SUPPLEMENTAL EVALUATION OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S APPLICATION FOR

Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2 & 3

Application No. A.04-12-008

SCH No. 2006041160

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A. Introduction and Background

On December 9, 2004, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application A.04-12-008 for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) and a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the construction and operation of the proposed Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2 & 3 (Project). Segment 2 includes construction and operation of the Antelope-Vincent 500-kV transmission line, initially energized at 220 kV; Segment 3 includes construction and operation of the Antelope-Tehachapi 500-kV transmission line, connecting Antelope Substation to a new substation in Tehachapi and a 220-kV transmission line connecting two new substations within Tehachapi (see Figure A-1 located at the end of this document). However, the December 2004 filing did not have complete environmental studies in the accompanying PEA or reflect substantial changes to the transmission line route that were suggested by land owners and developers. Therefore, SCE submitted an amended application and PEA on September 30, 2005, to include such changes.

In reviewing SCE's amended application, the CPUC determined that the proposed Project could cause a significant adverse effect on the environment and, therefore, determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be needed. The CPUC filed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research as an indication that a Draft EIR would be prepared. A Draft EIR was prepared and distributed on August 24, 2006, for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA procedures (State CEQA Guidelines §15087). Responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIR were prepared by the Lead Agency (CPUC) and published in the Final EIR (State CEQA Guidelines §15088) on December 26, 2006. The Final EIR was certified and a CPCN was granted by the CPUC (Docket #A.04-12-008, SCH #2006041160) on March 15, 2007.

Since that time, SCE has completed final engineering on the approved Project and has begun building portions of the Project. Based on final engineering, additional details of various components of the Project have been further defined, as presented in a letter to the CPUC from SCE dated January 29, 2009 (Note: actual date on letter incorrectly shown as January 29, 2008). A supplemental evaluation is required to determine whether or not these modifications to the Project were previously covered by the analysis completed in the Final EIR or would result in any new or different impacts from what was previously analyzed in the Final EIR. Descriptions of these modifications, which include four different Project components, are described below in Section C. A description of the Project, as approved by the CPUC, is also provided below.

Based on the evaluation of SCE's proposed modifications to the approved Project described in Section D below, no new or substantially different impacts have been identified and no new mitigation is necessary. Therefore, there is no need for any additional CEQA analysis.

B. Overview of the Approved Project

The Project, as approved by the CPUC, consists of two primary elements, the Antelope-Vincent 500-kV transmission line, or Segment 2, and the Antelope-Tehachapi 500-kV and 220-kV transmission line, or Segment 3. Segment 2 involves the construction of a 21.0-mile 500-kV transmission line initially energized to 220 kV (includes implementation of Option A) and a 0.6-mile 220-kV transmission line between SCE's existing Antelope and Vincent Substations. The Antelope Substation is located in the City of Lancaster and the Vincent Substation is located near the community of Acton, both of which are

located in northern Los Angeles County. Segment 3 involves the construction of two substations, a 25.6-mile 500-kV transmission line initially energized to 220 kV from the existing Antelope Substation to a new substation located on Oak Creek Road west of the Mojave area (Substation One, also known as Windhub Substation), and a 9.6-mile 220-kV transmission line from Substation One (Windhub Substation) to a new substation (Substation Two) located near Tehachapi Boulevard in the Monolith area. Both substations will be located in Kern County. The Project consists of the following major components (a detailed description of the Project is provided in Section B of the Final EIR):

Segment 3: Antelope-Tehachapi 500-kV and 200-kV Transmission Line

- Construction of Substation Two, a 220/66-kV substation located south of Tehachapi Boulevard near the Monolith area;
- Construction of Substation One (Windhub Substation), a 500/220/66-kV substation on Oak Creek Road west of the Mojave area;
- Construction of a 9.6-mile 220-kV single-circuit transmission line from Substation Two (Mile S3-0.0) to Substation One (Mile S3-9.6), where 1.7 miles would be new right-of-way (ROW) and 7.9 miles would be expanded ROW;
- Construction of a 25.6-mile 500-kV single-circuit transmission line, initially energized to 220 kV, from Substation One (Mile S3-9.6) to the Antelope Substation (Mile S3-35.2), where 22.7 miles would be new ROW and 2.9 miles would be expanded ROW;
- Installation and repair of new and existing access roads and spur roads to access structure locations;
- Installation of approximately 15 new pulling locations, 10 new tensioner locations, and 9 new splicing locations;
- Modification of Antelope Substation; and
- Installation of associated telecommunication infrastructure.

Segment 2: Antelope-Vincent 500-kV Transmission Line

- Construction of a 500-kV single-circuit transmission line, initially energized to 220 kV, from the Antelope Substation (Mile S2-0.0) to Mile S2-8.1 adjacent to the existing Midway-Vincent ROW (expanded ROW);
- Acquisition of new ROW over private land for the new segment of the Antelope-Vincent 500-kV transmission line from Mile S2-8.1 to Mile S2-10.6;
- Construction of a 500-kV single-circuit transmission line, initially energized to 220 kV, from Mile S2-10.6 to Mile S2-14.8 adjacent to the existing Midway-Vincent No. 1 500-kV ROW (expanded ROW);
- Appropriation of the existing SCE Midway-Vincent No. 3 (MV#3) transmission line from approximately Mile S2-14.8 to the Vincent Substation to form the Antelope-Vincent 500-kV transmission line;
- Construction of a 500-kV single-circuit transmission line, initially energized at 220 kV, from approximately Mile S2-14.8 to the Vincent Substation (Mile S2-21.0) adjacent to the existing Midway-Vincent ROW (expanded ROW) to replace the appropriated portion of the MV#3 transmission line;
- Construction of a 0.5-mile 220-kV single-circuit transmission line (Mile S2-21.0 to Mile S2-21.6) to connect the new Antelope-Vincent 500-kV transmission line to the Vincent Substation 220-kV switchrack (expanded ROW);

- Demolition and relocation of 4.4 miles of 66-kV subtransmission line (double-circuit wood poles) 180 feet west of and parallel to its existing location (immediately south of Antelope Substation, S2-0.0 to S2-4.4) on the westerly edge of the proposed ROW;
- Installation and repair of new and existing access roads and spur roads to access tower locations;
- Installation of approximately 19 new pulling locations, 20 new tensioner locations, and 9 new splicing locations;
- Modification of Antelope and Vincent Substations; and
- Installation of associated telecommunication infrastructure.

C. Modifications to the Project

Based on final engineering completed by SCE, modifications to the Project have been documented which clarify and further define the Project, as presented in a letter from SCE dated January 29, 2009 (Note: actual date on letter incorrectly shown as January 29, 2008) and electronic communication dated February 27, 2009. Because these Project details could not be fully analyzed in the Final EIR due to the lack of specificity available at the time the Final EIR was prepared, an analysis of these modifications to the Project has been conducted herein to determine whether or not any new or significant impacts would result. A description of the modifications, by component, is provided below.

C.1 500-kV Transmission Line Hijack

This Project component involves the construction of multiple hijacks of the 500-kV transmission line along Segment 2. A hijack is defined as re-routing a portion of an existing transmission line on to a new ROW for the purpose of taking over the section of line abandoned with the new transmission line being constructed. The transmission line being hijacked is the Midway-Vincent No. 3 (MV#3) 500-kV transmission line. Hijacking is an integral part of the Project's Option A as described in the Final EIR (Aspen, 2006).

The Final EIR states, "Option A deviates from the proposed Project at Mile S2-5.7 by proceeding east for approximately 0.15 miles, crossing the existing transmission line corridor, including two 66-kV lines, the Antelope-Mesa 220-kV line, the Antelope-Vincent 220-kV line, and the MV#3500-kV line, before turning southeast paralleling the proposed Project route until Mile S2-7.6" (page B-12). As stated in the Final EIR (page E-1), Option A avoids potentially significant impacts to three residences in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Because of the potential impacts to these residences, Option A was approved as part of the Project (Docket #A.04-12-008, SCH #2006041160). To implement Option A as part of the approved Project, SCE determined that the best way to build it was to re-route this section of the transmission line through a hijack in order to avoid impacts to existing property owners in the vicinity.

Construction

According to SCE, two hijacks need to be constructed to implement Option A. The first hijack will occur at approximately S2-5.7 between Construction 22 and 25 (see Figure C.1-1 located at the end of this document) and the second at approximately S2-7.8 between Construction 34 and 36 (see Figure C.1-2 located at the end of this document). While these hijack locations were not previously discussed in the Final EIR, a third hijack location was considered and discussed as part of the approved Project, specifically at approximately S2-14.8 (Final EIR, page B-12 and Figure B.2-20). The focus of this discussion, with respect to modifications to the approved Project, will therefore be for the first two hijacks. Construction of these hijacks will involve the following activities in roughly the order presented:

- Construct new access roads.
- Replace former Segment 2, tangent lattice steel towers (LST) No. 22 and 36 with deadend LST towers.
- Install five new LST deadend towers (No. 24, 23, 34, 35, and 34A) in the existing MV#3 transmission line.
- Remove one angle and three tangent LST towers in the MV#3 transmission line. These towers are being replaced by the new deadend towers noted above.
- Install, three sets (three anchors) of buried wire catching snubs, one sent north of existing tower 93/2, one set south of existing tower 93/4, one set north of existing tower 95/4 and one anchored and guyed three pole aerial snub, south of tower No. 34A (The snub sites described here are required to maintain tension on the MV#3 conductor and overhead ground wires during the removal of existing tangent towers and the installation of new deadend towers).
- Remove Conductor and overhead ground wire from four towers and catch in ground snubs at two locations at the north section and two locations at the south section (At this time the MV#3 transmission line will be out of service for a period of time to allow the installation of towers, conductor wire and overhead ground wire).
- Prior to the MV#3 transmission line being taken out of service, new towers No. 25 through 33 located in the most east transmission line route are to be erected and the conductor and overhead ground wire installed.
- Towers critical to completing the north and middle hijack are Nos. 24, 34 and 34A. The remaining towers can be completed when the MV#3 transmission line is energized in its new location.

C.2 Underground Fiber Optic Installation

In order to facilitate construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks (see Section C.1, above), Segment 2 requires three locations where the fiber optic communication cables proposed as part of the Project (see Final EIR Section B.2.3, page B-19) will be installed underground. Underground installation of these cables within Segment 2 will be at the following locations: (1) approximately S2-5.7 between Construction 22 and Construction 25 (see Figure C.2-1 located at the end of this document), (2) approximately S2-7.8 between Construction 34 and Construction 36 (see Figure C.2-2 located at the end of this document), and (3) approximately S2-14.8 between Construction 76 and Construction 79 (see Figure C.2-3 located at the end of this document).

While the installation of underground fiber optic communication cable at the first two locations was not specifically discussed in the Final EIR, the third location was discussed in the Final EIR, although details and the exact location were previously unknown. Per the Final EIR (page B-47), optical ground wire cable (OPGW) "would be installed as part of the new transmission lines associated with Segment 2. At the cut-over of the Midway-Vincent corridor near Mile 14.8, fiber optic cable in underground conduit would be constructed between the two new transmission line sections on either side of the corridor to maintain continuity of the OPGW fibers (see Final EIR Figure B.2-20). In order to accommodate this portion of underground infrastructure, trenching and grading through the corridor would be required."

Construction

Construction of the underground fiber optic cables is not anticipated to cause service interruption during construction; however, service interruption may possibly occur when final termination connections are made by SCE at existing structure locations. Underground fiber optic cables will be designed and installed in compliance with SCE's standards, and State and Local codes and ordinances.

Four main activities will occur during construction of the underground fiber optic cables, including trenching, duct bank installation, vault installation, and cable pulling, splicing and termination. Construction equipment will include rock hammers and trench/rock saws (to break up sections of rock material), excavators, dump trucks, flatbed with telescopic crane, and crew pick-up trucks.

Prior to trenching, SCE will notify other utility companies and landowners to locate and mark existing underground utilities along the proposed underground alignment. Additionally, exploratory excavations (potholing) will be conducted to verify the locations of existing facilities at the proposed underground locations.

Open-cut trenching techniques will be used to install duct banks. Each duct bank will have a horizontal configuration with one cable per conduit, with typical trench dimensions of a minimum of four feet deep and three feet wide. Depth may vary depending on soil stability and the presence of existing substructures. The trench will be widened where necessary to meet California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety requirements. If trench water is encountered, trenches will be dewatered using a portable pump and disposed of in accordance with acquired permits. A length of 100 feet of trench will generate approximately 45 cubic yards per day of excavated material. Steel plating will be placed over the trenches to maintain vehicular traffic across areas that are not under active construction. During trench excavation and installation of the duct bank and vaults, excavated materials will be stored onsite to expedite backfilling and limit emissions.

After the trench for the duct banks are completed, two five-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduits will be installed and backfill placed around the conduits with concrete to a minimum of three inches above the conduit. The dimensions of each duct bank will be approximately three feet wide by one foot in height, assuming that the concrete around the conduits is bank poured. The remaining backfill will be comprised of 1.5 sack slurry mix or native backfill. Native backfill material shall be compacted to 90 percent relative compaction, per SCE CD100 specification, and be free of contaminants and deleterious material. Upon completion of backfilling excavation, the existing disturbed area will be restored in compliance with local permits and agency requirements.

