

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E; the Applicant), a regulated California utility, filed an application (Application A. 14-04-011) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Sycamore-Peñasquitos 230 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (Proposed Project). The application was filed on April 7, 2014 and was accompanied by a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA). The CPUC deemed the application complete on July 24, 2014.

This ~~Draft~~ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the CPUC as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to inform the Commission in their decision on whether to approve the SDG&E application. This EIR will also inform the public, and the local, State, and federal agencies that must consider whether to issue a permit or approval for the project.

### 1.1.1 Project Location

The Proposed Project would be located in the west-central area of San Diego County, in the cities of San Diego, Poway, and Carlsbad, and partially on Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (Figure 1.1-1). Project maps identifying the locations of project segments, pole locations, and other features including temporary work areas, can be found in Appendix A: Detailed Route Maps.

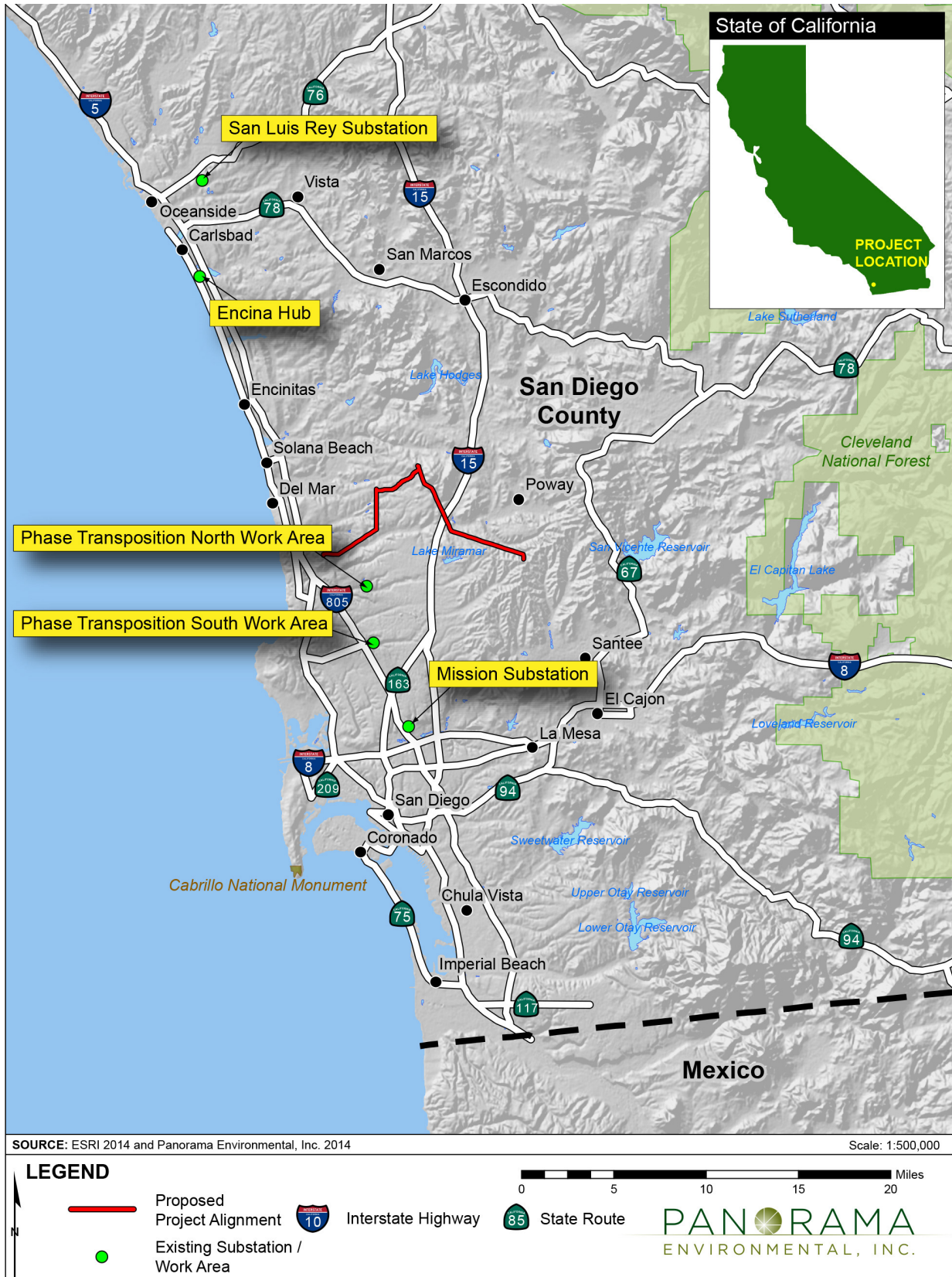
Topography in the Proposed Project area varies from rolling hills to flat terrain, with the western part of the Proposed Project located on gentle sloping mesas interrupted by canyons and valleys. The Proposed Project spans residential, commercial, and open space or undeveloped areas.

