

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 30, 2017

Richard Quasarano  
Compliance Manager  
San Diego Gas & Electric Company  
8330 Century Park Court, CP31F  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Subject:** Salt Creek Substation—Review of Minor Project Refinement Request #8

Dear Mr. Quasarano,

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has reviewed San Diego Gas and Electric Company's (SDG&E's) proposed Minor Project Refinement (MPR) Request #8 for the approved Salt Creek Substation Project (project), provided by email on November 21, 2017. The CPUC adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approved the Environmentally Superior Alternative, Alternative 2 – Salt Creek Substation on May 12, 2016. SDG&E's request for an MPR has been reviewed, consistent with the requirements specified in the Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program and Mitigation Monitoring Compliance and Reporting Program (MMCRP) for the project.

**SDG&E's Proposed Minor Project Refinement #8**

MRP #8 would authorize additional temporary work spaces for irrigation installation, and revisions to the container plant palette, which was included in the approved Landscape Plan (see Attachment A).

**CPUC Review of Minor Project Refinement #8**

MPR #8 would not result in a new impact or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact; therefore, no supplemental or subsequent CEQA review is required to address MPR #8. The actions proposed in MPR #8 are consistent with the CPUC approved FEIR. MPR #8 is approved consistent with the conditions included in the MMCRP for the project.

Please contact me at [lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.orsaba@cpuc.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding this review of MPR #8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Orsaba".

Lisa Orsaba  
Project Manager  
Energy Division, CEQA Unit

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental  
Sheila Hoyer, Panorama Environmental

**Attachment A: MPR Request #8**

**ATTACHMENT A    MPR REQUEST #8**

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## Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2017

To: Lisa Orsaba  
Project Manager  
California Public Utilities Commission

From: Keri Cuppage  
Environmental Compliance Specialist  
San Diego Gas & Electric Company

Subject: Additional Temporary Work Spaces and Landscape Area Modification of Plant Palette (MPR Request #8)

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is submitting this Minor Project Refinement (MPR) #8 to address access to temporary work spaces that were included in the approved Landscape Plan, but were not in the original temporary or permanent work spaces identified in the FEIR. In addition, SDG&E is requesting revisions to the container plant palette that was included in the approved Landscape Plan which was prepared in accordance with the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) Mitigation Measure (MM) Aesthetics-1. The requested changes include the following:

1. Changes in Landscape Plant Palette: After a field review of the Landscape Plan on October 24, 2017, and subsequently on November 4, 2017, SDG&E recommends revising the container plant palette of the eastern area of the Salt Creek Substation (adjacent to the new substation secondary access road) to encompass more ecologically appropriate species with the goal of the final established cover blending with the natural landscape of the adjacent vegetation. The table below depicts the palette that was provided in the approved Landscape Plan and the species that are recommended as replacements. Substitution should be made on a one-for-one scale with the species indicated below and all container plants are to be 1-gallon in size. Substitutions would be limited to temporary and permanent impact areas along the eastern access road. No substitutions are proposed on the substation slopes. No revisions are recommended to the hydroseed mix. Approval will be requested and obtained by the City of Chula Vista prior to implementation to the change in container plant species.

**Container Plant Palette Revisions**

Landscape Plan Species		Recommended Replacement Species	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agave shawii</i>	Shaw agave	<i>Bahiopsis laciniata</i>	San Diego viguiera
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
<i>Ceanothus leucodermis</i>	chaparral whitethorn	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Gambelia speciosa</i>	showy island snapdragon	<i>Isocoma menziesii</i>	coastal goldenbush
<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	great valley gumweed	<i>Bahiopsis laciniata</i>	San Diego viguiera
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	skunk bush	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry

2. Temporary Extra Work Space, Location 1: During a field review of the eastern area, it was noted that the Landscape Plan includes irrigation that encroaches into approximately 0.18 acres of vegetation outside of the previously approved temporary impacts limits, as shown in Attachment 1, Location 1. The encroachment occurs in an area of non-native grassland that does not contain sensitive plant species. As required by Applicant Proposed Measure (APM) Bio-4, this temporary disturbance area will receive irrigation and revegetation as documented in

the Landscape Plan. Due to the fact that the Landscape Plan is final and approved, and irrigation design relies on this configuration, SDG&E is requesting this MPR #8 include the 0.18 acre area. Per the requirements of APM Bio-2, SDG&E would address the 0.18 acre in the Natural Community Conservation Plan post-construction report, and would restore the area per the Landscape Plan (and this MPR request).