Preformed concrete splice vaults will be excavated and placed at approximately two locations per location. The vaults will be used to pull the cables through conduits and will provide access to the underground cables for maintenance inspections and repairs during operation. The vaults will be constructed of precast steel-reinforced concrete with outside dimensions (supplied by "Oldcastle Precast") of 4'-10" wide by 4'-10" long by 5'-1" tall. Each vault will have one manhole cover measuring approximately 30 inches in diameter. Installation of each vault will include excavation and shoring (as needed) of the vault pit, followed by delivery and installation of the vault, backfilling the excavated area to 90 percent relative compaction, and restoration of the disturbed area.

After installation of the conduit is complete, SCE will install cables in the duct banks. Each cable segment will be pulled into the duct bank, spliced at each of the vaults along the route, and terminated at the fiber box located on the outside of the leg of the lattice steel structure. Cables will be pulled from vault to vault location and vault to riser, with the use of a rope and a tugger. A lubricant will be applied to the cable as it enters the duct to decrease friction during pulling.

C.3 Sagebrush Transmission Line Modifications/Crossings

In several locations along the existing Sagebrush transmission line modifications are required in order to construct Segment 2. As described in the Final EIR (see Section B.2.1, page B-12), the new MV#3 transmission line, built on new infrastructure, would travel underneath other existing transmission lines in

the existing Midway-Vincent ROW, including the Sagebrush 220-kV transmission line. The description in the Final EIR, however, is limited to the crossing of the Sagebrush transmission line at Mile S2-14.8.

Based on final engineering, additional crossings of the Sagebrush transmission line will occur as a result of constructing the Project, necessitating additional modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line which were not fully described in the Final EIR. These modifications are described in Table C.3-1. The locations of crossings requiring modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line include just north of Elizabeth Lake Road (~Mile S2-7.8), north of Sierra Highway (~Mile S2-20), and outside of Vincent Substation. Figures C.3-1 through C.3-3 (located at the end of this document) provide detailed depictions of the tower locations and areas of additional ground disturbance that will occur as a result of these modifications.

Table C.3-1: Sagebrush Transmission Line Modifications

Location	Sagebrush Structure No.	Segment 2 Structure No. at Crossing	Action Required	Description of Modification or Protection
North of Elizabeth Lake Rd. (S2-7.8)	211	33 – 34	Modification of Sagebrush Structure 211	The existing single pole tangent structure will be replaced with a 2-steel pole H-frame structure (211-1/211-2) in the same location.
North of Sierra Highway (S2-20)	249 – 250	105 – 106	Modification of Structures 249 and 250	The existing single pole running angle structure (249) and tangent structure (250) will be replaced with 2-steel pole H-frame structures (249-1/249-2 and 250-1/250-2) in the same locations.
At Vincent Substation	0 – 2	VSF 3 – VSF 4	Replace existing tower with taller structure	Existing Tower No. 266 will be replaced with a 2-steel pole H-frame structure (02-1/02-2) in the same location.

Construction

All Sagebrush structure modification work will be performed while the transmission line is energized. All work will be done either in direct contact or close proximity to the energized circuit. A minimum of three participants per crew will be qualified and certified to perform bare-hand work methods. The elevated work platform from which the work will be performed will be certified as qualified for direct contact at 230 kV.

The modifications described in Table C.3-1 above will utilize the same equipment and construction methodologies used in the construction of the approved 500-kV transmission line, although additional areas will be impacted associated with these activities as shown in Figures C.3-1 through C.3-3 (located at the end of this document).

C.4 12-kV Distribution Line to Windhub Substation

An approximately 7,500-foot extension of an existing 12-kV distribution line will be necessary to provide power to the approved Substation One (Windhub Substation), located in unincorporated Kern County. The power provided by this line is required during construction of the substation, once grading has been completed and the site is ready for installation of equipment and structures; for installation of the 220-kV switchyards; for the substation's control buildings; and will provide the primary source of auxiliary power for the substation's facilities during operations. The power source for Substation One was not defined at the time the Final EIR was prepared.

As shown in Figure C.4-1 (located at the end of this document), the new 12-kV distribution line will originate from an existing 12-kV distribution line starting approximately 800 feet north of Oak Creek Road on 70th Street West. The new 12-kV distribution line will proceed approximately 800 feet south along the east side of 70th Street West, then turn west on Oak Creek Road and travel approximately 6,500 feet along the north side of the road before turning south across Oak Creek Road for approximately 200 feet to terminate at the approved Substation One (Windhub Substation). Once entering the substation, the 12-kV distribution line will be installed underground for approximately 200 feet.

Construction

Existing roads will be used to the greatest extent feasible, although in some cases existing roads will need to be improved. This may involve smoothing the ruts in existing roads or widening them slightly to accommodate equipment ingress and egress. Overland travel will be used where no road exists, which will involve vehicles accessing sites by driving over existing vegetation. No new road (permanent or temporary) will be constructed for overland travel.

Overhead Construction

The overhead portion of the new 12-kV distribution line will be constructed on new wood poles, which are anticipated to be approximately 45 feet tall and buried approximately six to seven feet into the ground. Approximately 40 wood poles will be required to complete the installation. The new circuit will consist of three 1/0 ACSR conductors, which will be installed on the cross arms of the wood poles utilizing a rope pulling machine. Wood poles will be accessed by driving tire mounted equipment to the pole locations. In all locations it is expected that holes for the poles will be dug by a truck-mounted hole driller. The wood poles will be set by a line boom truck or backhoe-type tractor depending on location and soil conditions. The rope line used to pull the conductor may be flown in by helicopter or simply laid down by the alignment. At all angle pole locations, as well as at the underground cable pole location, down guys will be installed to support the unbalanced load conditions.

Underground Construction

The underground portion of the 12-kV distribution line will begin at the last new wood pole on the south side of Oak Creek Road within the substation property. The line will then travel approximately 200 feet underground in two five-inch conduits until it reaches the 12-kV rack at the Windhub Substation. The trench required for the underground line will be approximately 2 feet wide and 200 feet long (final dimensions). Prior to trenching, SCE will notify other utility companies and landowners to locate and mark existing underground utilities along the proposed underground alignment. Exploratory excavations (potholing) will also be conducted to verify the locations of existing facilities, as necessary.

Duct banks for the underground 12-kV distribution line will be installed using open-cut trenching techniques. The typical trench dimensions for installation (during construction) of a duct bank with a horizontal configuration will be a minimum of four feet deep and three feet wide, although depth may vary depending on soil stability and the presence of existing substructures. The trench will be widened and shored where necessary to meet California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety requirements. If trench water is encountered, trenches will be dewatered using a portable pump and disposed of in accordance with acquired permits. A length of 100 feet of trench will generate approximately 45 cubic yards per day of excavated material. Some of the major equipment used for underground construction will include excavators, dump trucks, flatbed with telescopic crane, and crew pickup trucks.

As the trench for the underground duct banks are completed, the two five-inch PVC conduits will be installed and backfilled around the conduits with concrete to a minimum of three inches above the conduit. The final dimensions of each duct bank will be approximately two feet wide by one foot in height, assuming that the concrete around the conduits is bank poured. The remaining backfill will be comprised of 1.5 sack slurry mix or native backfill, where native backfill material will be compacted to 90 percent relative compaction and be free of contaminants and deleterious material. Upon completion of backfilling excavation, the existing disturbed area will be restored in compliance with local permits and agency requirements.

Splice vaults will be placed below grade at two locations and will be used to pull the cables through the conduits. During operation, the vaults will provide access to the underground cables for maintenance, inspections, and repairs. The vaults will be constructed of precast steel-reinforced concrete. The dimensions of the vaults will measure three feet wide by five feet long and four feet in height. Each vault will have on manhole cover measure approximately 30 inches in diameter. Installation of each vault will involve excavation and shoring of the vault pit followed by delivery and installation of the vault, backfilling the excavated area to 90 percent relative compaction, and restoration of the disturbed area. The use of a rock hammer will be used sparingly to break up sections of rock material, as appropriate. Other miscellaneous equipment will include excavators, dump trucks, flatbed with telescopic crane, and crew pickup trucks.

After installation of the conduit, SCE will install the cables in the duct backs. Each cable segment will be pulled into the duct bank, spliced at each of the vaults along the route, and terminated inside the substation. Cables will be pulled from vault to vault and vault to riser, with the use of a rope and tugger. To reduce friction of the cable and the conduit when pulling, a lubricant will be applied to the cable as it enters the duct.

C.5 Transposition Poles

In order to construct Segment 2, a total of four transposition poles, each 45 feet in height, will be necessary to transpose transmission lines at two locations (two transposition poles at each location). The first location will be S2-15 (Construction 79) (see Figure C.5-1 located at the end of this document) and the second location will be S2-20 (Construction 106) (see Figure C.5-2 located at the end of this document). Transpositions are usually put in place as an electromagnetic field (EMF) reduction method as well as for various other electrical (impedance related) benefits, and typically occur once every several miles. It is a physical rearrangement of the relative positions of power lines in order to minimize the effects of mutual capacitance (amount of stored electric charge) and inductance (EMF generated to oppose a change in current). For example, the arrangement of Phase A, B and C on a transmission structure may be physically rearranged to a new order of Phase C, A and B. On a lattice steel tower, the phases are in a horizontal configuration so the transposition cannot be done simply by reversing phases from one tower to the next as this would result in insufficient phase clearance.

Transposition poles will be located within existing tower disturbance areas (Construction 79 and 106) and next to tower access roads. Therefore, no additional access roads will be needed. Installation of the transposition poles will utilize the same equipment and construction methodologies used in the construction of the approved 500-kV transmission line.

D. Evaluation of Modifications

The following section evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the modifications to the Project as identified by SCE in their letter dated January 29, 2009. The discussion of environmental impacts has been organized by issue area and impact criterion, as defined in the Final EIR (Aspen, 2006).

D.1 Air Quality

Air Quality Management Plan Conformance (Criterion AIR 1)

As discussed in the Final EIR, the Project must comply with all rules and regulations applicable at the time of the Project's construction and operation. Furthermore, the approved Project, including the modifications defined in Section C, would not cause significant direct or indirect population or traffic growth and would not affect the growth projections considered by the relevant Air Quality Management Plans (AQMP). Additionally, the mitigation measures required below under Criterion AIR 2 meet the intent of all relevant AQMP control measures for the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD). Therefore, the approved Project, including modifications, would not introduce a new impact preventing conformance with AQMP or increase the severity of said impact as described in the Final EIR.

Regional Emission Thresholds (Criterion AIR 2)

Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, new 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles would result in additional emissions within both the AVAQMD (12-kV distribution line) and the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (KCAPCD) (all other modifications). The construction activities associated with these modifications, as described in Section C, would represent an inherently small fraction of the emissions occurring daily or annually, as minimal construction equipment and activities are necessary to install these modifications. As shown in Final EIR Table C.2-14 (Option A Project Construction Emission/AVAQMD Regional Emission Threshold Comparison), emissions from the approved Project are substantially lower than the AVAQMD significance thresholds for all pollutants except NOx and PM10, where the Project would exceed these thresholds. With the addition of the proposed modifications, NOx and PM10 emissions would incrementally increase; however, no additional exceedances of the remaining pollutants (VOC, CO, SO_2) would occur (Impact A-1). Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to air quality within the AVAQMD to the maximum degree feasible but would not reduce the significant impacts, as described in the Final EIR (Aspen, 2006), to a less-than-significant level: Mitigation Measures A-1a (Implement Construction Fugitive Dust Control Plan), A-1b (Properly Maintain Mechanical Equipment), A-1c (Use Ultra Low-sulfur Diesel Fuel), A-1d (Restrict Engine Idling to 10 Minutes), A-1e (Schedule Deliveries Outside of Peak Traffic Hours), A-1f (Offroad Diesel-fueled Equipment Standards), A-1g (On-road Vehicle Standards), A-1h (Offroad Gasoline-fueled Equipment Standards), and A-1i (Reduction of Helicopter Emissions). No additional mitigation measures would be required. Within the KCAPCD, construction emissions from the approved Project have been estimated, as presented in Final EIR Tables C.2-16. With the addition of the proposed modifications, construction emissions would incrementally increase; however, no exceedances of any criteria pollutants would occur. Implementation of the mitigation measures presented in the Final EIR (Aspen, 2006) would reduce construction emissions within the KCAPCD and no new impacts would occur and no additional mitigation measures would be needed (Impact A-2).

Sensitive Receptors (Criterion AIR3)

Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. Construction emissions generated by these modifications are expected to be incrementally greater than estimated for the approved Project; however, as discussed in Section C.2 (Air Quality) of the Final EIR, there are very few residences located within 500 feet of any of the Project components. Furthermore, construction emissions for the proposed modifications will be of very short duration and relatively low intensity at any given time near residences. As such, no new impacts to sensitive receptors would occur as a result of the Project modifications and no additional mitigation measures, beyond those required for Impact A-1 (Mitigation Measures A-1a through A-1i), are required (Impact A-3).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). Land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). No sensitive receptors are located in this area. As such, this new Project component would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (Impact A-3).