### 1.1.2 Project Summary

The Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new, approximately 16.7-mile 230-kV transmission line between the existing SDG&E Sycamore Canyon and Peñasquitos Substations (Figure 1.1-2). The Proposed Project also includes the consolidation of two existing 69-kV power lines onto new double-circuit, tubular steel pole (TSP) structures that would replace existing, predominantly wood pole structures. All new transmission line facilities would be located within existing SDG&E right-of-way (ROW) or under franchise agreement within existing public roadways.

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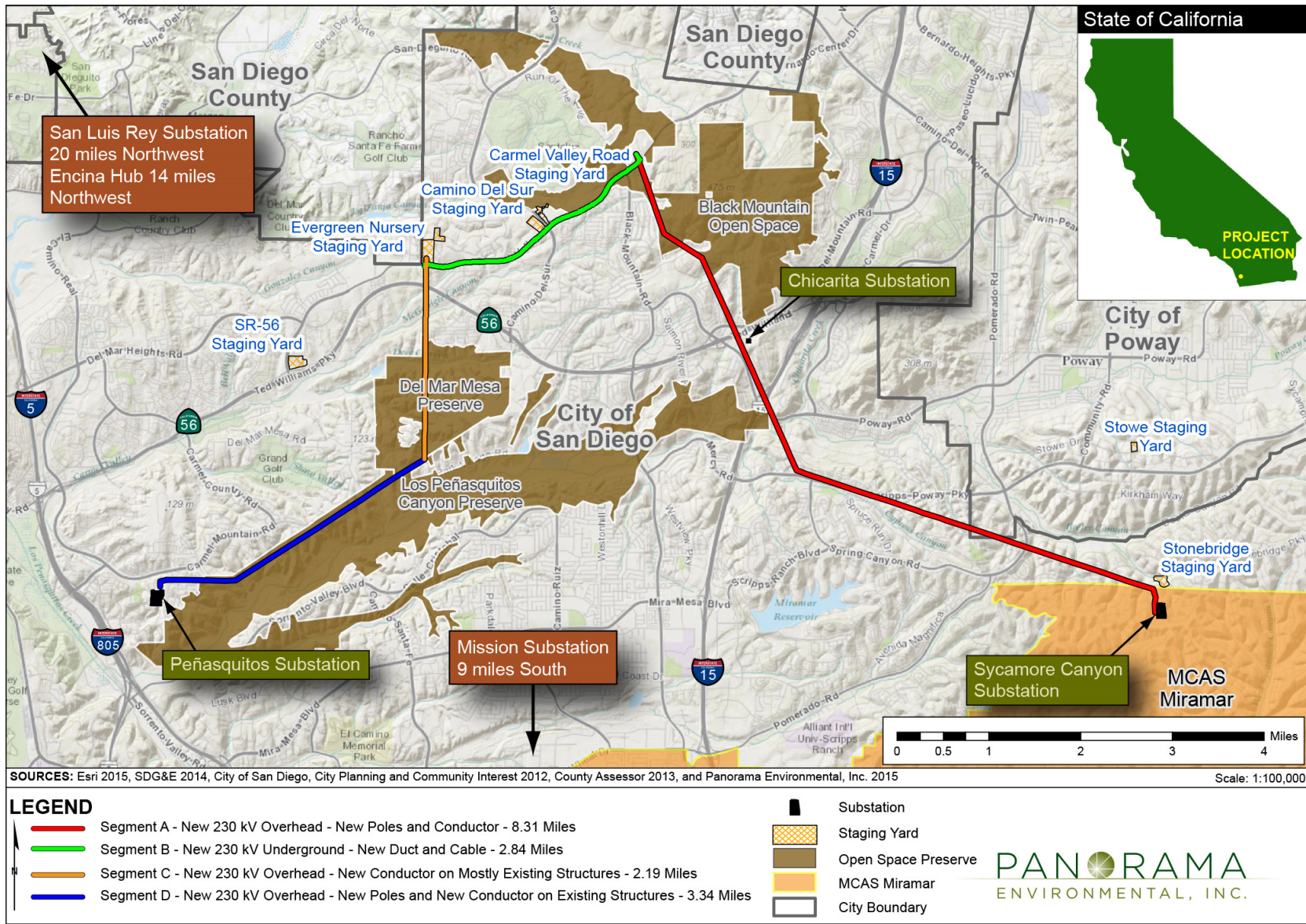
Figure 1.1-1 Project Location





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Figure 1.1-2 Project Alignment Overview



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The Proposed Project includes transmission installations within four segments (Figure 1.1-2), modifications to five existing substations, and minor modifications to other existing transmission line facilities. Proposed Project components, construction processes, and operation and maintenance activities are described further in Chapter 2: Project Description of this EIR.

