



CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

SDG&E TL 695 and TL 6971 Reconductor Project

Application No. A.16-04-022

MAY 2017

**PANORAMA
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740 San Francisco, CA 94111 650-373-1200 www.panoramaenv.com

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

SDG&E TL 695 and TL 6971 Reconductor Project
Application No. A.16-04-022

MAY 2017

Prepared for:

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Prepared by:

Panorama Environmental, Inc.
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740
San Francisco, CA 94111
650-373-1200
TL695and6971@panoramaenv.com

PANORAMA
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740 San Francisco, CA 94111 650-373-1200 www.panoramaenv.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	vii
Mitigated Negative Declaration	MND-1
Contact Information	MND-1
Project Information.....	MND-1
Description of Project.....	MND-1
Required Approvals	MND-3
Environmental Determination.....	MND-3
Application Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures.....	MND-5
Environmental Determination	DET-1
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	DET-1
Environmental Determination.....	DET-2
1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.1 Overview of the Proposed Project.....	1-1
1.2 Environmental Review Process	1-1
1.3 Agency Use of this Document.....	1-2
1.4 Reader's Guide to this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration	1-5
2 Project Description	2-1
2.1 Introduction	2-1
2.2 Proposed Project Summary.....	2-1
2.3 Proposed Project Objectives	2-1
2.4 Proposed Project Location	2-2
2.5 Existing Electrical System	2-2
2.6 Project Components.....	2-5
2.7 Construction	2-17
2.8 Operation and Maintenance.....	2-29
2.9 Electromagnetic Fields	2-31
2.10 Applicant Proposed Measures	2-34
2.11 References.....	2-39
3 Environmental Analysis	3.1-1
3.1 Aesthetics.....	3.1-1
3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources	3.2-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3.3	Air Quality	3.3-1
3.4	Biological Resources	3.4-1
3.5	Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources.....	3.5-1
3.6	Geology and Soils.....	3.6-1
3.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3.7-1
3.8	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3.8-1
3.9	Hydrology and Water Quality.....	3.9-1
3.10	Land Use and Planning.....	3.10-1
3.11	Mineral Resources.....	3.11-1
3.12	Noise	3.12-1
3.13	Population and Housing	3.13-1
3.14	Public Services.....	3.14-1
3.15	Recreation	3.15-1
3.16	Transportation and Traffic	3.16-1
3.17	Utilities and Service Systems.....	3.17-1
3.18	Mandatory Findings of Significance	3.18-1
4	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.....	4-1
4.1	Authority for the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program	4-1
4.2	Organization of the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program	4-2
4.3	Roles and Responsibilities	4-3
4.4	Dispute Resolution	4-5
4.5	General Monitoring Procedures.....	4-6
5	Report Preparation	5-1
5.1	List of Preparers	5-1
5.2	Agencies, Organizations, and Tribes Contacted	5-2

List of Appendices

- Appendix A Detailed Proposed Project Route Maps**
- Appendix B Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Modeling**
- Appendix C Biological Resources Supporting Information**
- Appendix D Cultural Resources Supporting Information**
- Appendix E Construction Fire Prevention Plan**

