Fact Sheet

Sycamore Peñasquitos 230-Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

San Diego County

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is proposing to construct and operate a new 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the existing SDG&E Sycamore Canyon and Peñasquitos Substations in San Diego County, Calif. The SDG&E Sycamore-Peñasquitos 230-kV Transmission Line Project (Proposed Project) is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As the lead agency under CEQA, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to meet local, state and federal permitting requirements.

Proposed Project Overview

SDG&E proposes to construct and operate a 230-kV transmission line between the existing SDG&E Sycamore Canyon and Peñasquitos Substations, installing approximately 13.9 miles of overhead and 2.8 miles of underground transmission line. The Proposed Project would consolidate two existing 69-kV power lines onto double-circuit, steel structures, replacing the existing predominately wood structures. The Proposed Project includes four segments, as shown on Figure 1 on the following page.

The Proposed Project includes the following components:

- Construction of three new overhead segments (Segments A, C and D) and one underground segment (Segment B) of 230-kV transmission line between the Sycamore Canyon Substation and Peñasquitos Canyon Substation
- Modifications at Sycamore Canyon and Peñasquitos Substations, other existing substations, and Encina Hub to accept the new 230-kV transmission line
- Phase transposition of the Mission – San Luis Rey 230-kV transmission line to accommodate the existing substation phasing

Proposed Project Objectives

SDG&E has indicated that its ability to operate its bulk electric transmission system is constrained by the early retirement of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and future retirement of coastal Once-Through Cooling generation.

The project objectives defined by the CPUC are to:

- Maintain long-term grid reliability in the absence of SONGS generation,
- Deliver energy more efficiently to the load center in San Diego, and
- Support delivery of renewable resources identified in SDG&E's Renewable Portfolio Standard portfolio.