### 1.1.3 SDG&E's Project Objectives

SDG&E explains in their CPCN application and PEA that the Proposed Project is needed to meet state environmental and energy policy goals, and to ensure the bulk power system is in compliance with applicable North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) and California Independent System Operator (CAISO) transmission planning criteria.

SDG&E's stated objectives of the Proposed Project are to:

1. Meet the CAISO 2012–2013 Transmission Plan Functional Specifications for a new 230-kV transmission line between the Sycamore Canyon Substation and Peñasquitos Substation by:
  - a. Ensuring the SDG&E bulk electric system continues to meet NERC, WECC, and CAISO reliability criteria
  - b. Promoting compliance with State of California policy goals related to renewable integration and Once-Through Cooling retirement<sup>1</sup>
  - c. Economically and reliably meeting the San Diego metropolitan area's forecasted load growth
  - d. Delivering energy more efficiently to the load center in San Diego
2. Locate the proposed facilities in existing transmission and power line corridors, in SDG&E ROW, on SDG&E-owned property, and in San Diego franchise ROWs.

### 1.1.4 California Public Utilities Commission Project Objectives

Project objectives under CEQA are defined in order to allow proper consideration of alternatives to the Proposed Project. The State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.6(a)) state that "An EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives."

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<sup>1</sup> *Once Through Cooling* - cooling systems that use water's cooling capacity a single time. These cooling systems draw substantial quantities of water and discharge them at higher temperatures back into the source water body. The California's State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted the *Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling* in the year 2010 that requires 19 existing power plants to retire this "once-through" practice by the year 2020.

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Having taken into consideration the objectives set forth by SDG&E above, the CPUC identified three basic project objectives. These objectives are used by the CPUC to define and evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Project. The evaluation of alternatives in this EIR provides information on whether each alternative could feasibly accomplish most or all of these project objectives. The three CPUC project objectives are presented and explained below.

### **CPUC Project Objective 1: Maintain long-term grid reliability in the absence of San Onofre Nuclear Generating System generation**

CPUC Project Objective 1 reflects the goal of mitigating the loss of nuclear power generation at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating System (SONGS). SONGS was taken offline in 2012 and permanent retirement of the nuclear power plant began in June 2013 (CEC 2015). The retirement of SONGS resulted in the loss of 2,150 megawatts (MW) of generation in the Los Angeles and San Diego region (*Ibid.*). The San Diego region in particular lost access to over 700 MW of generation to support its load (i.e., energy demand). The reduction of generation resources supporting SDG&E load via Path 44 (the five 230-kV lines from SONGS feeding into the San Luis Rey and Talega Substations) needs to be replaced.

CAISO evaluated alternatives to mitigate the loss of electric generation at SONGS in its 2012 – 2013 Transmission Plan (CAISO 2013). Dynamic reactive support in the SONGS Talega area, Huntington Beach synchronous condensers and additional generation of electricity in San Diego County are part of the overall strategy for mitigating the loss of electric generation at SONGS, but are not a part of CPUC Project Objective 1. This CPUC project objective is focused on adding transmission capacity to increase delivery of existing energy resources to meet NERC, WECC and CAISO planning criteria for system reliability.

### **CPUC Project Objective 2: Deliver energy more efficiently to the load center in San Diego**

CPUC Project Objective 2 reflects the goal of alleviating congestion on the power lines out of Sycamore Canyon Substation. Electricity is currently delivered into Sycamore Canyon Substation from the Suncrest 500/230-kV substation and energy is delivered out of Sycamore Canyon Substation by lower capacity 138-kV and 69-kV power lines. The lower capacity 138-kV and 69-kV power lines out of Sycamore Canyon Substation become congested under normal operating conditions (CAISO 2013). This congestion results in thermal overloads on power and transmission lines in SDG&E's system during peak summer demand.

### **CPUC Project Objective 3: Support deliverability of renewable resources identified in SDG&E's Renewable Portfolio Standard portfolio**

CPUC Project Objective 3 reflects the goals of delivering renewable resources in SDG&E's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) portfolio. Table 1.1-1 summarizes the renewable energy in SDG&E's RPS portfolio. This objective is related to CPUC Project Objective 2 because delivery of renewable energy entering Sycamore Canyon Substation via Sunrise Powerlink is constrained by the 138-kV and 69-kV electrical system. Additional capacity is needed to deliver renewable energy in San Diego's RPS portfolio that enters San Diego via Sunrise Powerlink.