Odors (Criterion AIR4)

Odors associated with the Project modifications would be the same as odors generated by similar activities under the approved Project. As discussed in Section C.2 (Air Quality) of the Final EIR, odor impacts are not significant. No change to odor impacts would occur from construction and operation of the Project modifications and no mitigation is needed (Impact A-4).

D.2 Biological Resources

The environmental setting for the Project area is the same as the description provided in Section C.3.1 (Biological Resources – Environmental Setting) of the Final EIR for the approved Project. Areas to be potentially impacted by supplemental construction activities include the exact same habitat community types and survey results in the supplemental areas are consistent with surveys conducted for the approved Project.

Discrepancies between the approved Project area and the area where supplemental activities are proposed include: 1) Near Substation One (Windhub Substation), which consists of an 800-foot extension along the road shoulder of 70th Street West turning west about 6,500 feet along the road shoulder of Oak Creek and running south across Oak Creek Road about 200 feet; 2) Near Amargosa Creek, where supplemental construction is proposed to take place within the same ROW as the approved Project but higher up on the ridgeline than what was previously discussed in the Final EIR; and 3) Near Vincent Substation, which is within the same ROW as the approved Project but includes additional construction within this area.

All supplemental areas are within the existing ROWs of the approved Project with the exception of the area where the 12-kV distribution line would be installed at Substation One (Windhub Substation). All areas were previously analyzed for biological resources in the Final EIR. LSA conducted reconnaissance-level biological surveys in the area of Substation One (Windhub Substation) for the 12-kV distribution line on December 27, 2008 and January 14, 2009; and at the Amargosa Creek area and Vincent Substation on November 6, 2008, November 19, 2008, and December 28, 2008. Site visits were also made to all three of the above locations by Aspen Environmental Group on February 11, 2009. Because

of the timing of these surveys, the ability to detect rare plants and animals was limited; however, surveys conducted for the Final EIR were in the same locations and/or immediately adjacent to the supplemental areas (see Final EIR). Since the Final EIR, SCE has disclosed that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has reported reliable sightings of the desert tortoise several miles south of Substation One (Windhub Substation) on the west side of Highway 14 (Ray Bransfield, USFWS, Pers. comm., February 6, 2009). Before these sightings, it was thought that the desert tortoise only occurred on the east side of Highway 14. In addition, in the Amargosa Creek area, an unidentified Mariposa lily was found. This finding is consistent with what was expected from previous surveys (see Final EIR).

Habitat in the area of the Project modifications is the same as was described in the Final EIR with only one area outside of the existing ROWs, near Substation One (Windhub Substation), adjacent to the approved Project. Characterization of this new area to be potentially impacted by the installation of the 12-kV distribution line is as follows: Along 70th Street West, the vegetation is primarily made up of buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.) and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) scrub with some bush senecio (*Senecio flaccidus var. douglasii*), fiddlenecks (*Amsinckia* sp.), ragweed (*Ambrosia* sp.), California filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and an occasional creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*). Emerging bromes and bunchgrasses are also present. Some minor erosion is apparent as a result of road cuts made to divert runoff from the road. Along and parallel to Oak Creek Road, vegetation is sparse and is primarily made up of rabbit brush scrub with senecio, fiddlenecks, annual grasses (*Bromus* sp. and *Nassella* sp.), box thorn (*Lycium californicum*), and scattered creosote. There is a narrow line of California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*; an early successional native) close to the roadside. Continuing westward along Oak Creek Road from 70th Street West the vegetation becomes denser and there are occasional Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) and cholla cacti (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*). An erosional ditch, about one foot deep, runs adjacent the shoulder of the road and carries runoff from the road. Some rodent burrows were observed along the wall of this ditch. The swath of habitat where the 12-kV poles are to be installed (between the road shoulder and the fence-line) is disturbed, likely from previous construction involving installation of the existing fence and from road grading activities.

Effects on Any Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community Identified in Local or Regional Plans, Policies, Regulations, or by CDFG or USFWS (Criterion BIO1)

At Substation One (Windhub Substation), supplemental construction activities will occur in the exact same plant communities as discussed in the Final EIR. Activities associated with the 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation) would occur outside of the existing ROW; this supplemental construction will be conducted along a narrow stretch of berm along 70th Street West and along Oak Creek Road generally between the road and the existing fence-line that parallels the road. This additional area is small relative to the scale of the approved Project. The proposed supplemental activities will not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At both Amargosa Creek and the Vincent Substation, supplemental construction activities will occur within the existing ROWs and in the exact same plant communities as discussed in the Final EIR. Sensitive natural communities potentially impacted will be exactly the same as the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Impacts for Criterion BIO1 were analyzed in the Final EIR and will be the same for the proposed modifications. These include: permanent loss of non-native annual grassland habitat, and agricultural and

developed areas (Impact B-1); permanent loss of creosote scrub, montane scrub, desert scrub, and saltbrush scrub habitat (Impact B-2); loss of riparian or sensitive desert wash resources (Impact B-3); and loss of sensitive Joshua tree and juniper woodland habitat and removal of Joshua trees and juniper trees (Impact B-4).

Supplemental activities would be mitigated the same as described in the Final EIR. To mitigate impacts associated with the proposed modifications, SCE would implement the following measures: Mitigation Measures B-3a (Avoid Desert Wash Habitat), B-3b (Preserve Off-site Desert Wash Habitat), B-4a (Avoid Joshua Tree and Juniper Woodland Habitat), and B-4b (Preserve Off-site Joshua Tree Woodland and Juniper Woodland Habitat). Therefore, for riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or USFWS (Criterion BIO1), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Effects on Species Listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Proposed or Critical Habitat for These Species (Criterion BIO2)

At Substation One (Windhub Substation), supplemental construction activities will have the same level of potential disturbance to listed species as the approved Project. SCE reported that correspondence with USFWS has revealed that the desert tortoise was recently seen west of Highway 14 several miles south of Substation One (Windhub Substation), whereas it was previously only known from the east side of this highway (Ray Bransfield, USFWS, Pers. comm., February 6, 2009). However, these sightings were not within the footprint of the approved Project or proposed modifications. Impacts associated with the proposed modifications are the same as those associated with the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not substantially change magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At Amargosa Creek, supplemental construction activities will be within the same ROWs as the approved Project and have the same level of potential disturbance to listed species as the approved Project. Although a previously unidentified Mariposa lily was found in this area, the Final EIR disclosed that this was a likely possibility. Impacts associated with the proposed modifications are the same as those associated with the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At the Vincent Substation, supplemental construction activities will be within the same ROWs as the approved Project and have the same level of potential disturbance to listed species as the approved Project. Impacts associated with the proposed modifications are the same as those associated with the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Impacts for Criterion BIO2 were analyzed on the Final EIR and will be the same for the proposed modifications. These include: take of California red-legged frogs (Impact B-5) and desert tortoises (Impact B-6); disturbance of nesting Swainson's hawks (Impact B-7); loss of foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks (Impact B-8); disturbance to nesting, special-status riparian birds (Impact B-9); and the potential take of, and habitat loss for, Mohave ground squirrels (Impact B-10). In addition, supplemental

activities associated with the proposed modifications will not occur within designated critical habitat for any of these species.

Supplemental activities would be mitigated the same as described in the Final EIR. To mitigate impacts associated with the proposed modifications, SCE would implement the following measures: Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs) BIO-1 (Pre-construction Surveys), BIO-5 (Conduct Biological Monitoring), and Mitigation Measures B-5a (Obtain Technical Assistance from the USFWS for California Red-legged Frogs), B-5b (Conduct Focused Surveys for California Red-legged Frog), B-6a (Obtain Technical Assistance from the USFWS for Desert Tortoise), B-6b (Conduct Focused Clearance Surveys [for desert tortoise] in Designated Areas), B-7a (Conduct Pre-construction Surveys for Swainson's Hawks), B-7b (Remove Nest Trees), B-9a (Avoid Construction During the Breeding Season [for nesting riparian birds]), B-9b (Conduct Pre-construction Surveys [for nesting riparian birds] at Amargosa Creek Crossing and Oak Creek), B-10a (Conduct Focused Surveys for Mohave Ground Squirrels), B-10b (Implement Construction Monitoring and Worker Environmental Awareness Program), and B-10c (Preserve Off-site Habitat for Mohave Ground Squirrel). Therefore, for impacts to species listed as endangered, threatened, or proposed, or critical habitat for these species (Criterion BIO2), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Have a Substantial Adverse Effect, Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications on Any Species Identified as a Candidate, Sensitive, or Special-Status Species in Local or Regional Plans, Policies, or Regulations, or by CDFG, or USFWS. (Criterion BIO3)

At Substation One (Windhub Substation), supplemental construction activities will have the same potential to impact candidate, sensitive, or special-status species as the approved Project. Areas where the supplemental construction is proposed contain the same species as the approved Project (see Final EIR Tables C.3-4 and C.3-5). Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At Amargosa Creek, supplemental construction activities will fall within the existing ROWs and have the same potential to impact candidate, sensitive, or special-status species as the approved Project. A new sighting of an unidentified mariposa lily was reported from this area. The Final EIR states that these plants were expected to be in the vicinity, and defines mitigation measures to be applied. Therefore, impacts associated with the proposed modifications are the same as those associated with the approved Project. The proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At Vincent Substation, supplemental construction activities will fall within the existing ROWs and have the same potential to impact candidate, sensitive or special-status species as the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusions in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Impacts for Criterion BIO3 were analyzed in the Final EIR and will be the same for the proposed modifications. These include: mortality and/or disturbance to mariposa lily plant populations (Impact B-11); loss and/or disturbance of short-joint beavertail (Impact B-12); loss of montane scrub/juniper woodland habitats as habitat for special-status plants (Impact: B-13); mortality of San Emigdio blue butterfly from construction disturbance (Impact B-14); mortality of, and loss of habitat for, coast horned lizards and silvery legless lizards (Impact B-15); mortality of southwestern pond turtle and two-striped

garter snake (Impact B-16); loss of nesting and foraging habitat for loggerhead shrikes, Bendire's thrashers, LeConte's thrashers, and Summer Tanagers (Impact B-17); disturbance to wintering mountain plovers (Impact B-18); loss of occupied burrowing owl habitat (Impact B-19); disturbance of nesting raptors (Impact B-20); electrocution of State and/or federally protected birds (Impact B-21); mortality of State and/or federally protected bird species from collisions with the transmission line (Impact B-22); mortality of, and loss of habitat for, Tehachapi pocket mouse, southern grasshopper mouse, and Tulare grasshopper mouse (Impact B-23); loss of habitat for ringtail (Impact B-24); mortality of special-status bat species due to electrocution and/or transmission line strikes (Impact B-25); and loss of habitat for American badgers (Impact B-26).

Supplemental activities would be mitigated the same as described in the Final EIR. To mitigate impacts associated with the proposed modifications, SCE would implement the following measures: APMs BIO-1 (Pre-construction Surveys), BIO-2 (Minimize Vegetation Removal), BIO-3 (Obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement), BIO-5 (Conduct Biological Monitoring), BIO-6 (Implement Worker Environmental Awareness Program), BIO-9 (Use Raptor-safe Poles and Towers), and Mitigation Measures B-12a (Conduct Focused Surveys for Short-joint Beavertail), B-12b (Avoid Impacts to Short-joint Beavertail), B-12c (Remove and Reintroduce Short-joint Beavertail), B-13a (Conduct Focused Surveys for the San Gabriel Oak), B-13b (Avoid Impacts to the San Gabriel Oak), B-13c (Minimize Impacts to Montane Scrub and Juniper Woodland Habitats), B-13d (Preserve Off-site Montane Scrub and Juniper Woodland Habitats), B-16 (Conduct Focused Surveys for Southwestern Pond Turtle and Two-striped Garter Snake), B-17 (Conduct Pre-construction Surveys and Monitoring for Breeding Birds), B-19a (Implement CDFG Protocol for Burrowing Owls), B-19b (Compensate for Loss of Burrowing Owl Habitat), B-20a (Avoid Nesting Season for Raptors), B-20b (Conduct Pre-construction Surveys for Nesting Raptors); and B-26 (Passively Relocate American Badgers During the Non-breeding Season). Therefore, for impacts to species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special-status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFG, or USFWS (Criterion BIO3), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on Federally Protected Wetlands as Defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Including, but Not Limited to Marsh, Vernal Pool, Coastal, Etc.) Through Direct Removal, Filling, Hydrological Interruption, or Other Means. (Criterion BIO4)

Supplemental construction activities have the same level of potential disturbance as the approved Project (see Final EIR). No habitats subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the USACE occur on the project site or in the area of the proposed modifications and no impacts would occur. For impacts to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Interfere Substantially With the Movement of Any Native Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species or With Established Native Resident or Migratory Wildlife Corridors, or Impede the Use of Native Wildlife Nursery Sites. (Criterion BIO5)

At Substation One (Windhub Substation), supplemental construction activities have the same level of potential disturbance to native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors or nursery sites as the approved Project (see Final EIR). As stated above under Criterion BIO2, recent sightings indicate that

desert tortoises occupy areas several miles south of Substation One (Windhub Substation), west of Highway 14 (Ray Bransfield, USFWS, Pers. comm., February 6, 2009); however, these sightings were not within the footprint of the approved Project or proposed modifications. The proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At both Amargosa Creek and the Vincent Substation, supplemental construction activities will fall within the existing ROWs and have the same level of potential disturbance to native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors or nursery sites as the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Impacts for Criterion BIO5, which includes impacts associated with the potential to disturb desert tortoise movement as a result of habitat modification (Impact B-27), were analyzed in the Final EIR and will be the same for the proposed modifications.

