



Future Scenic Integrity: High, with Areas of Moderate. The Maximum Helicopter Alternative (Alternative 6, Segment 6) would replace the middle of three existing transmission lines with new 500-kV LSTs in most of the same footprint areas. New 500-kV LSTs would be 85-to-220-foot tall with 96-foot-wide arms, some with light-brown-gray and dark-brown-gray colors. In this area, Segment 6 transmission lines, taller LSTs, re-opened access/spur roads would be seen in the middleground from Vetter Mountain, and would achieve moderate scenic integrity in an otherwise predominantly natural-appearing existing landscape character. Access and spur roads are simulated based on Road Permit Plans provided by SCE in August 2008. Under Alternative 6, no helicopter staging areas would be visible from Vetter Mountain Lookout.

Adverse Visual Impacts. In the vicinity of KOP-Center-6, implementation of the Project would result in adverse visual impacts V-1, V-3, V-4, V-5, and V-7, as detailed in Table 6-1.

Mitigation Measures. Implementation of Mitigation Measures (MMs) would reduce adverse visual impacts to a certain degree, but the Project would create strong adverse contrasts of form, line, color, texture, and scale. It would continue to not meet the High SIO established for this area. MMs would include: V-1 – Clean up staging areas, storage areas, marshalling yards, access and spur roads, and structure locations on a regular periodic basis; V-2b – Treat surfaces with appropriate colors, textures, and finishes; V-3a – Match spans of existing transmission structures; V-3b – On NFS lands, provide restoration/compensation for impacts to landscape character and visual quality; V-4a – Construct, operate, and maintain the Project with existing access and spur roads where feasible; V-4c – Avoid locating new roads in bedrock on NFS lands; and, V-4d – Dispose of excavated materials as prescribed.

Figure 3.14-71b
Visual Simulation for
KOP-Center-8
Vetter Mountain Lookout
(Alternative 6, Segment 6)

Source: Lee Anderson and 3DScape, 2008.