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**Table 1.1-1 Summary of Renewable Generation in San Diego RPS Portfolio**

Area	Renewable Generation by Portfolio (MW)			
	Cost Constrained	Commercial Interest	Environmental	High DG
Imperial – SDGE	220	921	921	220
Imperial – IID	920	1,219	1,219	920
San Diego South	384	384	384	0
Baja	0	100	0	0
Arizona	550	550	550	550
Non-CREZ – SDGE	17	17	17	17
SDGE DGs	405	405	426	490

Source: CAISO 2013

## 1.1.5 Electrical System and Loading

SDG&E’s bulk electric transmission system has three major energy gateways that serve electricity customer load in the San Diego metropolitan area:

1. Miguel 500/230-kV Substation
2. Sycamore Canyon 230-kV Substation
3. Path 44<sup>2</sup>

According to SDG&E, its ability to operate a bulk electric transmission system reliably and efficiently has become constrained, particularly at gateway substations. Imported energy flows toward San Diego on the 500-kV Southwest Powerlink transmission line to the Miguel Substation and on the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line into the Sycamore Canyon Substation in times of high electricity demand and high energy imports, including periods of high renewable energy generation in the Imperial Valley. These heavy electrical flows into the Miguel and Sycamore Canyon Substations can result in congestion and violation of NERC reliability criteria in the downstream transmission and power lines. SDG&E, in such a situation, dispatches generated energy less efficiently, which increases costs to ratepayers.

Reliability has been further compromised by the early SONGS retirement and the projected eventual retirement of the coastal once-through cooling generation units in San Diego and Los Angeles.

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<sup>2</sup> Path 44 consists of three 230-kV lines from the SONGS Switchyard to the San Luis Rey Substation and two 230-kV lines from the SONGS Switchyard to the Talega Substation.

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SDG&E has further indicated that these system constraints are projected to worsen over time. As the San Diego metropolitan area load continues to increase, the imports into Miguel and Sycamore Canyon Substations will also increase. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has forecasted that the 1-in-10 peak customer load served by SDG&E will increase by 390 MW from 2013 to 2017, for a peak 2017 load of 5510 MW. In addition, significant renewable generation is expected to be developed in the Southwestern United States (U.S.), which will further increase flows on the Sunrise Powerlink and into Sycamore Canyon Substation.

The Governor of California assembled a task force in summer 2013 to determine how to address reliability issues stemming from retirement of the SONGS and once-through cooling generation sources. The task force included CPUC, CEC, and CAISO staff. They created a Preliminary Reliability Plan for the Los Angeles Basin and San Diego. The task force identified the Proposed Project as necessary mitigation in Section 2 of the plan:

Sycamore Canyon – Peñasquitos Transmission Line – To address local transmission overloads in the northern region of San Diego system, some of which are exacerbated by the absence of San Onofre, the [CA]ISO-approved a new 230 kV transmission line from the Sycamore Canyon to Peñasquitos Substations to improve power flows from east to west. The online date is targeted to 2017, although permitting and construction risk may delay the final operating date. There are multiple applicants seeking to build this line. As the CPUC is the lead siting agency for all of the applicants seeking to build this line, the CPUC is responsible for selecting the project sponsor to build the line. To meet the 2017 in-service date, the selected sponsor will need to be determined in early 2014 and file for a CPCN with the CPUC in mid-2014. The CPUC should process and approve the application by mid-2015.

Subsequent to the release of the Governor's task force report, CAISO became responsible for selecting the project sponsor to build the line. CAISO also identified the Proposed Project as assumed to be in service by 2017 in its 2013 – 14 Transmission Plan.

As part of the policy process, the CAISO issued a Functional Specification for the Proposed Project that stated the need for a transmission line with an emergency rating of 1175 megavolt-amperes (MVA). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to meet this capacity need by providing an additional 230-kV high-voltage outlet at Sycamore Canyon Substation. Installing this outlet would allow the delivery of power directly to the coastal load center rather than forcing it onto the 138-kV and 69-kV networks. As a result, the Proposed Project would relieve congestion on these lower-voltage facilities.

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## 1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

### 1.2.1 CEQA Process and Lead Agency

This ~~Draft~~ EIR has been prepared pursuant to:

- CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] § 21000 et seq.);
- Amended Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] § 15000 et seq.); and
- CPUC CEQA Rule 2.4 on CEQA compliance.