Supplemental activities would be mitigated the same as described in the Final EIR. To mitigate impacts associated with the proposed modifications, SCE would implement the following measures: APMs BIO-1 (Pre-construction Surveys), BIO-3 (Obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement), BIO-5 (Conduct Biological Monitoring), and Mitigation Measures B-27a (Avoid Creating Barriers to [desert tortoise] Movements) and B-27b (Invasive Weed Prevention). Therefore, for interference with movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impediment to the use of native wildlife nursery sites (Criterion BIO5), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the original significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Conflict with Any Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources, Such as a Tree Preservation Policy or Ordinances. (Criterion BIO6)

Supplemental construction activities have the same level of potential conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources as the approved Project (see Final EIR). For conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinances (Criterion BIO6), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Conflict with the Provisions of an Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP), or Other Approved Local, Regional, or State HCP. (Criterion BIO7)

There is not an adopted HCP or NCCP within the Project area and no impact would occur as a result of the approved Project or proposed modifications. For conflicts with any provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP or other approved local, regional, or State HCP (Criterion BIO7), the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

Indirect Impacts

At Substation One (Windhub Substation), supplemental construction activities will have the same indirect impacts to biological resources as the approved Project. As stated above, recent sightings indicate that

desert tortoises occupy areas several miles south of Substation One (Windhub Substation), west of Highway 14 (Ray Bransfield, USFWS, Pers. comm., February 6, 2009); however, these sightings were not within the footprint of the approved Project or proposed modifications. Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At Amargosa Creek, supplemental construction activities will be within the same ROWs as the approved Project and will have the same indirect impacts to biological resources as the approved Project. Although a previously unidentified Mariposa lily was found in this area, the Final EIR disclosed that this was a likely possibility. Indirect impacts associated with the proposed modifications are the same as those associated with the approved Project. Therefore, the modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

At the Vincent Substation, supplemental construction activities will fall within the existing ROWs and will have the same indirect impacts to biological resources as the approved Project. Therefore, the proposed supplemental activities would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion in the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

The indirect impacts analyzed in the Final EIR, which will be the same for the proposed modifications include: degradation of water quality (Impact B-28) and mortality of desert tortoises as a result of increased predation by common ravens (Impact B-29).

Supplemental activities would be mitigated the same as described in the Final EIR. To mitigate indirect impacts associated with the proposed modifications, SCE would implement the following APMs: BIO-2 (Minimize Vegetation Removal), BIO-3 (Obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement), and BIO-4 (Implement Best Management Practices). Therefore, the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the impacts or the significance conclusion of the Final EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required.

D.3 Cultural Resources

Effects on Cultural Resources Eligible for the CRHR, Including Alteration of the Characteristics that Make the Resources Eligible (Criterion CR 1)

Impacts on cultural resources would be significant if they are eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) and if Project construction activities materially alter the characteristics that made the resource eligible. Construction of the proposed underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line components as part of Segment 2 of the approved Project. Most of these areas were also included in the 230-foot-wide corridor surveyed for cultural resources by ECORP Consulting, Inc. archaeologists as part of the environmental review process for the approved Project. SCE's cultural resource consultant for this supplement, Cogstone Resource Management, Inc., completed two additional cultural resource reports to address the areas of the Project modifications located outside the area covered by the initial cultural resource reports.

It is shown in Table C.4-2 (Cultural Resources Recorded Within One-Quarter Mile of the Segment 2 APE) of the Final EIR that prehistoric site CA-LAN-1840 is within the area of potential effect (APE) for the approved Project; however, the field survey showed that this site is not in the survey area (Final EIR

page C.4-9). Alternatively, the Final EIR does not indicate that historic site CA-LAN-1841H is in the APE. The January 2009 cultural resources report prepared by Cogstone Resource Management, Inc. for the Project modifications addresses both of these sites, and indicates that both sites are outside the APE for the Project modifications, but within one quarter mile of the proposed work. If the construction activities presented in this supplemental evaluation avoid both of these cultural resources sites, impacts to cultural resources would be the same for the proposed modifications as the corresponding segment of the approved Project route.

The January 2009 cultural resources report also identifies two previously recorded sites that were not shown in Table C.4-2 (Cultural Resources Recorded Within One-Quarter Mile of the Segment 2 APE) of the Final EIR. Previously recorded site P-003734 is located within one quarter mile of the proposed work at Sagebrush 220 kV Crossing Location 2 (see Figure C.3-2, near Tower 106), but is outside the APE. Previously recorded site P-19-186876 is located within one quarter mile of the proposed work at Sagebrush 220 kV Crossing Location 3 (see Figure C.3-3, VSF-3 to VSF-4 next to Vincent Substation), but is also outside the APE. In addition, SCE's request for the Project modifications states:

> *"Past archaeological surveys for the TRTP Segment 2 (Pacific Legacy 2007 and Ecorp 2006) and additional field observations on December 23rd, 2008 resulted in the identification of no cultural resources that will be impacted by the 500kV hijack installations (email to G. Busteed 1-12-09)."*

Given this statement by SCE and the information provided in the cultural resources reports for the Project modifications, it is understood that the specific work proposed will avoid all impacts to cultural resource sites. With avoidance of these sites by both construction alignments and access routes, construction of the proposed underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not change the conclusions in the Final EIR.

Construction of the proposed 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although the proposed alignment is close to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was surveyed as part of the approved Project. The results of a record search and field survey were submitted in a January 16, 2009, cultural resource report completed for SCE by Cogstone Research Management, Inc. The report concluded that the proposed 12-kV distribution line would not impact any significant cultural resources, but identified one isolate south of Oak Creek Road believed to be part of a zone of prehistoric lithic resources known from previous archaeological surveys in the Project area. Oak Creek Road itself is an historic resource; however, the proposed construction would not impact Oak Creek Road. As proposed by SCE, all work on the south side of Oak Creek Road, including subsurface excavations for underground electrical lines, would require full-time archaeological monitoring. Unanticipated finds during other Project activities require that the Project halt work in the vicinity of the find (minimum 50-foot radius) until it can be evaluated by a Registered Professional Archaeologist. With the applicant-proposed full-time archaeological monitoring and unanticipated discovery plan, construction of the proposed 12-kV distribution line would not change the conclusions in the Final EIR.

D.4 Geology, Soils, and Paleontology

Effects on Unique or Unusual Geologic Features (Criterion GEO1)

No unique geologic features or geologic features of unusual scientific value for study or interpretation would be disturbed or otherwise adversely affected by construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission

line, new 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), or transposition poles. No impact would occur.

Known Mineral or Energy Resources would be Rendered Inaccessible (Criterion GEO2)

Although potential sand and gravel resources and limestone quarries are located within the general Project area, none of the Project facilities are located within an active production area. Furthermore, construction of the Project modifications would not interfere with access to such resources. No impact would occur.

Landslides or Erosion Triggered or Accelerated by Construction (Criterion GEO3)

As described in Section C.5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) of the Final EIR, destabilization of natural or constructed slopes could occur as a result of construction activities due to excavation and/or grading operations. Construction of the underground fiber optic cables, including two concrete splice vaults for each of the three underground segments, as well as underground construction of approximately 200 feet of the 12-kV distribution line at Substation One (Windhub Substation) would require trenching and excavation activities. However, these activities are not expected to result in slope instability in areas not already analyzed in the Final EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure G-1 (Protect Against Slope Instability) would reduce potential slope instability by requiring design-level geotechnical investigations be conducted and that, based on the results of the geotechnical investigations, appropriate support and protection measures are designed and implemented to maintain the stability of slopes adjacent to newly graded or re-graded access roads and work areas during and after construction. As such, impacts from excavation and grading associated with the Project modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-1).

In addition, activities associated with the construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, new 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), and/or transposition poles could loosen soil or remove stabilizing vegetation and expose areas of loose soil. However, as described in the Final EIR, all Project construction and operation activities would occur in compliance with the soil erosion and water quality protection measures specified in the required Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Furthermore, compliance with APM GEO-3 (Transmission line and substation construction activities would be performed in accordance with the soil erosion/water quality protection measures specified in the Construction SWPPP) would assure compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs) defined in the SWPPP during all aspects of construction. Implementation of Mitigation Measure G-2 (Minimize Soil Erosion) would further reduce the effects of construction activities that potentially result in soil erosion. Therefore, impacts associated with erosion being triggered or accelerated by construction or disturbance of landforms associated with the Project modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-2).

Earthquake-Related Ground Rupture (Criterion GEO4)

Project facilities associated with the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, the underground fiber optic cables, the Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and transposition poles would be subject to hazards of surface fault rupture at crossings of active traces of the San Andreas Fault between Mile S2-7.6 and Mile S2-8.2, as described in the Final EIR. This fault is a significant active fault with mapped Alquist-Priolo zones capable of multiple feet of offset. In addition to the geotechnical study required by APM GEO-2, Mitigation Measure G-3 (Minimize Project Structures within Active Fault Zones) shall be completed prior to final Project design for fault crossings to minimize the length of transmission line within fault

zones. Impacts associated with damage caused by fault ruptures at crossings of active faults would be the same as described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-3). No crossing of an active fault would occur as a result of the new 12-kV distribution line; therefore no new impact would occur.

Damage Related to Earthquake-Induced Phenomena (Criterion GEO5)

Seismically induced landslides, liquefaction, settlement, and surface cracking would have the potential to cause damage to Project structures at various locations. Some activities that would be required to construct the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, the underground fiber optic cables, the Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and transposition poles are potentially located along hillsides or ridgelines in geologic units of moderate to steep slopes. Areas underlain by the landslide-prone Pelona Schist have a high possibility of seismic-induced ground failure in the form of landslides or ground-cracking. Areas that are underlain by potentially liquefiable alluvial deposits may be subject to liquefaction-related phenomena during a seismic event. However, the areas traversed by the Project modifications are assessed in the Final EIR, and implementation of Mitigation Measure G-4 (Geotechnical Investigations for Liquefaction and Slope Instability) would add specific requirements to the planned geotechnical investigations prior to final Project design and would reduce potential impacts of seismically related ground failure along the Project route. Impacts associated with seismically induced damage to the proposed modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-4).

In addition, strong to severe groundshaking should be expected along Segment 2 in the event of an earthquake on the faults in the Project area, which could potentially affect facilities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and transposition poles. As described in the Final EIR, estimated peak ground accelerations along Segment 2 would range from 0.5g to 0.8g, with the highest accelerations in the vicinity of the San Andreas Fault Zone. SCE plans to perform geotechnical studies to identify site-specific geologic conditions prior to final design of substation facilities and transmission line tower foundations (APM GEO-2). Mitigation Measure G-5 (Reduce Effects of Groundshaking) would also be implemented prior to final Project design, thus ensuring that people or structures are not exposed to hazards associated with strong seismic groundshaking. These same measures would apply to the Project modifications; therefore, the impact of strong groundshaking on the proposed modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-5).

Damage to Project Structures from Unsuitable soils (Criterion GEO6)

As described in Table C.5-4 (Major Soils along the Segment 2 Transmission Line Route) of the Final EIR, soils with moderate to high potential for corrosion exist along the proposed route and in the vicinity of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), and transposition poles. Mitigation Measure G-6 (Geotechnical Studies for Corrosive Soils) would reduce the potential for damage to buried tower and substation foundations by requiring design-level geotechnical studies and subsequent design modifications, as necessary, to protect Project features from corrosive soils. Impacts related to corrosive soils associated with the Project modifications would, therefore, be the same as described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-6).

Damage to Transmission Line Support Structures from Landslides (Criterion GEO7)

Some components associated with the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), and/or transposition poles may be underlain by geologic formations prone to landslides, earth flows, or debris slides. Mitigation Measure G-7 (Geotechnical Surveys for Landslides) would minimize potential impacts to project features through requiring design-level investigations of landslide potential and subsequent design modifications, as necessary, to avoid or minimize landslide effects on the Project. As such, impacts relating to damage from landslides, earth flows, or debris slides associated with the proposed modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-7).

Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource (Criterion GEO8)

As described in Section C.5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) of the Final EIR, due to the potential for construction activities to damage unique or significant fossils particularly during excavation (such as required for underground installation of the fiber optic communications cables), APMs GEO- 4 through GEO-10 would be applied as part of the Project. These APMs would require that certified paleontologist(s) be retained by SCE to supervise monitoring of construction excavations in areas of moderate to high paleontological sensitivity and to produce a mitigation plan for the Project. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure G-8 (Protect Paleontological Resources) further specifies responsibilities of the paleontological monitor(s) to ensure that potential resource impacts would be avoided or minimized. Potential impacts related to excavation activities having the potential to damage unique or significant fossils associated with the Project modifications would, therefore, be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact G-8).

D.5 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Soil Contamination Exceeding Federal, State, or Local Hazardous Waste Limits (Criterion HAZ1)

Construction activities associated with the Project modifications would require the use and storage of hazardous materials such as vehicle fuels, oils, and other vehicle maintenance fluids, similar to the approved Project. The potential for accidental spills of hazardous materials resulting from the Project modifications would be considered the same as the approved Project (Impact HAZ-1). Mitigation Measures HAZ-1a (Implement an Environmental Training and Monitoring Program), HAZ-1b (Implement a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan), HAZ-1c (Ensure Proper Disposal of Construction Waste), and HAZ-1d (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Construction Activities) would provide details related specifically to requirements for hazardous material handling and storage, as well as preparation for potential spills. No new impacts related to the release of hazardous materials during construction activities would result from the Project modifications and no new mitigation measures would be required.

Mobilization of Existing Soil Contamination (Criterion HAZ2)

As discussed in Section C.6 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the Final EIR, no known contaminated sites with potential to impact the Project were identified. As such construction activities associated with the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles, all of which would occur within the same ROW as the approved Project, would not result in the mobilization of existing soil contamination, same as the approved Project. The new 12-kV distribution line would be constructed in an area not previously

analyzed for existing contamination; however, due to the rural character of the area, it is unlikely that previously unknown contaminated sites would be discovered during construction of this Project component. As such, no new impacts would occur and no mitigation is needed.

Soil Contamination Resulting from Operation (Criterion HAZ3)

As discussed in Section C.6 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the Final EIR, during operations and maintenance activities there is potential for hazardous materials to be released (Impact HAZ-2); however impacts would be reduced with implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-2a (Implement Spill Prevention, Countermeasure, and Control Plans) and HAZ-2b (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Operation and Maintenance Activities). Operations and maintenance activities associated with the Project modifications would be the same as the approved Project, as the components are similar in nature to those that were approved. Therefore, the Project modifications would result in the same impact and no additional mitigation is needed.

D.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

Violation of Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements or Other Degradation of Water Quality (Criterion HYD1)

Construction activities that would be required to install the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and transposition poles would be similar to or the same as construction activities required for installation of other Project components, and would have the same potential to result in water quality degradation from construction-related soil erosion and sedimentation. Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR. However, the types of construction activities that would be required in order to install the 12-kV distribution line are analyzed in the Final EIR, with regards to the characteristics and magnitude of impact(s) that such activities could have on water quality and compliance with the same water quality standards and waste discharge requirements would be required.

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) included under APM HYD-1 and required by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) would be implemented during construction and would include BMPs for erosion and sediment control, as well as for the handling and disposal of construction waste. In addition, as described in the Final EIR, the following mitigation measures would be implemented in order to minimize construction-related soil erosion and sedimentation activities that could potentially result in water quality degradation: H-1a (Implementation of Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control), H-1b (Maximum Road Gradient), H-1c (Road Surface Treatment), H-1d (Timing of Construction Activities), and H-1e (Control of Sidecast Material, Right-of-Way Debris and Roadway Debris). These mitigation measures, which are described in full detail in the Final EIR, require specific BMPs that are not already included in the Project APMs or that are not explicitly required by a regulatory body such as the State Water Regional Control Board or the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in order to avoid or minimize potential construction-related impacts to water quality. Therefore, impacts to water quality that may occur as a result of construction-related erosion and sedimentation from installation of the Project modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-1).

As described in the Final EIR, surface water and groundwater quality could be affected through the accidental release of hazardous materials during construction activities; such materials may include diesel fuel, gasoline, lubricant oils, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, transmission fluid, lubricant grease, and other fluids. Accidentally spilled hazardous materials could pollute surface water through direct runoff into nearby waterways or water bodies, including ephemeral streams and desert washes. These materials could also pollute groundwater through soil infiltration or direct runoff, if the groundwater table is exposed during excavation activities and such activities coincide with the occurrence of an accidental spill. The preparation and pouring of concrete and the use of motorized equipment are examples of construction activities that would specifically involve the use of potentially harmful materials.

Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, new 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles would require the same types of construction activities that are addressed in the Final EIR for the approved Project. Installation of the underground fiber optic communications cables and the underground portion of the 12-kV distribution line would also require similar construction activities as addressed in the Final EIR, although excavation and trenching activities required to install Project features underground would have a slightly greater potential to result in water quality degradation, if an accidental release of hazardous materials occurs in an open trench absent mitigation measures that would reduce the potential for such a release to occur. Implementation of APMs HYD-1 through HYD-4 would minimize the potential for an accidental spill to occur, as well as minimize the potential that water quality contamination would occur if a release does happen. Furthermore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-1a (Implement an Environmental Training and Monitoring Program), HAZ-1b (Implement a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan), HAZ-1c (Ensure Proper Disposal of Construction Waste), HAZ-1d (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Construction Activities), and HAZ-2b (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Operation and Maintenance Activities), the potential for degradation of water quality to result from the accidental release of hazardous materials during construction activities for the proposed modifications, including the installation of underground Project features, would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-2).

Similar to the potential for Project construction activities to affect water quality as a result of accidental hazardous materials release, Project operation and maintenance activities also have the potential to affect water quality if an accidental release of hazardous materials occurs. Potentially harmful materials could be accidentally released during operations and maintenance activities at pole and tower locations, substation sites, and along access roads. Due to the use of vehicles and other motorized equipment, some of the potentially hazardous substances that could be released include: diesel fuel, gasoline, lubricant oils, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, transmission fluid, and lubricant grease. Transformer oil and other substances associated with transformers could also be accidentally released during operation or maintenance activities. Operation and maintenance of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR. However, the types of operation and maintenance activities that would be required for the 12-kV distribution line and could potentially result in an accidental release of hazardous materials are analyzed in the Final EIR, with regards to the potential for Project activities to affect water quality. As such, the potential for operations and maintenance activities associated with the proposed modifications to affect water quality is the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-3).

Interference with Groundwater Supply and Recharge (Criterion HYD2)

The 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and transposition poles would occur over parts of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin, while the 12-kV distribution line would occur over part of the Tehachapi Valley East Groundwater Basin. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, and overhead portion of the 12-kV distribution line would include activities that are the same as or similar to those described in the Final EIR. Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, including two underground splicing vaults at each of the three underground segments, underground portion of the 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles are also similar to or the same as those described in the Final EIR; however, the excavation and trenching activities required during underground construction activities, particularly for the splicing vaults, would introduce a greater potential to disturb groundwater resources.

As previously mentioned, the area affected by construction of the underground fiber optic cables and transposition poles is underlain by the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. As identified by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), the depth to water in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin ranges approximately between 100 feet and 500 feet below ground surface in the area relevant to the underground fiber optic communications cables and transposition poles (USGS, 2003). Installation of the underground fiber optic cables and transposition poles would not require excavation activities greater than 100 feet and are therefore not anticipated to disturb underlying groundwater resources.

The area affected by construction of the underground portion of the 12-kV distribution line to Windhub Substation is underlain by parts of the Tehachapi Valley East Groundwater Basin. Depth to groundwater data is not presently available for this groundwater basin; however, if groundwater resources are encountered during Project construction activities, dewatering operations would be performed, as required by APM HYD-6, which is included as part of the approved Project. Implementation of Mitigation Measure H-4 (Develop and Implement a Groundwater Remediation Plan) would additionally help to avoid or minimize potential impacts to groundwater resources. Therefore, the potential for Project-related excavation activities associated with the proposed modifications to disturb existing groundwater resources is the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-4).

Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern or Increase Surface Runoff (Criterion HYD3)

Construction, operation, and maintenance of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, and Sagebrush transmission line modifications would not introduce new impermeable areas and would not result in increased surface water runoff, as compared to the impacts described in the Final EIR. Construction of the 12-kV distribution line and transposition poles would introduce a small amount of new impermeable area due to 40 wooden poles that the overhead distribution line would be strung on; however, the impermeable area introduced by these 40 wooden poles would not be substantial and would not result in increased surface water runoff. All construction activities would occur in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the SWPPP, as well as local ordinances. Therefore, the potential for surface water runoff associated with the proposed modifications to alter the existing drainage patter or result in increased surface runoff is substantially the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-5).

Create or Contribute to Runoff that Would Exceed the Capacity of a Stormwater Drainage System (Criterion HYD4)

Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles would not cause an increase in surface water runoff that would result in overloading a local stormwater drainage system(s). All Project features would be designed and engineered to facilitate natural drainage patterns. The potential runoff generated by permanent Project features would be minimal due to the inclusion of drainage features in Project design. Effects on stormwater drainage system(s) resulting from the proposed modifications would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-6).

Place Structures Within a 100-Year Flood Hazard Area or in a Watercourse Which Would Alter Flood Flows (Criterion HYD5)

A 100-year floodplain, or Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated Flood Hazard Area, is an area of land that has a one percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year. As described in the Final EIR, the proposed transmission line route would cross through seven individual Flood Hazard Areas, including those associated with the following waterways: Cache Creek, Oak Creek, Los Angeles Aqueduct, Amargosa Wash, Anaverde Creek, California Aqueduct, and the Santa Clara River. However, no Project features or infrastructure associated with the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, or transposition poles would be situated within a Flood Hazard Area or a watercourse. In addition, the implementation of the specific construction standards and approvals required by Mitigation Measure H-7 (Protect Aboveground Structures against Flood and Erosion Damage) would avoid or minimize any potential impacts related to the creation of flood hazards as a result of the placement of permanent Project components. Therefore, such effects would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact H-7).

Expose People or Structures to Flooding as a Result of Failure of a Levee or Dam (Criterion HYD6)

Neither construction nor operation and maintenance of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, or transposition poles would have the potential to cause the failure of a levee or dam. None of the proposed modifications would be located adjacent to a levee or dam and would not, in any way, create or contribute to water volume in a lake or reservoir to a degree that could cause mechanical stresses on the dam or levee containing such volume. Effects would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project; no impact would occur.

Results in Damage From Inundation by Tsunami, Seiche, or Mudflow (Criterion HYD7)

It is not expected that inundation of Project features by tsunami, seiche, or mudflow would occur, due to the Project location and natural features of the area. Neither construction nor operation and maintenance of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, or transposition poles would alter the potential for inundation to occur. Effects would be the same as described in the Final EIR for the approved Project; no impact would occur.

D.7 Land Use and Public Recreation

Conflict with Applicable Land Use Plans, Policies, or Regulations Adopted for the Purpose of Avoiding or Mitigating Environmental Effects (Criterion LU1)

As required by CEQA, the Final EIR includes a discussion regarding any inconsistencies between a proposed project and the applicable general plans and regional plans (14 CCR Section 15125[d]). While a project may be approved even though there is an inconsistency, CEQA requires that an evaluation be made and measures identified to reduce any potential impacts. As discussed in Section C.8 (Land Use and Public Recreation) of the Final EIR, the approved Project would be consistent with State and local plans and policies. Similarly, the modifications proposed including the construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, crossovers of the Sagebrush transmission line, new 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), and transposition poles would be consistent with State and local plans and policies.

Disrupt an Established or Recently Approved Land Use (Criterion LU2)

As discussed in Section C.8 (Land Use and Public Recreation) of the Final EIR, the approved Project would be located in the proximity of residences, recreational resources and a school development that would temporarily be disturbed by construction activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure L-1a (Coordinate Construction Schedule and Activities with the Authorized Officers for the Recreation Areas) would require SCE to coordinate construction activities with authorized representatives of affected recreation areas; L-1b (Provide Access for Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and Other Hiking Trail Users) would require SCE to coordinate construction activities with authorized representatives from the Pacific Crest Trail and any hiking trail officers within the City of Palmdale or Los Angeles County; and L-1c (Identify Alternative Recreation Areas) would require SCE to coordinate with authorized representatives of affected recreation areas in order to identify alternative recreation sites that may be used by the public. These measures would reduce any temporary disturbances to land uses as a result of Project construction (Impact L-1 and L-3). The proposed modifications, including construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line; therefore, land use impacts generated by these Project modifications are expected to be identical. These modifications would not result in new land use impacts or require new mitigation. In addition, under Option A, the 500-kV transmission line hijacks would avoid potentially significant impacts to three residences in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County (Impact L-2).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). Land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). This Project component would not introduce additional land use impacts or disrupt recently approved land uses.

Same as the approved Project, operation of the proposed modifications would not preclude development of a school property (Impact L-3). Similarly, the proposed modifications would not introduce new impacts or change the severity of impacts related to the preclusion of planned development within Ritter Ranch and Anaverde Ranch (Impact L-4). No new mitigation is needed.

