection
  - iii. Schools
  - iv. Parks
  - v. Other public facilities

### 4.12.5 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

This section provides an assessment of project impacts on public services. The impact analysis considers effects of the proposed project on the following:

- Service levels
- Response times
- Fire protection and emergency services
- Police protection
- Schools
- Parks
- Other public facilities

#### Impact Assessment

Table 4.12-1 provides a summary of the significance of potential impacts on public services prior to application of APMS, after application of APMS and before implementation of mitigation measures, and after the implementation of mitigation measures.

**Table 4.12-1 Summary of Potential Impacts to Public Services**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMS	Significance After APMS and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact PublicServices-1: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection or police protection	Construction	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMS	Significance After APMS and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact PublicServices-2: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools parks or other public facilities	Construction	No impact	No impact	No impact
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact

**Impact PublicServices-1: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection or police protection (*Less than significant; no mitigation required*)**

### Construction

Construction of the project would not affect response times of emergency vehicles. The project would require temporary lane closures during power line stringing and construction of the underground distribution circuits. SR-125 could be closed for a few hours during power line stringing. Potential closure of SR-125 would be temporary; however the closure could potentially result in delays to emergency vehicle response times. SR-125 closure would be temporary (approximately three hours or less on a single day), and the impact on emergency response times would not cause the need for additional fire prevention services. Impacts from SR-125 closure would be less than significant.

The temporary lane closure at Hunte Parkway during substation and distribution construction is not expected to affect emergency response times because Hunte Parkway is a six-lane road and only one lane would be closed temporarily during construction. While less than significant, the temporary delay would be reduced or avoided through coordination of temporary lane closures with emergency service providers as required by Mitigation Measure Traffic-4.

### Fire Services

The project is located within a wildland fire hazard area. Sparks from construction equipment or personnel smoking could potentially ignite a wildfire, resulting in an increase in fire response demand to the project area. The potential for increased fire risk during construction is discussed further in Section 4.8: Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The impact from construction would be temporary and would therefore not result in the need for new facilities. Impacts would be less than significant. SDG&E would reduce the impact from fire risk during construction by implementing APM HAZ-3, which defines construction practices to minimize the risk of fire.

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

### **Police Services**

The proposed project is an unattended substation and transmission line, which would not require additional police services. No additional police protection facilities would be needed as a result of project construction.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Operation and maintenance of the substation would not affect acceptable service ratios, response times of emergency vehicles, or other performance objectives for fire prevention or police protection. There would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

**Impact PublicServices-2: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools parks or other public facilities (No impact)**

The project would not include any new homes, businesses, or land use changes that would directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth in the area. The project would provide substation and circuit tie capacity to meet the electric distribution capacity needs in the southeastern Chula Vista service territory, reduce loading on existing area substations, and improve reliability. The majority of the construction workforce would be hired from the local labor force or would commute from nearby cities; therefore, construction activities would not result in an increase in the local population or create a demand for new services or facilities. SDG&E's existing work force would perform operation and maintenance of the substation.

Construction, operation, and maintenance workers would not introduce additional schoolchildren to area schools and would therefore not cause the need to expand schools or create a need for new parks. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the project would have no impact on schools, parks, or other government facilities and would not cause the need for new facilities. No mitigation is required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

### 4.12.6 Project Alternatives

Table 4.12-2 provides a summary of the potential impacts on public services from the proposed project alternatives.

**Table 4.12-2 Summary of Public Services Impacts from Alternatives by Significance Criteria**

Significance Criteria	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Impact PublicServices-1: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection or police protection	Significant and unavoidable	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant
Impact PublicServices-2: Potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, or the need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools parks or other public facilities	Less than significant	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

#### Alternative 1: 230/12-kV Substation and 230-kV Loop-in

##### Environmental Setting

The environmental setting for Alternative 1 is described in Section 4.12.1. This alternative would involve construction of a 230/12-kV substation within the proposed substation parcel south of Hunte Parkway.

##### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Like the proposed project, Alternative 1 would be located within a wildland fire hazard area. Potential impacts of construction to emergency response times and fire risk would be temporary, and the impact on fire and police protection services would be less than significant. The substation and distribution circuits would not require additional fire or police protection services during operation and maintenance because they would operate unattended. There would be no impact from operation and maintenance.