The purpose of CEQA is to ensure informed governmental decisions by identifying ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage through feasible mitigation or project alternatives, and to provide public disclosure (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002 (a)(1)-(4)). CPUC is the lead agency for review of the Proposed Project under CEQA because it has the principal responsibility for determining whether to approve or deny the Proposed Project (i.e., it must decide whether to approve or deny the CPCN). Under CEQA, an EIR is required if substantial evidence supports a fair argument that a project may have a significant impact, even if other substantial evidence indicates that the impact will not be significant. As the Lead Agency, the CPUC determined that an EIR was the appropriate level of environmental review for the Proposed Project.

The CPUC has prepared this ~~Draft~~-EIR for the purpose of examining the direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project, feasible mitigation measures, and alternatives that would reduce or avoid the Proposed Project's significant effects, prior to making a discretionary decision on the CPCN application. This ~~Draft~~ EIR does not make a recommendation regarding the approval or denial of the project. The CPUC cannot approve a project that will have significant impacts or limit the choice of alternatives or mitigation measures before the CEQA review is complete.

The purpose of the ~~Draft~~ EIR is to:

- Inform both the CPUC's decisionmakers and the public about the environmental effects of the Proposed Project and its alternatives
- Give the public an opportunity to comment on significant environmental issues
- Describe the existing environmental conditions in the vicinity of the Proposed Project
- Identify and analyze each significant effect on the environment resulting from the Proposed Project
- Identify feasible measures to mitigate each significant effect
- Identify potentially feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project that would meet most of its basic objectives while avoiding or reducing its significant environmental effects



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## 1.2.2 Environmental Analysis

This ~~Draft~~ EIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project and alternatives, and identifies mitigation measures that could minimize or prevent those potential environmental impacts. The following environmental resources were considered in evaluating the potential effects of the Proposed Project, in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Checklist Appendix G:

- Biological Resources
- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Transportation and Traffic
- Noise
- Land Use and Planning
- Recreation
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Population and Housing
- Utilities and Public Service Systems

## 1.3 AGENCY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Section 15124(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR contain a statement briefly describing the intended uses of the EIR. The CEQA Guidelines indicate that the EIR should identify the ways in which the Lead Agency and any responsible agencies would use this document in their approval or permitting processes. The following discussion summarizes the roles of the agencies and the intended uses of the ~~Draft~~ EIR.

### 1.3.1 California Public Utilities Commission Process

Pursuant to Article XII of the Constitution of the State of California, the CPUC is charged with the regulation of investor-owned public utilities, including SDG&E. This ~~Draft~~ EIR describes and analyzes the environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Project and explores a range of alternatives that would reduce the Proposed Project's significant adverse impacts. The EIR will be considered by the CPUC, in conjunction with other information developed in the CPUC's formal record, prior to acting on SDG&E's application for a CPCN for construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project. Should the CPUC decide to certify the Final EIR, it must make the findings set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15090(a). Namely, the CPUC would have to certify that the EIR:

- Complies with CEQA;
- Reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis; and
- Was presented to the decision-making body, which reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR before approving the project.

After considering and certifying the EIR, the lead agency may then decide whether to approve the project. If the CPUC approves a project with significant unavoidable environmental impacts, it must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations explaining why the project's benefits

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outweigh its significant environmental impacts, which would be included in the CPUC’s decision on the application.

## 1.3.2 State Trustee and Responsible Agencies

Several other State agencies may rely on the information in this ~~Draft~~ EIR to inform their decisions over issuance of specific permits related to project construction, operation, and maintenance. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a State Trustee Agency. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), and California Coastal Commission (CCC) are State Responsible Agencies because they would issue discretionary permits for the project.

## 1.3.3 Federal Agencies

Federal agencies with potential review and/or permitting authority include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

## 1.3.4 Required Permits and Approvals

No local discretionary (e.g., use) permits are required because the CPUC has preemptive discretionary jurisdiction over the construction, maintenance, and operation of SDG&E facilities in California. SDG&E must obtain all ministerial building and encroachment permits from local jurisdictions, and the CPUC’s General Order (GO) 131-D requires SDG&E to comply with local building, design, and safety standards to the greatest degree feasible to minimize project conflicts with local conditions. The CPUC’s authority does not preempt special districts, such as Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs), or other State agencies or the federal government. SDG&E would participate in consultations with and obtain permits, approvals, and licenses from federal, State, and local agencies as shown in Table 1.3-1.