3. Temporary Extra Work Space, Location 2: During the field review, it was noted that the irrigation plans approved by the City of Chula Vista include improvements along the ice plant embankment, outside of the approved temporary work areas. This area includes approximately 1.68 acre of landscape/ornamental and developed area. Work activities in this location would include replacement and reconnection of irrigation lines. Ice plant on the slopes would remain during construction, and once irrigated, is expected to fully recover without additional planting. However, if ice plant does not recover, planting would occur consistent with Landscape Plan requirements for the adjacent disturbed ice plant slopes.

Archeological and paleontological monitoring would occur for ground disturbing activities, as required by APM Cul-2 and APM Cul-5. Additionally, the revision to the plant palette and additional 0.18 acre area into the Landscape Plan would not trigger additional permit requirements and would not conflict with any APMs, MMs, or other applicable regulations. All APMs and MMs that will be implemented for the existing Landscape Plan would also be implemented for the additional LOD.

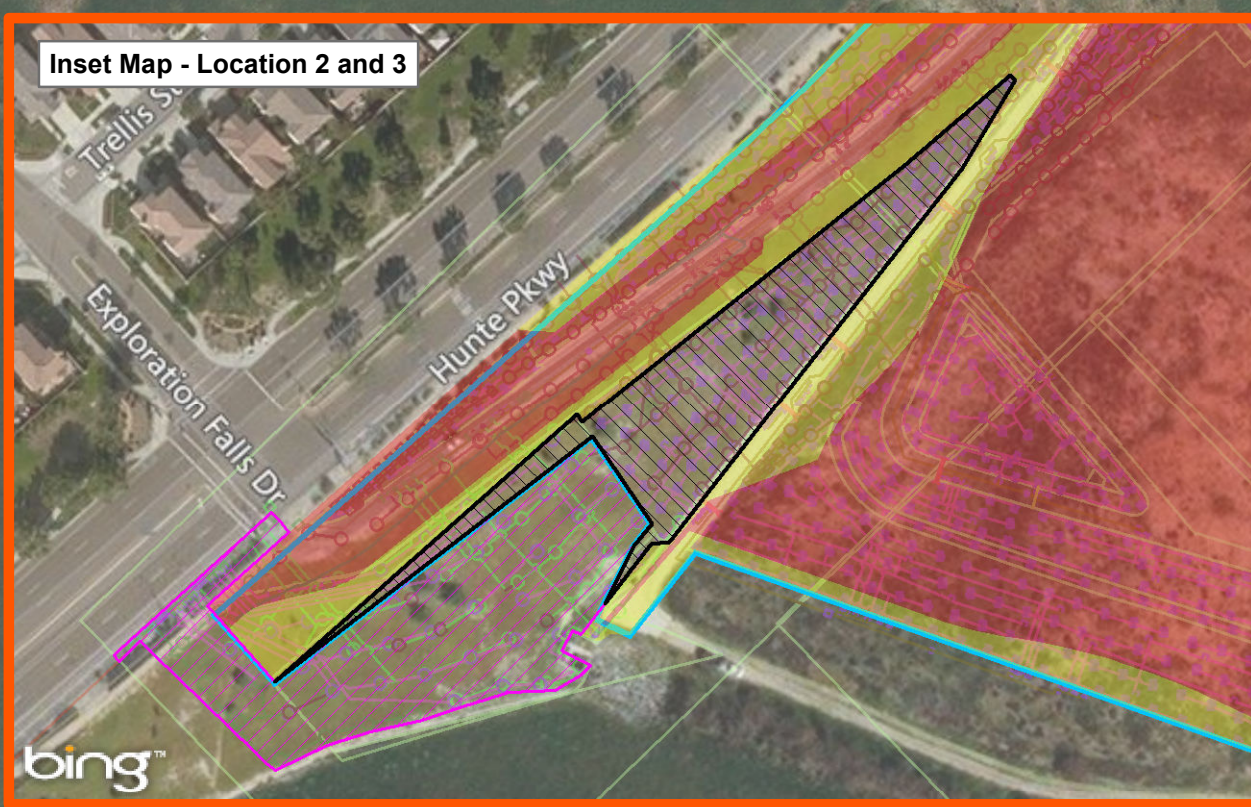
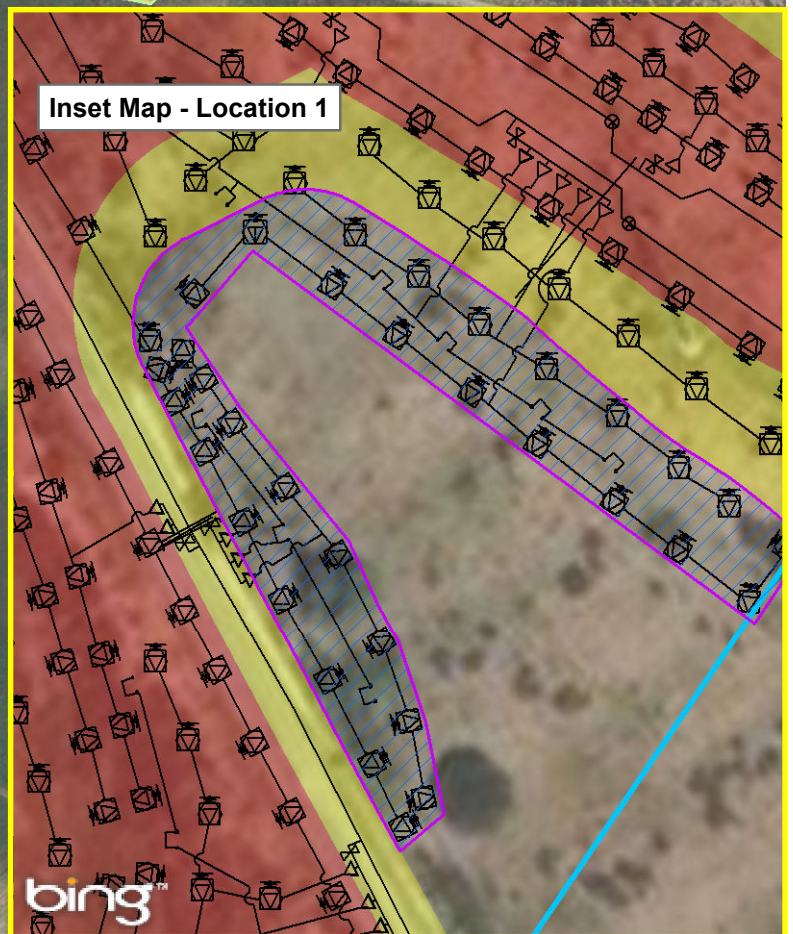
SDG&E respectfully requests your approval of MPR #8 by November 30, 2017.

Kindest Regards,

Keri Cuppage

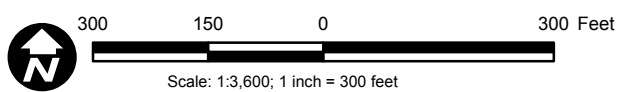
**ATTACHMENT 1 – Salt Creek Eastern Restoration:  
Irrigation in Non-Impacted Areas**





LEGEND	
	Change in LOD
	Fenceline
	Permanent Impacts
	Temporary Impacts
	Vegetation
	Location 1 Irrigation in Non-Impacted Area (0.18 ac.)
	Location 2 Irrigation in Non-Impacted Area (0.96 ac.)
	Location 3 Irrigation in Non-Impacted Area (0.72 ac.)

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**Salt Creek Eastern Restoration:  
Irrigation in Non-Impacted Area**

Salt Creek

Path: P:\\_6048\60485246\_Salt\_Creek\900-CAD-GIS\920 GIS\923\_Incoming\Source\20171031\_CAD\SaltCreekImpacts\_Fenceline\_CAD Comparison11x17.mxd, 11/20/2017, paul.moreno