

**ED09-SDGE 03/30/15 Partial Response No. 1**  
**A.14-04-011 SXPQ 230kV Transmission Line CPCN Project**  
**Energy Division Data Request 9 Dated March 17, 2015**  
**ED09-SDGE Questions: Q1, (2-3 partial), 4-6**

Q#	Summary of SDG&E Response Submittals	PENDING Status	Confidential Status
1-6	<b>03/30/15 – Q1, (2-3 partial), 4-6</b>	Partial: Q2 & Q3	Attachments in Q6b-c

**REPORT OVERVIEW**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has identified several areas where more information is needed to prepare a complete and adequate analysis of the potential environmental effects of a range of alternatives in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Data needs are identified in bold. Clarifying information is provided below the data need.

#	Reference Source, Page #	Data Need	SDG&E Response
1	N/A	<p><b>Provide a more detailed description supporting determination of low potential and high potential for buried cultural resources in the project area.</b></p> <p>The assessment of high or low potential for buried cultural resources provided to the CPUC needs to be supported by more detailed descriptions of the geology/geomorphology, seismic history, hydrology, topography, and soils in the project than is currently provided in Petra Resource Management’s April 2014 report which states:</p> <p>“Evidence for buried cultural deposits was opportunistically sought through the inspection of natural or artificial erosional exposures and the spoils from rodent burrows. In the daily survey notes, the field director assessed the potential for buried sites on the basis of subregional geomorphology. For instance, the potential would be rated as high in large alluvial valleys and as low in areas with shallow bedrock. Maps showing the APE study area, previous and current survey areas and potential for buried deposit analysis are provided in Appendix A.”</p>	<p>The geological studies referenced by Petra Resource Management to identify the subregional geomorphology and assess the potential for buried archaeological deposits are published geological reports covering the entirety of the project area (Kennedy 1975, Kennedy and Peterson 1975), as well as utilization of a buried site sensitivity model created using ArcGIS software. Digital versions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) map were acquired (available online) and utilized in conjunction with the ArcGIS software. Together, these reports, models, and maps show that the particularly sensitive geological landform in the project area is the Holocene-age (less than 10,000 years old) undifferentiated alluvium and slopewash. The preceding geological structures present in the project area were too old (i.e. Late-Pleistocene-age (0.5 to 1.5 million years old) and older) to have been used for human habitation in the Americas, according to generally accepted timeframes. The surficial Holocene deposits are detrital materials which include stream-terrace, landslide, alluvium, slope wash, and beach deposits and artificially compacted fill. At least some alluvium deposition can occur along a watercourse of almost any size. Because archaeological material buried by less than a meter of sediment is likely to be brought to the present ground surface by bioturbation or pedoturbation, all areas with Holocene alluvial deposits were treated as having a high potential for buried archaeological deposits. To ensure a comprehensive assessment of the possibility for buried cultural deposits, the cultural resources inspection covered not only the areas with a high likelihood for potential buried sites, but also a buffer around such areas.</p> <p>Based on review of the USGS fault map, no know active faults with the potential for surface fault rupture are known to exist beneath the project alignment. The nearest</p>

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**Table 1: Application No. 14-04-011 Data Needs #9**