**Table 1.3-1 Potentially Required Permits and Approvals**

Permit/Authorization	Agency	When is Permit Required?
<b>Federal</b>		
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance	MCAS Miramar Committee for Land and Airspace Management Policy	Construction on MCAS Miramar
Federal Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit	USFWS	Impacts to federally listed species during installation of new facilities
Clean Water Act Section 404	USACE	Impacts to Waters of the U.S.
Lighting and Aerial Marking	FAA and MCAS Miramar	Construction of overhead materials potentially requiring aerial marking
Congested Area Plan	FAA	Use of helicopters over congested areas

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Permit/Authorization	Agency	When is Permit Required?
<b>State</b>		
CPCN	CPUC	Overall project approval and CEQA review
National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)—Construction General Permit and Implementation of a Project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	SWRCB	Stormwater discharges associated with construction activities disturbing more than 1 acre of land
Order 97-03 Waste Discharge and Water Recycling Requirements for the Production and Purveyance of Recycled Water for the City of San Diego North City Water Reclamation Plant	RWQCB	Use of reclaimed water during construction
Order R9-2008-0002 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Groundwater Extraction and Similar Discharges to Surface Waters Within the San Diego Region Except for San Diego Bay	RWQCB	Construction discharges from construction dewatering
Section 401 Water Quality Certification	RWQCB	Certification that the project is consistent with state water quality standards
Coastal Development Permit	California Coastal Commission- <del>(CCC)</del>	Construction of facilities within California Coastal Zone
California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit	CDFW	Impacts to listed species during installation of new facilities
Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code	CDFW	Impacts to Waters of the State of California
Encroachment Permit	Caltrans	Construction, operation, and maintenance within, under, or over State highway ROW
<b>Local</b>		
Encroachment or Public Right-of-Way Permit(s) and Traffic Control Plan(s)	City of San Diego	Construction within, under, or over city roadways (Carmel Valley Road)
Coastal Development Permit	City of San Diego	Construction of facilities within California Coastal Zone under Local Coastal Program (possibly a consolidated permit with the CCC)
Grading Permit	City of San Diego	Disturbance of soil and vegetation in environmentally sensitive areas and grading on hill slopes
Recycled Water Permit	City and County of San Diego	Use of recycled water during construction
Temporary Use Permit	City of Poway	Use of Stowe staging yard
<u>Construction Noise Permit</u> <del>Variance</del>	City of San Diego and City of Poway	Construction outside of approved hours

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### 1.4 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

#### 1.4.1 Scoping

The scoping process refers to an early and open process undertaken by a lead agency to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the significant issues related to the Proposed Project. During the scoping process, the public is invited to submit comments on the scope of the analysis for the environmental document to be prepared for the project under CEQA. The scoping process is intended to identify public concerns and define issues that may be controversial. The Proposed Project's Scoping Report is available at the following CPUC webpage:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Sycamore\\_Penasquitos/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Sycamore_Penasquitos/index.html)

##### 1.4.1.1 Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

The CPUC issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on August 11, 2014, to inform the public and agencies of its intention to prepare an EIR. The NOP also solicited comments on the scope of the Draft EIR during a 30-day scoping period, which began on August 18, 2014, and ended on September 16, 2014.

The CPUC mailed 6,365 notices to individuals, organizations, elected officials, tribes, and federal, state, and local agencies during scoping. Members of the public residing within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project alignment received the NOP by mail. Additionally, individuals who requested notification or submitted their addresses were also notified by mail. Twenty tribes were contacted in mid-August 2014 to invite them to participate in the scoping process. Tribes were contacted first by mail, then by email, and finally by a follow-up email. Table 1.4-1 lists the agencies and tribes that were notified during the scoping process.

##### 1.4.1.2 Scoping Meetings

In addition to soliciting written scoping comments through public notifications, the CPUC held three public scoping meetings to solicit comments for consideration in determining the scope of the Draft EIR. The scoping meetings were held on August 25, 2014 and August 26, 2014 at the DoubleTree Golf Resort in San Diego, California. The dates and locations of the public scoping meetings were advertised in three local newspapers. Fliers were also posted in locations close to the Proposed Project and conceptual alternative alignments. The fliers provided an additional means of advertising the public meetings. Other methods of notification included the CPUC project information website at:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Sycamore\\_Penasquitos/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Sycamore_Penasquitos/index.html)

and a Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Sycamore-Peñasquitos-Transmission-Line/631877463564377](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sycamore-Peñasquitos-Transmission-Line/631877463564377).

At the scoping meetings, the CPUC described the Proposed Project and the potential environmental impacts that would be addressed in the Draft EIR. The CPUC also accepted verbal and written comments. Fifty-eight attendees signed-in at the scoping meetings.