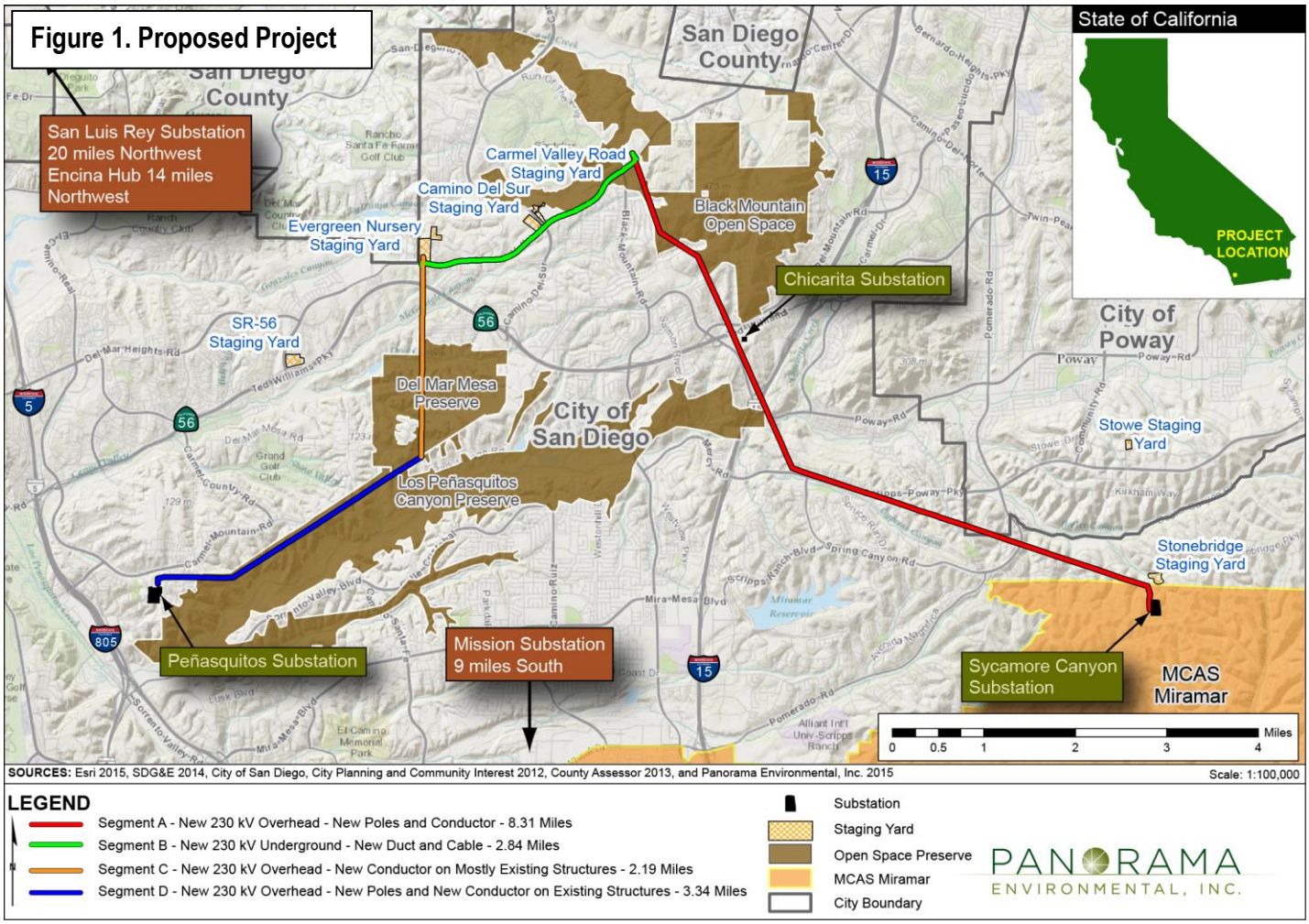
Proposed Project Segments

The majority of the Proposed Project would be located in the City of San Diego with small portions in the City of Poway and the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, east of Interstate 15 (I-15). Ancillary proposed activities would occur within the cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside at existing facilities. The Sycamore-Peñasquitos transmission corridor traverses numerous land uses, including residential, open space, military, vacant land, urban, commercial/shopping, industrial/energy facility, park, transportation, and light industrial/business park uses.

The Proposed Project is divided into four segments, including:

- **Segment A: Sycamore Canyon Substation to Carmel Valley Road.** Construction of 8.31 miles of 230-kV transmission line on new tubular steel poles
- **Segment B: Underground in Carmel Valley Road.** Installation of 2.84 miles of 230-kV underground transmission line
- **Segment C: Carmel Valley Road to Peñasquitos Junction.** Installation of 2.19 miles of 230-kV transmission line on existing steel structures and one new tubular steel pole
- **Segment D: Peñasquitos Junction to Peñasquitos Substation.** Installation of 3.34 miles of 230-kV transmission line on existing steel structure

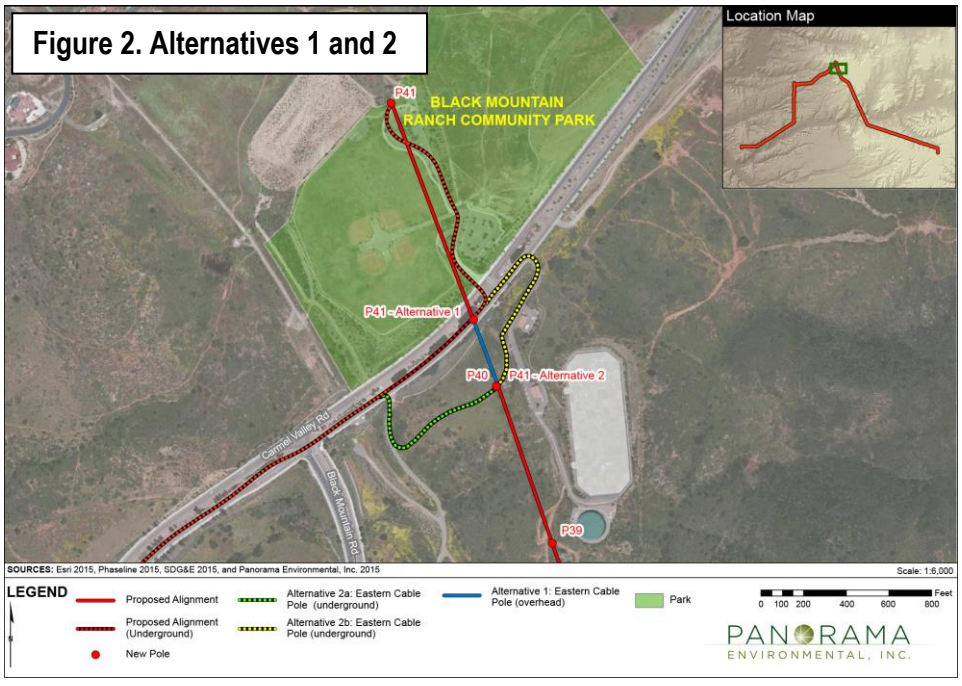
For additional information on the SDG&E Sycamore-Peñasquitos 230-kV Transmission Line Project, please visit the CPUC project website:
www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Sycamore_Penasquitos/index.html
You may also send an email to the project team at sycamorepenasquitos@panoramaenv.com.