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			<p>potentially active fault is the Rose Canyon Fault, associated with the Newport-Inglewood fault system, a northwest trending right-lateral fault that extends south from the Los Angeles Basin to the northern coastline of Baja California. The off-shore extension of the mapped fault line is approximately 4.5 miles west of Peñasquitos Substation (Trinity 2015).</p> <p>Kennedy, M.P. 1975. Geology of the Western San Diego Metropolitan area, California. California Division Mines and Geology Bulletin 200-A:7-39.</p> <p>Kennedy, M.P. and Peterson, G.L. 1975. Geology of the Eastern San Diego Metropolitan area, California. California Division Mines and Geology Bulletin 200-B:43-56.</p> <p>Trinity Geotechnical Engineering, Inc. 2015. Geotechnical Study: Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230kV Transmission Line, San Diego County, California. Prepared for Burns &amp; McDonnell.</p>
2	Data Request #7, Response #9; and Data Request #5, Response #5	<p><b>Provide a wetlands delineation report covering the proposed SR-56 staging yard and the Encina Hub work areas.</b></p> <p>The potential exists for wetland resources to occur within or adjacent to the SR-56 staging yard and the Encina Hub work areas; however, these locations were not covered in previous wetland delineation reporting provided by SDG&amp;E. These areas need to be included in the wetland delineation currently underway for the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park and Evergreen Nursery staging yards identified in SDG&amp;E's focused survey schedule response to Data Request #7.</p> <p>The wetland delineation must include both the technical report and associated GIS shapefiles.</p>	<p>The Encina Hub wetland delineation memo (supplementing the Environmental Intelligence [EI] report included with the PEA) is under preparation and is anticipated to be completed by April 24, 2015.</p> <p>A second wetland delineation memo (also supplementing the EI report) for all of the new areas along the main alignment, including the SR-56 yard will also be prepared and is anticipated to be completed by April 24, 2015.</p> <p>With the submittal of these two wetland memos, all of the potential wetlands associated with the current project footprint will be documented and discussed.</p>
3	Data Request #7, Response #9; and Data Request #5, Response #5	<p><b>Provide the results of rare plant surveys covering the proposed Mission-San Luis Rey Phase Transposition, Chicarita South staging yard, SR-56 staging yard, and Encina Hub work areas.</b></p> <p>The potential exists for rare plants to occur within or adjacent to the work areas identified above; however, these locations were not covered in previous rare plant survey reports provided by SDG&amp;E. These areas need to be included in the rare plant survey work currently underway for the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park and Evergreen Nursery staging yards identified in SDG&amp;E's focused survey schedule response to Data Request #7.</p>	<p>Two rounds of rare plant surveys are scheduled for the Encina Hub, and three rounds of rare plant surveys are scheduled for all areas that were not previously surveyed as part of the original BSA.</p> <p>The two rounds of surveys at Encina Hub are planned for the weeks of 4/5 and 5/17, weather permitting. The complete report and findings are anticipated to be completed by the week of June 21, 2015.</p> <p>The three rounds of surveys for the remaining areas to be surveyed are planned for the weeks of 4/5 and 4/12; 5/17 and 5/24; and 9/20 and 9/27. The complete report</p>

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		The rare plant surveys results must include both the technical report and associated GIS shapefiles.	and findings are anticipated to be completed by the week of October 18, 2015.
4	Data Request #7, Response #2	<p><b>Provide a technical memo documenting the burrowing owl habitat assessment methodology and results for the Evergreen Nursery staging yard, the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park staging yard, and the Encina Hub work area. SDG&amp;E provided burrowing owl GIS data in response to Data Request #7 with no accompanying technical assessment.</b></p> <p>In the assessment, explain why there is a polygon of unlabeled area surrounded by labeled burrowing owl suitable habitat at the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park between potential habitat areas 15 and 16. Based on aerial imagery, this polygon appears to also be suitable habitat. Refer to Attachment A for the specific location in question.</p>	<p>Refer to Attachments DR09 – Q4(a) and DR09 – Q4(b). Attachment DR09 – Q4(a) contains a description of the methodology for the Encina Hub, and Attachment DR09 – Q4(b) contains the assessment for the Evergreen Nursery and Camino Del Sur Staging Yards.</p> <p>Pending further coordination with the City of San Diego (owner of Black Mountain Ranch Staging Yard), the City is confident they will begin construction at their site prior to construction of SDG&amp;E’s project. Therefore, the Black Mountain Ranch Staging Yard has been removed from consideration for use by SDG&amp;E for this project.</p>
5	Data Request #7, Response #4	<b>Verify that unmitigated PM10 emissions in 2016 will be above the SCAQMD threshold.</b>	Correct, unmitigated emissions of PM10 would exceed applicable San Diego thresholds for PM10.
6	N/A	<b>Provide supporting biological and cultural survey documentation for the proposed Camino Del Sur staging yard that SDG&amp;E would like included in the EIR.</b>	Please see Attachment ED09 – Q6(a)_Biological Survey Letter, Attachment ED09 – Q6(b)_Cultural Survey Letter ( <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> ), Attachment ED09 – Q6(c)_Site Records ( <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> ), and Attachment ED09 – Q6(d)_Vegetation GIS for results of initial resource surveys of the Camino Del Sur Staging Yard.