List of Tables

Table MND 1	Power Line Segments	MND-2
Table MND 2	Potential Permits and Approvals	MND-4
Table 3.1-1	Definition of Visual Resources Terms	3.1-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table 3.1-2	Description of Landscape Character Units	3.1-5
Table 3.1-3	Guidelines for Determining the Significance of Adverse Visual Impact	3.1-11
Table 3.1-4	Description of Key Observation Points and Viewer Sensitivity	3.1-13
Table 3.1-5	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Aesthetics.....	3.1-29
Table 3.3-1	NAAQS and CAAQS for Criteria Air Pollutants.....	3.3-3
Table 3.3-2	Air Basin Designations.....	3.3-5
Table 3.3-3	Local Ambient Air Quality Concentrations at Nearby Monitoring Stations....	3.3-6
Table 3.3-4	Sensitive Receptors within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Project	3.3-8
Table 3.3-5	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Air Quality.....	3.3-11
Table 3.3-6	Proposed Project Construction Emissions.....	3.3-13
Table 3.4-1	Vegetation Communities within the Project Study Area.....	3.4-5
Table 3.4-2	Special-Status Species with Moderate or High Potential to Occur in the Project Study Area.....	3.4-11
Table 3.4-3	Application Proposed Measures for Biological Resources	3.4-20
Table 3.4-4	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Biological Resources.....	3.4-22
Table 3.4-5	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Potentially Suitable Habitat for Special-status Amphibian Species.....	3.4-25
Table 3.4-6	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Potentially Suitable Habitat for Special-status Reptile Species	3.4-26
Table 3.4-7	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Potentially Suitable Habitat for Special-status Bird Species	3.4-28
Table 3.4-8	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Potentially Suitable Habitat for Special-status Mammal Species	3.4-31
Table 3.4-9	Temporary and Permanent Impacts on Vegetation Communities.....	3.4-36
Table 3.5-1	Tribes Contacted during Native American Outreach	3.5-5
Table 3.5-2	Cultural Resource Sites within the Proposed Project Area	3.5-8
Table 3.5-3	Paleontological Sensitivity of Geologic Units that Underlie the Proposed Project.....	3.5-13
Table 3.5-4	Applicant Proposed Measures for Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources	3.5-15
Table 3.5-5	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources.....	3.5-18
Table 3.6-1	Major Soil Units in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.6-3
Table 3.6-2	Active Faults in the Proposed Project Region	3.6-11
Table 3.6-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Geology and Soils.....	3.6-14
Table 3.7-1	Greenhouse Gas Emission Sources	3.7-1
Table 3.7-2	California Greenhouse Gas Inventory	3.7-2
Table 3.7-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3.7-3
Table 3.7-4	Construction GHG Emissions	3.7-4
Table 3.8-1	Hazardous Materials Release Sites within 0.25 Mile of the Proposed Project .	3.8-3
Table 3.8-2	Schools within 0.25 Mile of the Proposed Project.....	3.8-4
Table 3.8-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts from Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3.8-8
Table 3.9-1	Applicant Proposed Measures for Hydrology and Water Quality	3.9-8
Table 3.9-2	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality....	3.9-8
Table 3.10-1	Proposed Project Land Use and Zoning	3.10-2
Table 3.10-2	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Land Use and Planning	3.10-4
Table 3.11-1	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Mineral Resources.....	3.11-2
Table 3.12-1	Typical Noise Levels in the Environment	3.12-2
Table 3.12-2	Noise-Sensitive Receptors within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Project	3.12-5
Table 3.12-3	Application Proposed Measures for Noise.....	3.12-8
Table 3.12-4	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts from Noise.....	3.12-8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table 3.12-5	Cumulative L _{eq} Noise Levels by Construction Activity	3.12-10
Table 3.12-6	L _{max} Noise Levels for Blasting (dBA)	3.12-10
Table 3.12-7	Helicopter L _{eq} Noise Levels (dBA)	3.12-11
Table 3.12-8	Construction Groundborne Vibration Damage Criteria	3.12-13
Table 3.12-9	Steady State Groundborne Vibration Perception.....	3.12-13
Table 3.12-10	Proposed Project Construction Groundborne Vibration Levels	3.12-14
Table 3.13-1	Population Estimates Near the Proposed Project.....	3.13-1
Table 3.13-2	Housing Units and Vacancy Near the Proposed Project	3.13-1
Table 3.13-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Population and Housing	3.13-2
Table 3.14-1	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Public Services.....	3.14-3
Table 3.15-1	Public Recreational Facilities within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Project.....	3.15-1
Table 3.15-2	Applicant Proposed Measures for Recreation.....	3.15-5
Table 3.15-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Recreation	3.15-6
Table 3.16-1	I-5 AM/PM Peak Hour Density and LOS	3.16-2
Table 3.16-2	LOS and ADT Volume of Local Roadways in the Proposed Project Area	3.16-2
Table 3.16-3	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Transportation and Traffic.....	3.16-5
Table 3.16-4	Maximum Trips Generated During Proposed Substation Construction.....	3.16-7
Table 3.17-2	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Utilities and Service Systems	3.17-3
Table 3.18-1	Summary of Proposed Project Impacts for Mandatory Findings of Significance	3.18-1
Table 3.18-2	Cumulative Projects List	3.18-6
Table 4.1-1	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.....	4-9
Table 5.1-1	Consultant Team.....	5-1
Table 5.1-2	Subconsultant Teams	5-2
Table 5.2-1	Agencies and Organizations Consulted.....	5-2