Alternatives

CEQA requires the evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives. The Draft EIR identified 41 alternatives as a result of an alternatives screening process. The following five alternatives were retained for full analysis in the Draft EIR:

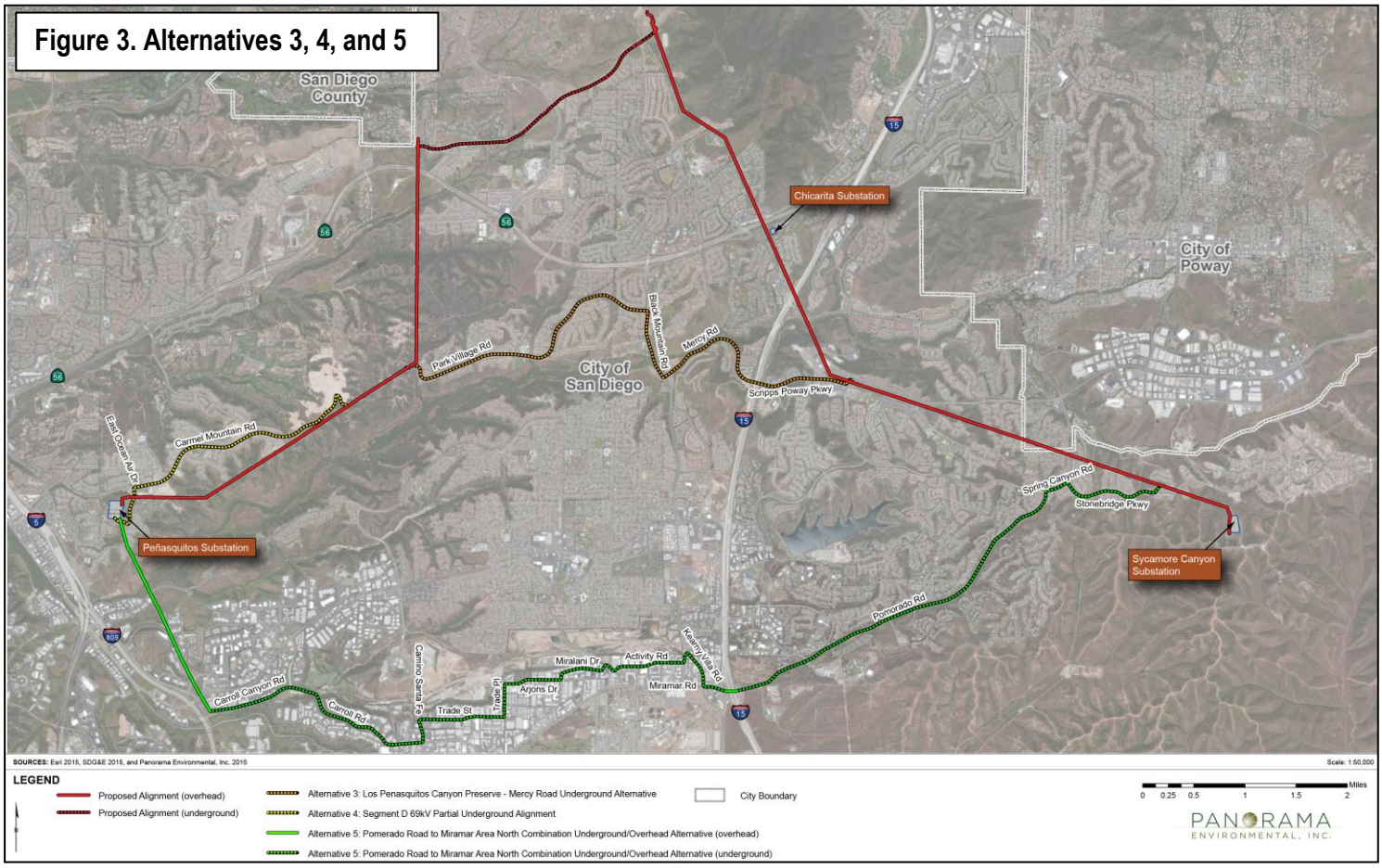
- **Alternative 1, Eastern Cable Pole at Carmel Valley Road,** is a cable pole relocation alternative along the Proposed Project route that would eliminate the impacts associated with the proposed installation of a tubular steel cable pole north of Carmel Valley Road at the northern end of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park.
- **Alternative 2, Eastern Cable Pole at Pole P40 and Underground Alignment through City Open Space or City Water Utility Service Road,** is a cable pole relocation alternative along the Proposed Project route that would eliminate the impacts associated with the proposed installation of a tubular steel cable pole north of Carmel Valley Road at the northern end of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park.