Contribute to the Long-Term Loss or Degradation of the Recreational Value of Established, Designated, or Planned Recreational Use Area (Criterion LU3)

As discussed in Section C.8 (Land Use and Public Recreation) of the Final EIR, recreational resources along Segment 2 (i.e., Ritter Ranch Park, proposed hiking trails in Los Angeles County, and proposed hiking trails in the City of Palmdale that connect to Los Angeles County trails) and Segment 3 (i.e., Pacific Crest Trail and one proposed Los Angeles County hiking trail) of the approved route are currently traversed by transmission lines. Given the industrial land uses that currently traverse or abut some of the recreational areas along Segments 2 and 3, the approved Project would not significantly change the character of these resources. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure L-5 (Site Towers to Avoid Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Trailhead) would avoid locating new towers in any areas used to access the Pacific Crest Trail. Similarly, construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line; and, therefore, would not result in new impacts to recreational resources (Impact L-5). Consequently, these modifications would not change the conclusion of the Final EIR or require additional mitigation.

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR. However, construction of this component would occur in an area without any recreational resources; and therefore, would not result in new impacts or require new mitigation.

D.8 Agriculture Resources

Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to Non-Agricultural Use (Criterion AG1)

Construction and operation of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction and operational activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. No conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance would occur from construction and operational activities associated with these Project modifications and no new mitigation is needed (Impacts AG-1 and AG-2).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). Land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). No impacts to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance are expected to occur from construction and operational activities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line (Impacts AG-1 and AG-2).

Involve Other Changes in the Existing Environment which Could Result in Interference with Agricultural Operations (Criterion AG2)

As discussed under Criterion AG1, construction and operation of the 12-kV distribution line, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not interfere with agricultural operations (Impacts AG-3 and AG-4). Therefore, the Project modifications would not introduce a new impact or increase the severity of the impacts described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation would be required.

Conflict with a Williamson Act contract (Criterion AG3)

As discussed under Criterion AG1, construction and operation of the 12-kV distribution line, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not occur on Prime Farmland, such that none would occur on Prime Agricultural Land under Williamson Act contract (Impact AG-5). Therefore, the Project modifications would not introduce a new impact or increase the severity of the impacts described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation would be required.

D.9 Noise

Noise level in excess of applicable standards (Criterion NOI 1)

Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. Noise levels generated by these activities are expected to be the same as those associated with installation of the transmission line. As discussed in Section C.10 (Noise) of the Final EIR, mobile and stationary construction equipment may generate noise levels in excess of the maximum levels defined by Los Angeles County resulting in significant impacts. These levels are based on equipment use within proximity to sensitive receptors, such as single-family residences, multi-family residences, and commercial uses. Implementation of Mitigation Measure N-1 (Provide Shields for Stationary Construction Equipment) would reduce both the mobile construction equipment and stationary construction equipment noise violations in unincorporated Los Angeles areas of the Project ROW by requiring the use of noise shields to reduce stationary equipment noise near sensitive uses during construction and to require a variance for mobile equipment use near residential and commercial uses. As such, impacts from construction equipment would be the same as described in the Final EIR and no new mitigation is needed (Impact N-1).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). Land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). No sensitive receptors are located in this area. As such, this Project component would not introduce additional construction noise impacts.

For operations, no new noise would be generated by the underground fiber optic communications cables. Furthermore, unlike the 500/220-kV transmission lines approved as part of the Project, the new 12-kV distribution line would not produce corona noise. Therefore, no new impact would result from these Project components (Impact N-2). Corona noise generated by the 500-kV transmission line hijacks and transposition poles would occur in the same locations as analyzed in the Final EIR (i.e., within the ROW) and, therefore, would result in identical impacts as described in the Final EIR for Impact N-2. In addition, the minor modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line (i.e., changing a couple structure types) would not result in a notable change in the corona noise levels and, therefore, would not introduce a new impact or increase the severity of the impacts described in the Final EIR.

A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of sensitive receptors above levels existing without the Project (Criterion NOI 2)

Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. Construction noise generated by these Project components is expected to be the same as that associated with installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line, and would have the potential to disturb sensitive receptors. As discussed in Section C.10 (Noise) of the Final EIR, SCE proposes to avoid the potential impact of violating local rules, standards, and/or ordinances during construction by implementing APM NOI-1 through NOI-3 (see Final EIR Table C.10-9). With implementation of SCE's measures, the construction activities would be less likely to substantially disturb sensitive receptors. To ensure disturbances to sensitive receptors would be minimized to the extent feasible, the same mitigation measures as implemented for the approved Project would apply including Mitigation Measure N-3a (Provide Advanced Notification of Construction), which would require SCE to post notices along the project ROW and at work sites to ensure that all surrounding uses are made aware of the proposed construction in sufficient advance; and Mitigation Measure N-3b (Implement Best Management Practices for Construction Noise), which would reduce the likelihood of substantially disturbing receptors within one-quarter mile of construction. Consequently, the additional construction noise resulting from the activities associated with the Project modifications would not change the conclusion of the Final EIR or require additional mitigation measures (Impact N-3).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). Land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). No sensitive receptors are located in this area. As such, this new Project component would not introduce additional disturbances to sensitive receptors.

Sensitive receptors being exposed to excessive ground-borne vibration (Criterion NOI 3)

As discussed in Section C.10 (Noise) of the Final EIR, construction of the approved Project would not result in blasting or impact-pile driving which could cause vibration impacts at close distances. Construction activities would result in minor amounts of ground-borne vibration; however, such ground-borne noise or vibration would attenuate rapidly from the source and would not be perceptible outside the construction areas. Similarly, construction activities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would also result in minor amounts of ground-borne vibration; however, such ground-borne noise or vibration would attenuate rapidly and there would be no impacts related to excessive ground-borne vibration or noise.

A permanent and substantially higher level of ambient noise (an increase of more than five dBA) in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (Criterion NOI 4)

As discussed above under Criterion NOI 1, no new permanent noise would be generated by the underground fiber optic communications cable or the 12-kV distribution line. As such, no new impact would result from these Project components (Impact N-4). Corona noise generated by the 500-kV transmission line hijacks and transposition poles would occur in the same location as analyzed in the Final EIR (i.e., within the ROW) and, therefore, would result in identical impacts as previously described for Impact N-4. In addition, the minor modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line (i.e., changing a

couple structure types) would not result in a notable change in the corona noise levels and, therefore, would not introduce a new impact.

Maintenance activities associated with the Project modifications would be the same as for the approved Project. As discussed for Impact N-5 in Section C.10 (Noise), maintenance activities would be infrequent and would not involve heavy-duty equipment, no notable noise increase would occur as a result of maintenance activities (Impact N-5).

The Project modifications would have no impact on the operations of modified and new substations; therefore, impacts related to increases in ambient noise levels at substations would be the same as described in the Final EIR (Impact N-6).

D.10 Visual Resources

The Project Would Substantially Degrade Scenic Vistas, Existing Visual Character, or Quality of the Site and Its Surroundings (Criterion VIS1)

Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project modifications (including the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line to Windhub Substation, and transposition poles) would not affect the Project's impacts to scenic vistas, existing visual character, and/or the quality of the visual and aesthetic environment as seen from the following Key Observation Points (KOPs) and described in full detail in the Final EIR: KOP-1 (Highway 58 and Jameson Street), KOP-2 (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and Trailhead), KOP-4 (Tehachapi Willow Springs Road), KOP-5 (Avenue A at 110th Street West), KOP-6 (Avenue G at 105th Street West), KOP-8 (Avenue N at Agena Road), KOP-10 (Elizabeth Lake Road), and KOP-11 (Ritter Ranch from Godde Hill Road). Implementation of the following mitigation measures would minimize visual impacts at KOPs listed above: V-1a (Use Tubular Steel Poles), V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1d (Slope-Round and Dispose of Excavated Materials), V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), and V-1f (Establish Evergreen Vegetative Screen). Therefore, visual impacts at KOP-1, KOP-2, KOP-4, KOP-5, KOP-6, KOP-8, and KOP-11 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impacts V-1, V-2, V-4, V-5, V-6, V-8, V-10, and V-11). Other impacts of the Project modifications that would occur under Criterion VIS1 are described below.

The 12-kV distribution line to Substation One (Windhub Substation), included as one of the proposed modifications, would be within the viewshed of KOP-3 (Oak Creek Road). The new wooden poles associated with the 12-kV distribution line would introduce new vertical lines and geometric forms to the desert landscape; however, such changes would not be substantial in comparison with the transmission towers and substation facilities described in the Final EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1d (Slope-Round and Dispose of Excavated Materials), and V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes) would improve the visual environment associated with Project modifications. Visual impacts associated with the introduction of industrial character structures that would result in a permanent change in landscape character and scenic vistas as seen from KOP-3 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-3).

Construction of the approved Project would introduce permanent industrial character structures that would permanently alter the landscape and scenic vistas seen from KOP-7, located on Avenue L near an existing homestead with an olive grove, and looking to the south-southeast. Some components of the

Project modifications, including above-ground transition components for the underground fiber optic communications cables and part of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, may be visible in the background views from KOP-7. Implementation of Mitigation Measures V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), and V-5 (Match Structure Spacing and Spans) would improve the visual environment at KOP-7. Furthermore, the potential visibility of Project modifications would not remarkably alter existing visual effects of the Project from KOP-7. Therefore, visual impacts at KOP-7 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-7).

Construction of the approved Project would introduce permanent industrial character structures that would permanently alter the landscape and scenic vistas seen from KOP-9, located on Godde Hill Road, and looking to the north. Some components of the Project modifications, including above-ground transition components for the underground fiber optic communications cables and part of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, may be visible in the background views from KOP-9. Implementation of APMs VIS-1, VIS-2, and VIS-3 (see Final EIR Table C.11-1, Applicant-Proposed Measures – Visual Resources) and Mitigation Measures V-1a (Use Tubular Steel Poles), V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1d (Slope-Round and Dispose of Excavated Materials), V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), V-5 (Match Structure Spacing and Spans), and V-9 (Construct New Access and Spur Roads with Least Visual Disturbance) would improve the visual environment at KOP-9. Furthermore, the potential visibility of Project modifications would not remarkably alter existing visual effects of the Project from KOP-9. Therefore, visual impacts at KOP-9 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-9).Construction of the approved Project would introduce permanent industrial character structures that would permanently alter the landscape and scenic vistas seen from KOP-12, looking southwest towards Sierra Pelona Ridge from Avenue S. There is some potential that above-ground transition components for the underground fiber optic communications cables may be visible in the background views from KOP-12. In addition, there is some potential that transposition poles may be visible from KOP-12 as well; however, such changes would not be substantial in comparison with the transmission towers described in the Final EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1d (Slope-Round and Dispose of Excavated Materials), V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), and V-5 (Match Structure Spacing and Spans) would improve the visual environment at KOP-12. Furthermore, the potential visibility of Project modifications would not remarkably alter existing visual effects of the Project from KOP-12. Therefore, visual impacts at KOP-12 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-12).

Construction of the approved Project would introduce permanent industrial character structures that would permanently alter the landscape and scenic vistas seen from KOP-13, at Sierra Highway looking at the Antelope Valley Freeway corridor, as well as seen from KOP-14, at the Action/Vincent Grade Metrolink Park and Ride access road looking south to Vincent Substation. Project modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line structures may be visible from KOP-13 and KOP-14. In addition, transposition poles may be visible from KOP-13 and KOP-14 as well; however, such changes would not be substantial in comparison with the transmission towers described in the Final EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures V-1b (Construct, Operate, and Maintain with Existing Access Roads), V-1c (Dispose of Cleared Vegetation), V-1d (Slope-Round and Dispose of Excavated Materials), V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), and V-5 (Match Structure Spacing and Spans) would improve the visual environments at KOP-13 and KOP-14. Furthermore, the proposed modifications to Sagebrush transmission line and the construction of transposition poles would not

remarkably alter existing visual effects of the Project from KOP-13 and KOP-14. Therefore, visual impacts at both KOP-13 and KOP-14 would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-13 and Impact V-14).

Conflict with Applicable City, County, State, or Federal Plans, Policies, Regulations, or Standards for the Protection of Visual Resources (Criterion VIS2)

The proposed modifications, including the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles would not alter the Project's potential to conflict with applicable visual resource policies, regulations, and standards contained in state and local plans. Implementation of Mitigation Measure V-15 (Local Agency Approvals, Miles S3-0.0 to S3-35.2 and S2-0.0 and S2-21.6) would reduce potential conflicts; impact would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-15).

Creation of a New Source of Substantial Light or Glare that Would Adversely Affect Day or Nighttime Views in the Area (Criterion VIS3)

The proposed modifications, including the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, Sagebrush transmission line modifications, 12-kV distribution line, and transposition poles would not alter the Project's potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Implementation of Mitigation Measures V-1e (Treat Surfaces with Appropriate Colors, Textures, and Finishes), V-16a (Use Only Non-Specular and Non-Reflective Conductors and Insulators), V-16b (Use Magnetic Coils at Entrance Gate), V-16c (Use Only Low-Level, Directional, Shielded Lighting), and V-16d (Only Perform Maintenance Activities During Daylight Hours) would reduce the visual impacts associated with light and glare; impact would be the same as described in the Final EIR, and no new mitigation is needed (Impact V-16).