List of Figures

Figure 3.1-1	Landscape Character Units in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.1-4
Figure 3.1-2	Key Observation Points	3.1-12
Figure 3.1-3	KOP #1 Existing Conditions	3.1-16
Figure 3.1-4	KOP #1 Visual Simulation	3.1-17
Figure 3.1-5	KOP #2 Existing Conditions	3.1-18
Figure 3.1-6	KOP #2 Visual Simulation	3.1-19
Figure 3.1-7	KOP #3 Existing Conditions	3.1-20
Figure 3.1-8	KOP #3 Visual Simulation	3.1-21
Figure 3.1-9	KOP #4 Existing Conditions	3.1-22
Figure 3.1-10	KOP #4 Visual Simulation	3.1-23
Figure 3.1-11	KOP #5 Existing Conditions	3.1-24
Figure 3.1-12	KOP #5 Visual Simulation	3.1-25
Figure 3.1-13	KOP #6 Existing Conditions	3.1-26
Figure 3.1-14	KOP #6 Visual Simulation	3.1-27
Figure 3.3-1	Sensitive Receptors in the Proposed Project Area (Map 1 of 2)	3.3-9
Figure 3.3-2	Sensitive Receptors in the Proposed Project Area (Map 2 of 2)	3.3-10
Figure 3.4-1	Vegetation Communities in the Project Study Area (Map 1 of 2)	3.4-8
Figure 3.4-2	Vegetation Communities in the Project Study Area (Map 2 of 2)	3.4-9
Figure 3.4-3	Coastal Zone and Critical Habitats in the Proposed Project Area	3.4-18
Figure 3.5-1	Paleontological Sensitivity of the Proposed Project Area	3.5-11
Figure 3.6-1	Geologic Units in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.6-2
Figure 3.6-2	Soil Units in the Proposed Project Area (Map 1 of 2)	3.6-8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figure 3.6-3	Soil Units in the Proposed Project Area (Map 2 of 2)	3.6-9
Figure 3.6-4	Major Faults in the Proposed Project Region.....	3.6-10
Figure 3.8-1	Hazardous Sites in the Proposed Project Vicinity	3.8-2
Figure 3.8-2	Regional Airports and Helipads	3.8-5
Figure 3.8-3	Fire Hazard Zones.....	3.8-7
Figure 3.9-1	Watersheds and Surface Waters in the Proposed Project Area	3.9-2
Figure 3.9-2	Groundwater Basins in the Proposed Project Area	3.9-4
Figure 3.9-3	FEMA Flood Zones in the Proposed Project Area (Map 1 of 2).....	3.9-6
Figure 3.9-4	FEMA Flood Zones in the Proposed Project Area (Map 2 of 2).....	3.9-7
Figure 3.10-1	Land Uses in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.10-3
Figure 3.12-1	Noise Sensitive Receptors in the Proposed Project Area (Map 1 of 2).....	3.12-6
Figure 3.12-2	Noise Sensitive Receptors in the Proposed Project Area (Map 2 of 2).....	3.12-7
Figure 3.14-1	Location of Fire Stations, Police Stations, Schools, and Parks in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.14-2
Figure 3.15-1	Public Recreational Facilities near the Proposed Project (Map 1 of 2).....	3.15-3
Figure 3.15-2	Public Recreational Facilities near the Proposed Project (Map 2 of 2).....	3.15-4
Figure 3.16-1	Bikeways and Public Transportation in the Proposed Project Area.....	3.16-4
Figure 3.18-1	Cumulative Projects	3.18-9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This page is intentionally left blank.