Alternative 3, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve-Mercy Road Underground, is a routing alternative along the Proposed Project route for installation of 5.9 miles of underground transmission line that avoids the northern portion of Segment A and all of Segments B and C. Alternative 3 would start where the existing SDG&E right of way crosses Ivy Hill Road and end approximately 550 feet west of the Peñasquitos Junction.

- **Alternative 4, Segment D 69-kV Partial Underground Alignment,** is a routing alternative along the Proposed Project route that would eliminate the impacts from new tubular steel pole installation along 2.8 miles of Segment D for construction of a double-circuit 69-kV underground power line starting at two new cable poles in Proposed Project Segment D.
- **Alternative 5, Pomerado Road to Miramar Area North Combination Underground/Overhead,** is a routing alternative located within a new alignment from the Proposed Project for undergrounding the majority of the transmission line along a new route, with the exception of the east and west ends where the transmission line would be overhead within existing SDG&E rights of way.
- The **No Project Alternative,** a scenario developed to define actions that may be implemented in the absence of the Proposed Project or Alternatives, includes three transmission system upgrades that are considered to be the most likely actions.

Figure 3. Alternatives 3, 4, and 5



Draft EIR Analysis

The Draft EIR includes a description of the Proposed Project and the existing environment that the Proposed Project would affect, and discloses the potential environmental impacts, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The Draft EIR includes an analysis of alternatives and describes mitigation measures which, if adopted by the CPUC, would avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts from the Proposed Project.

Draft EIR Findings

The Proposed Project would have significant impacts that could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level on nine resource areas: Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Paleontological Resources; Geology and Soils; Hydrology and Water Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Fire and Fuels Management; Air Quality; and Utilities and Public Service Systems. Impacts on two resource areas would be less than significant without mitigation: Agricultural Resources and Greenhouse Gases. The Proposed Project would have no impact on Land Use, or Population and Housing.

The Proposed Project would have **significant and unavoidable impacts** on the following resource areas:

- **Aesthetics,** including long-term degradation of visual quality in the area due to visual contrast resulting from the presence of new transmission structures, lighting, and marker balls
- **Transportation and Traffic,** including temporary impacts on traffic congestion and availability of parking
- **Noise,** including temporary generation of noise from construction that would exceed local noise standards, and permanent increase in ambient noise levels from corona noise
- **Recreation,** including temporary closure of public parks during heavy use periods when the closures would conflict with scheduled recreational activities and permanent impacts to the value of recreational resources by introducing industrial elements and corona noise to open space recreational areas

All five Proposed Project Alternatives would each feasibly attain most of the project objectives and would avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts of the Proposed Project.

The No Project Alternative would have fewer impacts than the Proposed Project and would reduce significant and unavoidable impacts on Aesthetics, Recreation, and Transportation and Traffic. However, the No Project Alternative would increase significant and unavoidable permanent noise impacts.

Environmentally Superior Alternative

One of the factors the CPUC will consider in deciding whether to approve the Proposed Project is its environmental characteristics in comparison to other, potentially feasible alternatives that would reduce or avoid the Proposed Project's significant environmental impacts, while still meeting most of the objectives of the Proposed Project.

Alternative 5 is the Environmentally Superior Alternative because it would minimize significant and unavoidable impacts to Aesthetics, Noise and Recreation. Significant and unavoidable impacts to visual quality would be limited to one cable pole and the alternative would avoid all other significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts of the Proposed Project. Alternative 5 would also substantially reduce significant and unavoidable noise impacts by reducing potential for corona noise generation. Alternative 5 would avoid significant and unavoidable impacts on recreational value by eliminating new structures in open space recreational areas. Alternative 5 would also further reduce impacts that are less than significant with mitigation on Biological Resources; Hydrology and Water Resources; Geology and Soils; and Fire and Fuels Management.

Submitting Comments on the Draft EIR

The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR was published on Sept. 17, 2015, and the CPUC is currently soliciting comments from the public and agencies. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than **Nov. 2, 2015**. Please be sure to include your name, address and telephone number with your comments. Comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted to:

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