Substantially Damage Scenic Resources, Including, But Not Limited to, Trees, Rock Outcroppings, and Historic Buildings Within a State Scenic Highway (Criterion VIS4)

Implementation of the proposed modifications would not result in any Project features or infrastructure that would be visible from the Angeles Crest Highway, which is the only State scenic highway in the vicinity of the Project. Effects related to a State scenic highway would be the same as described in the Final EIR; no impact would occur and no mitigation is needed.

D.11 Traffic and Transportation

Closure of Major Roadways or Travel Lanes as a Result of Construction Activities Resulting in Substantial Disruptions to Traffic Flow or Increased Congestion (Criterion TRA1)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction would result in temporary road closures during transmission line stringing activities and temporary and intermittent traffic detours would be required, which would result in substantial congestion. However, SCE proposes to avoid the potential impacts of major road closures by implementing APMs TRA-2, TRA-3, and TRA-4 (see Final EIR Table C.12-4). With implementation of SCE's measures, construction activities would be less likely to disrupt the flow of traffic. In addition, to ensure disruptions would be minimized to the extent feasible, Mitigation Measure T-1a (Prepare Traffic Control Plans) would require SCE to submit

Traffic Control Plans to all agencies with jurisdiction over public roads that would be affected by construction activities, and Mitigation Measure T-1b (Restrict Lane Closures) would restrict all construction related lane closures on major roadways to off-peak periods. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2; therefore, road closures and/or a reduction in travel lanes resulting from these Project modifications are expected to be the same as those associated with installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line and would not change the conclusion of the Final EIR or require additional mitigation measures (Impact T-1).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). The new 12-kV distribution line would proceed approximately 800 feet south along the east side of 70th Street West, then turn west on Oak Creek Road and travel approximately 6,500 feet along the north side of the road before turning south across Oak Creek Road for approximately 200 feet to terminate at the approved Substation One (Windhub Substation). 70th Street West is a two lane unpaved road and Oak Creek Road is a two lane paved road. Both roads are wide enough such that construction equipment and vehicles could be placed along the road shoulder and would not disrupt the flow of traffic, and if road closures were necessary, implementation of the mitigation noted above would reduce potentially significant impacts. In addition, these roads do not experience high volumes of traffic minimizing the potential to cause substantial traffic congestion resulting from a reduction of travel lanes or a temporary road closure. Consequently, this Project component would not increase traffic congestion and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Unacceptable Level of Service Reduction to Vicinity Roads (Criterion TRA2)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction of the approved Project would generate additional traffic on regional and local roadways. However, to ensure congestion would be minimized to the extent feasible, Mitigation Measure T-2 (Prepare Construction Transportation Plan) would require construction workers to be staged off site and shuttled to construction sites in groups in crew vehicles. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2; therefore, congestion on area roadways generated by these Project modifications is expected to be the same as that associated with installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line, and would not change the conclusion of the Final EIR or require additional mitigation measures (Impact T-2).

As discussed under Criterion TRA1, construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area where the roads are wide enough such that construction equipment and vehicles would not disrupt the flow of traffic, and if road closure were necessary, implementation of the mitigation noted above would reduce potentially significant impacts. In addition, the affected area does not experience high traffic volumes. Consequently, this Project component would not introduce additional congestion on area roadways, and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Restricted Access to Properties (Criterion TRA3)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction of the approved Project would not result in restricted access to driveways or otherwise affect access and parking for the adjacent residences, institutions, businesses, and other uses. In addition, construction activities would not

include trenching or other excavation in road ROWs that would impede access to adjacent uses. Similarly, construction activities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not restrict access to properties.

Restrict the Movements of Emergency Vehicles (Criterion TRA4)

As discussed under Criterion TRA1, traffic impacts generated by the Project modifications (i.e., the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles) are expected to be the same as those associated with installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line. Construction activities could potentially interfere with emergency response vehicles, and in order to ensure disruptions would be minimized to the extent feasible, Mitigation Measures T-1a (Prepare Traffic Control Plans) and T-1b (Restrict Lane Closures) would reduce potential impacts from construction activities on emergency response vehicles. Consequently, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change or require additional mitigation measures as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-3).

As discussed under Criterion TRA1, construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area where the roads are wide enough such that construction equipment and vehicles would not disrupt the flow of traffic, and if road closure were necessary, implementation of the mitigation noted above would reduce potentially significant impacts. In addition, the affected area does not experience high traffic volumes. Consequently, this Project component would not introduce additional restrictions to property access, and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Disruption to Bus Transit Service (Criterion TRA5)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction activities could potentially interfere with three Antelope Valley Transit Authority commuter service routes and the Kern Regional Transit (KRT) dial-a-ride services in Kern County. However, SCE proposes to avoid the potential impacts by implementing APMs TRA-3 and TRA-4 (see Final EIR Table C.12-4). With implementation of SCE's measures and Mitigation Measures T-1a (Prepare Traffic Control Plans) and T-1b (Restrict Lane Closures), potential disruptions would be minimized to the extent feasible. In addition, Mitigation Measure T-4 (Avoid Disruption of Transit Service) would require SCE to coordinate with KRT at least one month prior to construction to reduce potential interruption of the dial-a-ride service in Kern County. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2; therefore, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change or require additional mitigation measures as a result of the project modifications (Impact T-4).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area that is not serviced by the KRT dial-a-ride. Consequently, this Project component would not have the potential to disrupt transit bus routes and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Disruption to Rail Traffic (Criterion TRA6)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction activities would cross a Union Pacific Railroad Line (UPRR) spur and a main line near the Vincent Grade/Acton Metrolink Station, which would temporarily disrupt rail traffic. With implementation of Mitigation Measures T-5 (Avoid Disruption of Rail Service), SCE is required to coordinate with UPRR and Metrolink at least one month prior to construction. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks,

underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2; therefore, the conclusion of the Final EIR regarding disruptions to rail traffic would not change and no additional mitigation would be required as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-5).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area that is not in the vicinity of rail services. Consequently, this component would not introduce additional rail traffic impacts and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Impediment of Pedestrian Movements or Bike Paths (Criterion TRA7)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, it is unlikely that pedestrian and bike traffic would occur at the same time and location as road and lane closures due to construction activities; however, in the event that construction activities would impede pedestrian or bike traffic, Mitigation Measures T-1a (Prepare Traffic Control Plans) and T-1b (Restrict Lane Closures) which include provisions to warn, control, protect, and expedite pedestrian and bicycle traffic, would reduce potential impacts. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. Therefore, the conclusion of the Final EIR regarding construction activities temporarily impeding pedestrian movements or bike paths would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-6).

As discussed under Criterion TRA1, construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area where the roads are wide enough so that construction equipment and vehicles would not impede pedestrian movement or bike paths, and if road closure were necessary, implementation of the mitigation noted above would reduce potentially significant impacts. In addition, due to the rural nature of the area, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is highly unlikely. Consequently, this Project component would not introduce additional traffic impacts related to pedestrian movements or bike paths, and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Reduction in the Supply of Parking Spaces (Criterion TRA8)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction of the approved Project would not result in the reduction of local parking supply, and would not temporarily eliminate existing parking spaces that would result in parking deficiencies. In addition, as detailed in Mitigation Measure T-2 (Prepare Construction Transportation Plan), construction workers would park personal vehicles at substation and marshaling yards. Construction activities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not result in the reduction of local parking supply.

Conflicts with Planned Transportation Projects (Criterion TRA9)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction activities for the approved Project would conflict with planned improvements to State Route 14 (SR-14). Mitigation Measure T-7 (Avoid Conflicts with Planned Improvements to SR-14) would require SCE to coordinate Project design with the California Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to ensure that Project structures are appropriately placed to avoid conflict with the expansion of SR-14. Construction of the 500-kV transmission line hijacks,

underground fiber optic communications cables, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2; therefore, no new conflicts with planned improvements to SR-14 would occur (Impact T-7). As such, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications.

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR, although located in close proximity to Substation One (Windhub Substation), which was analyzed as part of the Final EIR (see Figure C.4-1). As this component would be constructed in Kern County, it would avoid potential impacts to planned improvements to SR-14 in Los Angeles County.

Noticeable Deterioration of Road Surfaces (Criterion TRA10)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, construction vehicles and equipment would damage road ROWs. If damage were to occur as a result of construction activities, Mitigation Measure T-8 (Repair Damaged Roads ROWs) requires SCE to repair any damage to roads, sidewalks, and/or medians within two months of completion of construction activities. Similarly, SCE would be required to repair any damage as a result of construction activities associated with the Project modifications. Consequently, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-8).

Adverse effects to Aviation Activities (Criterion TRA11)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, transmission structures would present an aviation hazard if it would be more than 200 feet above ground or if an object would penetrate the imaginary surface extending outward and upward from a public or military airport runway or ground surface. The tallest Project structures would be 188 feet above ground surface and there are no public airports in the immediate vicinity of the Project route. However, construction activities could involve the use of helicopters, which would have the potential to affect aviation activities. Nonetheless, SCE is required to adhere to Federal Aviation Administration guidelines which would ensure that construction activities would not cause significant impacts to aviation operations. Similarly, construction activities associated with the Project modifications would not result in significant impacts to aviation activities. Consequently, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-9).

Inconsistency with Regional and Local Transportation Plans (Criterion TRA12)

As discussed under Criterion TRA9, construction activities would conflict with planned improvements to SR-14; however, the impacts associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles are expected to be the same as those associated with installation of the 500/220-kV transmission line. In order to ensure disruptions would be minimized to the extent feasible, Mitigation Measures T-7 (Avoid Conflicts with Planned Improvements to SR-14) would require SCE to coordinate Project design with the California Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County MTA to ensure that Project structures are appropriately placed to avoid conflict with potential expansion of SR-14. Consequently, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications (Impact T-10).

Substantially Increase Hazards due to a Design Feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or Incompatible Uses (e.g., farm equipment) (Criterion TRA13)

As discussed in Section C.12 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR, the approved Project would not result in increased hazards due to design features that would change existing roads or structures within existing roadways, or be incompatible with existing uses. Similarly, SCE would not create hazardous traffic conditions as a result of construction activities associated with the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles. Consequently, the conclusion of the Final EIR would not change and no additional mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Project modifications.

D.12 Population and Housing

Directly induce substantial population growth in an area (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) (Criterion POP 1)

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would not require or include the construction of any habitable housing structures and would not construct any businesses. Therefore, no direct population growth would occur as a result of the Project modifications and impacts related to population growth would be the same as described in the Final EIR.

Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or persons necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (Criterion POP 2)

Construction of the underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would all occur within the same ROW as construction activities associated with the installation of 500/220-kV transmission line as part of Segment 2. These construction activities would not require the removal of existing and planned (approved) residential structures within the Project ROW along Segment 2. Furthermore, as discussed in the Section C.13 (Population and Housing) of the Final EIR, implementation of Option A, which requires the 500-kV transmission line hijacks, would avoid the removal of three existing homes north of Elizabeth Lake Road. As such, impacts related to the displacement of residential housing structures would be the same as those described in the Final EIR (Impact P-1).

Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR; land uses in this area are a combination of undeveloped and industrial (wind turbines). Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would not require the removal of existing and planned (approved) residential structures. As such, no new impacts related to the displacement of residential housing structures would occur and impacts would be the same as those described in the Final EIR (Impact P-1).

Cause substantial change in local employment (Criterion POP 3)

Employment for the construction of the new 12-kV distribution line, underground fiber optic communications cables, 500-kV transmission line hijacks, modifications to the Sagebrush transmission line, and transposition poles would include skilled or semi-skilled positions including line workers, welders, heavy equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, utility equipment workers, truck drivers,

warehouse workers, clerical workers, and laborers. As discussed in Section C.13 (Population and Housing) of the Final EIR, the maximum required construction workforce of 300 personnel required for the approved Project would comprise 0.13 percent of the total Los Angeles County and Kern County construction workforce. Because such a large construction workforce is available within the area, and the proposed workforce would comprise such a minimal amount of the available workforce within the area, it is unlikely any construction workers would be relocated from outside the area as a result of the approved Project, or with the addition of the proposed modifications, due to the relative brevity of the construction period. Therefore, no workers are expected to relocate to the area permanently for construction of the approved Project with implementation of the proposed modifications and no new workers are required for operation of the Project.

As such, impacts related to a substantial change in local employment would be the same as described in the Final EIR.

E. Other CEQA Considerations

E.1 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

The environmental impacts of the approved Project are described in detail in Section C (Environmental Analysis) of the Final EIR, and for the proposed modifications in Section D (Environmental Analysis of Modifications) of this supplemental evaluation. All the significant and unavoidable (Class I) impacts identified for the approved Project, as discussed in Section E.1 (Significant and Unavoidable Impacts) of the Final EIR, would be the same as for the approved Project with implementation of the proposed modifications, although the severity of some impacts may slightly increase due to additional construction work associated with the proposed modifications.