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**Table 1.4-1 Agencies, Municipalities, and Tribes Notified During the Scoping Process**

Agencies and Tribes Notified	
Federal, State, and Local Agencies	
CCC	MCAS Miramar
CDFW	San Diego Air Pollution Control District
California Native American Heritage Commission	San Diego Association of Governments
Caltrans	SDRWQCB
City of Poway	USACE
City of San Diego	USFWS
County of San Diego	
Tribes	
Barona Group of the Capitan Grande	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Campo Band of Mission Indians	Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians <sup>1</sup>
Ewiiapaayp Tribe	La Posta Band of Mission Indians
Inaja Band of Mission Indians	Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
Inter-Tribal Cultural Resources Protection Council	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Jamul Indian Village	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee	Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Kumeyaay Cultural Historic Committee	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians <sup>2</sup>

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> This tribe was contacted via phone. The Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians was not included on the updated list of tribal contacts from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) or the tribal contacts known to the CPUC. However, the tribe was consulted for the Sunrise Powerlink Project; thus, the CPUC cultural resources specialist deemed it necessary to seek any information or concerns from the tribe.
- <sup>2</sup> The San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians were contacted following scoping in response to a letter from the Band to the CPUC in June 2015 requesting formal notification of proposed projects within the Bands geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation per PRC § 21080.3 (b).

### 1.4.1.3 Summary of Key Concerns

All written and oral comments received during the public comment period, as well as comments received prior to and after the close of the scoping period, were considered. During the comment period, comments were received from four agencies, one tribe, five organizations, and 88 individuals. Another two organizations and 34 individuals provided comments outside of the scoping period. The key comment topics, within the purview of CEQA, in these written and oral comments are presented in Table 1.4-2. The public also presented comments that the CPUC does not consider to be environmental issues under CEQA, such as effects on home or property values.

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**Table 1.4-2 Summary of Scoping Comments**

Environmental Issue / CEQA Area	Potential Issue or Impacts
<b>Alternatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze alternative overhead and underground transmission line alignments and configurations</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address how additional towers, poles, and lines would impede views from homes, schools, roadways, trails, and parks</li> <li>Address visual impacts of heavy construction equipment and temporary sanitary facilities at staging yards</li> <li>Ensure photosimulations accurately illustrate visual impacts from the existing and proposed towers and lines</li> </ul>
<b>Biological Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct protocol-level surveys for sensitive species prior to release of the Draft EIR</li> <li>Avoid development or conversion of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values</li> <li>Consider the presence of vernal pools</li> <li>Address potential impacts to wildlife habitat and corridors within the City of San Diego Multi-Habitat Planning Area and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve</li> </ul>
<b>Fire and Fuels Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the risk of wildfires and implementation of fire management, especially in the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve</li> </ul>
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider potential safety impacts to students, parents, and education programs and facilities resulting from hazards, including accidental injury as a result of access to staging yards and general hazards associated with project construction</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use and Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify proposed staging yard locations and use</li> <li>Address placement of towers and transmission and power lines near homes, especially within Segments A and D</li> </ul>
<b>Noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address noise impacts during construction and operation of the Proposed Project, including increase in corona noise from ambient noise levels</li> <li>Address construction noise within the City of San Diego's Multi-Habitat Planning Area during sensitive species breeding seasons</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider recreation impacts to the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, particularly regarding potential trail closures during project construction</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address increased traffic congestion and safety risks due to worker access to staging yards</li> <li>Address access into and out of the Del Mar Mesa Preserve</li> </ul>
<b>Project Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in electric magnetic fields (EMF) from the proposed transmission line</li> </ul>

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### 1.4.2 ~~How to Comments~~ on the Draft EIR

~~This~~The Draft EIR ~~is being~~was circulated to local, state, and federal agencies and to interested individuals who ~~may wish~~ed to review and comment on the report. Written comments ~~may be~~were submitted to the CPUC during the 45-day public review period. Written and verbal comments on ~~this~~the Draft EIR will be accepted via regular mail, fax, and e-mail and at noticed public meetings ~~(either noticed in this document or under separate cover)~~. All comments received ~~will be~~were addressed in a Response to Comments document, which, together with ~~this~~the Draft EIR, ~~will~~ constitute the Final EIR for the Proposed Project. Written comments ~~may be~~were submitted to any of the following:

Mail: Ms. Billie Blanchard  
CPUC Project Manager  
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
1 Embarcadero Center, Suite 740  
San Francisco, CA 94111

FAX: (650) 373-1211

Email: [sycamorepenasquitos@panoramaenv.com](mailto:sycamorepenasquitos@panoramaenv.com)

An informational workshop on the Draft EIR ~~will be~~was held at the DoubleTree Golf Resort, 14455 Peñasquitos Drive, San Diego, California at the following dates and times:

- September 28 from 7 PM to 9 PM
- September 29 from 2 PM to 4 PM
- September 29 from 7 PM to 9 PM

## 1.5 READER'S GUIDE TO THIS ~~DRAFT~~ EIR

### 1.5.1 CEQA Process and Lead Agency

This ~~Draft~~-EIR has been organized into the following sections:

- **Acronyms and Abbreviations.** This section follows the Table of Contents.
- **Glossary.** This section follows the Table of Contents.
- **Executive Summary.** Provides a summary description of the Proposed Project, the alternatives, their respective environmental impacts, and the environmentally superior alternative. This section also provides a summary table of the impacts and mitigation measures of the Proposed Project and alternatives.
- **Chapter 1, Introduction.** Provides an overview of the project background and project objectives, briefly describes the Proposed Project, and outlines the CEQA process and agency use of this ~~Draft~~-EIR.
- **Chapter 2, Project Description.** Presents SDG&E's objectives for the Proposed Project and provides an in-depth description of the Proposed Project, including construction details and methods.

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- **Chapter 3, Alternatives.** Provides a summary of the alternatives screening and evaluation process, including the rationale for eliminating alternatives from further analysis. This chapter also provides a description of the alternatives analyzed in Chapter 4.
- **Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis.** Provides an analysis and assessment of impacts and mitigation measures for the Proposed Project and alternatives, including the No Project Alternative. This chapter contains a discussion of the environmental setting, regulatory environment, and impacts for each environmental issue area (e.g., Air Quality, Biological Resources, etc.). Mitigation measures are identified for significant impacts.
- **Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts.** Provides a discussion of the cumulative impacts of the proposed project in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the vicinity.
- **Chapter 6, Comparison of Alternatives.** Provides a discussion of the relative advantages and disadvantages of the Proposed Project and the alternatives evaluated, and identifies the CEQA environmentally superior alternative.
- **Chapter 7, Other CEQA Considerations.** Provides a discussion of electrical interference, potential energy impacts, growth-inducing effects, significant environmental effect that cannot be avoided, and irreversible environmental changes.
- **Chapter 8, Report Preparation.** Identifies the preparers of the ~~Draft~~ EIR and the public agencies consulted during preparation of the ~~Draft~~ EIR.
- **Chapter 9, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.** Provides a discussion of the CPUC's mitigation monitoring and reporting plan requirements for the project as approved by the CPUC. This chapter includes applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures that SDG&E must implement as part of the project, actions required to implement these measures, monitoring requirements, and timing of implementation for each measure.
- **Appendix A, Detailed Project Route Maps.** Provides detailed locations of all Proposed Project components on an aerial map base including all unpaved access routes and staging yards.
- **Appendix B, Proposed Project Pole Details.** Provides approximate pole heights and details for each pole that is being removed and each pole that is being installed.
- **Appendix C, Magnetic Field Management Plan.** Provides evaluation of magnetic fields along the Proposed Project alignment and possible magnetic field management measures.
- **Appendix D, Alternatives Screening Report.** Provides a screening and evaluation of alternatives to the Proposed Project and identifies the rationale for alternatives that were carried forward in the Draft EIR.
- **Appendix E, Detailed Alternative Route Maps.** Provides detailed locations of the components of all alternatives carried forward on an aerial map base including all unpaved access routes and staging yards.



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- **Appendix F, Aesthetic Resources Supporting Information.** Provides a tabular technical evaluation of candidate key observation points considered for visual simulation and analysis of aesthetics impacts in the ~~Draft~~-EIR.
- **Appendix G, Biological Resources Supporting Information.** Includes special-status species tables and figures.
- **Appendix H, Cultural Resources Supporting Information.** Provides figures depicting the cultural resources survey area and records of communication with Native Americans.
- **Appendix I, Draft Fire Prevention Plan.** Provides fire prevention measures SDG&E would implement for the Proposed Project based on project-specific fire risks.
- **Appendix J, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Supporting Information.** Includes emissions calculations and assumptions spreadsheets.
- **Appendix K, City of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis.** Includes an assessment of Proposed Project consistency with the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan Policies and Guidelines.
- **Appendix L, SDG&E Best Management Practices Manual.** Specifies standard sediment and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) that are implemented by SDG&E during construction.
- **Appendix M, Transportation and Traffic Supporting Information.** Includes traffic count data results.
- **Appendix N, Hazards and Hazardous Materials Supporting Information.** Includes Environmental Data Resources Report results for Proposed Project and retained alternatives.
- **Appendix O, Geotechnical Study for the Proposed Project. Includes the Geotechnical Study performed by Trinity Geotechnical Engineering, Inc.**

### 1.6 REFERENCES

CEC (California Energy Commission). 2015. "Nuclear Energy in California." Accessed August 17, 2015. Available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/nuclear/california.html>.

CAISO (California Independent System Operator). 2013. Board Approved 2012 – 2013 Transmission Plan. Approved on March 20, 2013.

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