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

Alternative 1 would serve the same objectives as the proposed project. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the project would have no impact on schools, parks, or other government facilities and would not cause the need for new facilities. There would be no impact.

### **Alternative 2: 69/12-kV Substation and Generation at Border and Larkspur Electric Generating Facilities**

#### **Environmental Setting**

The environmental setting for Alternative 2 is described in Section 4.12.1. This alternative would involve construction of a substation, distribution lines, and TL 6910 loop-in the same manner as the proposed project. The Border and Larkspur electric generating facilities are existing facilities, and no construction activities or changes in operation and maintenance activities are proposed at those facilities.

#### **Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with the 69/12-kV substation under Alternative 2 would be the same as the proposed substation. Therefore, potential impacts of the substation to emergency service demand and response times of emergency vehicles would be similar to the proposed project. Alternative 2 would not require a new overhead power line and would therefore avoid closure of SR-125 and associated potential impacts on emergency response times. Impacts on fire and police emergency services would be less than significant.

Power generation at Border and Larkspur electric generating facilities would not result in impacts on public services because the electric generating facilities currently exist and provide power to SDG&E under existing conditions. There would be no impacts on public services from the use of those resources.

Alternative 2, like the proposed project, would not directly or indirectly induce population growth in the area. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the project would have no impact on schools, parks, or other government facilities and would not cause the need for new facilities. There would be no impact.

### **Alternative 3: 69/12-kV Substation and Underground 69-kV Power Line within Public ROW**

#### **Environmental Setting**

The environmental setting for the substation in this alternative is described in Section 4.12.1. Alternative 3 involves construction of an underground power line along Mountain Miguel Road, Proctor Valley Road, and Hunte Parkway. There are ten parks within 1,000 feet of the underground power line. These parks are discussed in further detail in Section 4.13.6: Recreation. Three schools are located within 1,000 feet of the underground power line:

- Thurgood Marshall Elementary School
- Salt Creek Elementary School
- Arroyo Vista Elementary School

There are no hospitals within 1,000 feet of the underground alignment.



## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**69/12-kV Substation.** Impacts on public services from construction, operation, and maintenance of the 69/12-kV substation would be the same as impacts from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project substation. Impacts on fire and police emergency services would be less than significant.

**69-kV Underground Power Line.** Construction of the underground 69-kV power line may affect response times of emergency vehicles. Construction of the underground power line in public roadways would necessitate temporary partial or full road closures and temporary road crossing and intersection closures during open trench construction of the duct package and vaults. Closures and detours would result in traffic delays on roads that would not be impacted under the proposed project. Underground construction would take approximately 10 to 13 months to complete. Impacts from road or lane closures would be temporary and would not result in the need for additional public services. Impacts would therefore be less than significant. While the impact would be less than significant, APMs and mitigation measures would further reduce the impact on emergency response times. APM HAZ-3 would minimize the risk of fire, thereby minimizing the potential need for emergency response vehicles and personnel. Mitigation Measure Traffic-4 requires notification of emergency personnel and would reduce impacts from traffic delays. Additionally, Mitigation Measure Traffic-Alt 3-1 would restrict lane closures to off-peak hours, which would ensure traffic delays are not experienced during peak times. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Traffic-Alt 3-1 would further reduce potential impacts on emergency response times.

Alternative 3, like the proposed project, would not directly or indirectly induce population growth in the area. The majority of the construction workforce would be hired from the local labor force or would commute from nearby cities, and SDG&E's existing work force would perform operation and maintenance of the substation and generation facilities. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the project would have no impact on schools, parks, or other government facilities and would not cause the need for new facilities. There would be no impact.

### No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, SDG&E would add two additional transformer banks at the Proctor Valley Substation and install additional distribution circuits in the Otay Ranch area. The installation of distribution circuits would cause temporary lane closure similar to Alternative 3. Impacts on emergency response would be temporary and less than significant.

The No Project Alternative would result in reduced electric service reliability in the southeastern Chula Vista service territory. There would be increased brownouts and blackouts, which would indirectly affect emergency response times and needs for public services. The indirect impact on public services from the No Project Alternative would be significant and unavoidable.

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

*This page is intentionally left blank.*