E.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The State CEQA Guidelines (§15126.2(c)) require that an EIR identify significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the Project. These changes include, for example, uses of nonrenewable resources or provision of access to previously inaccessible areas. These changes can also include project accidents that could change the environment in the long-term or project-related changes that could commit future generations to similar uses.

As discussed in Section E.2 (Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources) of the Final EIR, the transmission line construction phase would require an irretrievable commitment of natural resources from direct consumption of fossil fuels, construction materials, the manufacture of new equipment that largely cannot be recycled at the end of the Project's useful lifetime, and energy required for the production of materials. Additionally, construction would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would not be recyclable at the end of the Project's lifetime, and the energy required for the production of these materials, which would also result in an irretrievable commitment of natural resources. Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would result in the same irretrievable commitment of natural resources as described in the Final EIR.

The Project, as described in Section E.2 (Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources) would also result in permanent loss of sensitive vegetation communities, rare plant communities, and sensitive plant and animal species. Permanent loss of habitat may also occur from permanent Project features (e.g., new transmission towers and substations) that would remain throughout the life of the Project. The proposed modifications would also potentially disturb sensitive natural communities, listed or proposed

wildlife species or critical habitat that occurs or has the potential to occur in the Project area, and special-status species and the movement of any native resident or migratory fish species. Implementation of mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would minimize these impacts. Therefore, the proposed modifications would result in a permanent loss of sensitive vegetation communities, rare plant communities, and sensitive plant and animal species, which would be substantially the same as the approved Project as described in the Final EIR.

As described in the Final EIR, construction activities associated with the approved Project would result in significant damage or destruction of a part or all of 31 culturally or historically sensitive sites as described in Section C.4 (Cultural Resources) of the Final EIR. The proposed modifications are not expected to impact any additional cultural resources. Therefore, construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not result in an increase in irretrievable commitment of cultural resources.

As described in Section C. 5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) of the Final EIR, the approved Project could result in landslides or slope instability and could damage unique or significant fossils. Soil erosion and sedimentation would also occur as a result of grading and excavation necessary for tower pads and substation sites as well as for road construction. Construction of the proposed modifications, with implementation of mitigation measures, would result in the same commitment of geological and paleontological resources as described in the Final EIR.

The siting of a new transmission line and the creation of a new utility corridor would establish a new industrial land use type in the area. Therefore, as described for the approved Project, it is likely that future transmission line projects may be sited or planned either within the same corridor, or in the Project vicinity thereby committing future generations to similar uses of an industrial nature. Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would generally occur in the same ROW as the approved Project with the exception of the 12-kV distribution line, which would be installed in an area where similar infrastructure already exists. As such, the proposed modifications would result in the same irretrievable commitment of land uses as described in the Final EIR.

The approved Project would adversely affect scenic vistas in a variety of locations as discussed in Section C.11 (Visual Resources) of the Final EIR, and would create a new source of substantial light or glare at proposed Substations One and Two that would adversely affect day or nighttime views. As described in Section D.10 (Visual Resources) above, construction of the proposed modifications at KOPs 7, 9, 12, 13 and 14 would incrementally increase the industrial character and would result in a permanent change to the landscape and scenic vistas; however, at all the other KOPs visual impacts would be the same as the approved Project. These permanent changes to the scenic quality and landscape of the Project area would be irreversible in the long-term, since it is likely that similar uses would be sited in the area due to the establishment of a new utility corridor and the resultant industrial character. This would make future removal or non-use of the Project and proposed modifications unlikely. Therefore, construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would result in the same type of irreversible effect on visual resources as described in the Final EIR.

E.3 Growth-Inducing Effects

CEQA requires a discussion of the ways in which a proposed project could induce growth. The State CEQA Guidelines (§15126.2 (d)) identify a project to be growth-inducing if it fosters economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. As described in Section E.3.1of the Final EIR, the construction and operation of the approved Project itself would not affect the employment patterns in the area, and it is anticipated

that the majority of the construction personnel would come from the existing labor pool of Kern and Los Angeles Counties. Operation would be handled by current SCE employees. Construction and operation of the proposed modifications would not add to the expected workforce for the approved Project and would use the same personnel. Therefore, no additional workforce is expected due to the proposed modifications.

Both locally and regionally, the approved Project area is experiencing substantial population growth, which is reflected in the large number of proposed and planned future residential development projects. SCE is responding to sources of wind energy generation that are being proposed by independent generators for construction in the Antelope Valley and Tehachapi areas that are currently restricted by the Antelope-Mesa 220-kV transmission line operating at capacity. As described in Section E.3.2 (Growth Related to Provision of Additional Electric Power) of the Final EIR, the primary purposes of the Project are to accommodate potential renewable power generation in the Tehachapi area, prevent overloading of existing transmission facilities, and comply with reliability criteria for transmission planning. The proposed modifications serve the same purposes. Like the approved Project, the proposed modifications would not directly result in growth in the area, but its implementation would remove future obstacles to population growth by facilitating the transmission of future projected power generation in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area. The proposed modifications identified by SCE would not change the growth-inducing effects described for the approved Project in Section E.3.1 and E.3.2 of the Final EIR.

E.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines (§15130 et seq.), the Final EIR includes an analysis of cumulative impacts. Per CEQA, "cumulative impacts" refers to two or more individual effects, which are considerable when combined, or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (State CEQA Guidelines §15355). Section E.5 (Cumulative Impact Analysis by Issue Area) of the Final EIR discusses the impacts of the Project that could potentially be "cumulatively considerable" or might be able to combine with similar impacts of other identified projects in a substantial way. Below is a discussion of the cumulative impacts of the approved Project with implementation of the proposed modifications.

Air Quality

Construction of the proposed modifications would not cause significant direct or indirect population or traffic growth and would not impact the growth projections considered by the relevant Air Quality Management Plans. With the addition of the proposed modifications, construction emissions would incrementally increase, but would not create new impacts to sensitive receptors such that impacts would be the same as the approved Project. Furthermore, no new odors would be associated with the proposed modifications. Therefore, the additional air quality construction emissions resulting from the proposed modifications would not would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to air quality would be the same as described in Section E.5.1 (Air Quality) of the Final EIR.

Biological Resources

Sensitive natural communities, listed or proposed wildlife species, or critical habitat that occurs or has the potential to occur in the Project area, would potentially be impacted by the proposed modifications to the approved Project; however, implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would be applied to reduce impacts. Additionally, impacts to special-status species and the movement of any native resident or migratory fish species could occur from the construction of the proposed modifications;

however, adherence to mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would reduce these impacts. The proposed modifications would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to biological resources would be the same as described in Section E.5.2 (Biological Resources) of the Final EIR.

Cultural Resources

Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not have effects on cultural resources eligible for the CRHR, including alteration of the characteristics that make resources eligible. Therefore, impacts resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed modifications would not change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to cultural resources would be the same as described in Section E.5.3 (Cultural Resources) of the Final EIR.

Geology, Soils, and Paleontology

Construction of the proposed modifications would not have effects on unique or unusual geologic features or interfere with known mineral or energy resources. Landslides or erosion could occur as a result the proposed modifications; however, impacts would be the same as the approved Project as described in Section D.4 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology). Additionally, the proposed modifications would be subject to hazards of fault rupture, seismically induced phenomena, and unsuitable soils, but would result in the same impacts as the approved Project. Finally, construction of the proposed modifications has the potential to damage unique or significant fossils, but would also result in the same impacts as the approved Project. Therefore, impacts resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to geology, soils and paleontology would be the same as described in Section E.5.4 (Geology, Soils and Paleontology) of the Final EIR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

There is the potential for accidental spills of hazardous materials and soil contamination resulting from construction of the proposed modifications; however, impacts would be the same as the approved Project as described in Section D.5 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials). Construction of the proposed modifications would not result in the mobilization of existing soil contamination. Therefore, hazards and hazardous materials impacts resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be the same as described in Section E.5.5 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the Final EIR.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Construction of the proposed modifications could potentially violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, and impact groundwater resources; however, impacts would be the same as the approved Project as described in Section D.6 (Hydrology and Water Quality). Construction associated

with the proposed modifications would not alter the existing drainage pattern or cause a notable increase in surface water runoff, and would not have the potential to cause the failure of a levee or dam, or alter the potential for inundation to occur. The proposed modifications would place structures within a 100-Year flood hazard area, but implementation of the mitigation measure described in the Final EIR would minimize potential impacts. Therefore, hydrology and water quality impacts resulting from the activities associated with the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality would be the same as described in Section E.5.6 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the Final EIR.

Land Use and Public Recreation

Construction of the proposed modifications would not conflict with State and local plans and policies, disrupt an established or recently approved land use, or contribute to the long-term loss or degradation of the recreational value of established, designated, or planned recreational use area. Therefore, land use and public recreation impacts resulting from the activities associated with the Project modifications would not change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to land use and public recreation would be the same as described in Section E.5.7 (Land Use) of the Final EIR.

Agricultural Resources

Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not interfere with agricultural operations; convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; or conflict with Williamson Act Contract land. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not contribute to cumulative impacts of the approved Project. As such, cumulative impacts related to agriculture would be the same as described in Section E.5.8 (Agriculture) of the Final EIR.

Noise

Construction of the proposed modifications would generate noise levels in excess of applicable standards and have the potential to disturb sensitive receptors; however, with implementation of mitigation measures described in the Final EIR, the impacts would be the same as the approved Project. Sensitive receptors would not be exposed to vibration impacts or a higher level of ambient noise as a result of construction associated with the proposed modifications. Therefore, noise impacts resulting from the activities associated with the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to noise would be the same as described in Section E.5.9 (Noise) the Final EIR.

Visual Resources

Construction of the proposed modifications would potentially affect the approved Project's impacts to scenic vistas, existing visual character, and/or the quality of the visual and aesthetic environment. Implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would minimize visual impacts at KOPs. The proposed modifications would not alter the approved Project's potential to conflict with applicable visual resource policies, regulations, and standards contained in State and local plans or the potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Additionally, the proposed modifications would not result in any Project features or infrastructure that would be visible from the Angeles Crest Highway, the only State scenic highway in the Project vicinity. Therefore, visual resources impacts resulting from the activities associated with the

proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to visual resources would be the same as described in Section E.5.11 (Visual Resources) of the Final EIR.

Traffic and Transportation

Construction of the proposed modifications would lead to temporary road closures and/or a reduction in travel lanes, but would be minimized with implementation of APMs and mitigation measures as described in the Final EIR. Access to properties would not be restricted during construction of the proposed modifications and implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would ensure that the proposed modifications would not cause an unacceptable level of service reduction to vicinity roads, restrict movements of emergency vehicles, disrupt bus transit service, rail traffic, or impede pedestrian movements or bike paths. Additionally, the mitigation measures described in the Final EIR would ensure that construction of the proposed modifications would not lead to a reduction in parking supply, conflict with planned transportation projects or regional and local transportation plans, noticeably deteriorate road surfaces, or present aviation or traffic hazards. Therefore, traffic and transportation impacts resulting from the activities associated with the proposed modifications would not substantially change the magnitude of the Project's impacts or change the cumulative conclusion of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to traffic and transportation would be the same as described in Section E.5.10 (Traffic and Transportation) of the Final EIR.

Population and Housing

Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not directly induce substantial population growth in an area, displace substantial numbers of existing housing or persons necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, or cause substantial change in local employment. Consequently, the proposed modifications would not contribute to cumulative impacts of the approved Project as identified in Section E.5.12 (Population and Housing) of the Final EIR. As such, cumulative impacts related to population and housing would be the same as described in the Final EIR.

E.5 Effects Found Not to be Significant

CEQA requires that an EIR briefly explain the reasons why certain effects associated with a proposed project have been determined not to be significant, and thus not discussed in detail in the EIR (State CEQA Guidelines §21100(c)). As discussed in Section E.6 (Effects Found Not to be Significant) of the Final EIR, impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Mineral Resources, Public Services, and Utilities and Service Systems for the approved Project would not be significant.

With respect to the proposed modifications, for these same issue areas, the only additional aspect to consider would be the high pressure natural gas pipeline operated by El Paso Corporation which is located along the east side of 70th Street where construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur. Construction of the new 12-kV distribution line would occur in an area not previously analyzed in the Final EIR. Prior to construction, SCE would contact El Paso Gas Corporation to ensure that the natural gas pipeline is not interfered with during construction activities.

All other modifications identified by SCE would not result in any different or new impacts to these issue areas and as such would not change the impact significance as identified in the Final EIR.

F. References

Bransfield, R. 2009. US Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Personal communication (conference call with Ray Bransfield (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Dan Pearson (Burns and McDonnell), and Jennifer Leung (Southern California Edison) on January 30, 2009; relayed to Aspen Environmental Group via email correspondence by Maija Benjamins (Southern California Edison) on February 6, 2009.

USGA (United States Geological Survey). 2003. Simulation of Ground-Water Flow and Land Subsidence in the Antelope Valley Ground-Water Basin, California, Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4016. [online]: http://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/wrir034016/wrir034016.book.pdf. Accessed February 11, 2009.