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# **CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST POWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS**

A 🔏 Sempra Energy uti	lity MINOR P	ROJE	CT REFINEN	IEN'	<b>F REQU</b>	JEST H	FORM		
Date Submitted:	01-22-18		Request #:		012				
Date Approval Required:	02-05-18 Landowner: XXX								
APN:	XXX-XXX-XX, XX	XX-XXX-2	XX, and XXX-XXX	X-XX					
Refinement from (check all	Refinement from (check all that apply):								
☐ Mitigation Measure	□ APM	⊠ Pro	oject Description		Drawing		Other		
Identify source (mitigation	measure, project des	scription,	etc.):						
the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The responses included Attachment B.10 C442 Route Map <sup>1</sup> for the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects (Project), which depicted approved staging and fly yards. Pages B-45 and B-46 of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) state that the Project's staging yards will be used for storage and preparation of construction materials, including replacement poles, conductors, and construction equipment before delivery to the individual pole work areas; and the Project's fly yards will be used for helicopter take-off and landing, temporary storage for poles and equipment, pole assembly, and fueling. The information in this Minor Project Refinement (MPR) request discusses the addition of one staging and fly yard (Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard) to support Circuit (C) 442 and Transmission Line (TL) 629A. A brief description and justification of the refinement are provided on page 2 of this MPR request.									
Attachments (check all that apply):									
⊠ Refinement Request Screening Form⊠ Photos (See⊠ Maps (See(see Attachment A: Minor Project Refinement Request Screening Form)Attachment B: Photographs)⊠ Maps (SeeAttachment C: Survey Area Map)					Γ	☐ Other			
Under Order 2 of the Decision Granting SDG&E Permit to Construct the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects (D.16-05-038), the CPUC may approve minor project refinements under certain circumstances. In accordance with Order 2 of the Decision, respond "yes" or "no" to the following questions (a) through (d).									
<ul> <li>(a) Is the proposed refinement outside the geographic boundary of the EIR/EIS study area?</li> <li>The requested refinement is located within the geographic boundary of the Final EIR/EIS study area, which is depicted in Figure ES-1 Regional Overview Map in the Final EIR/EIS. However, the refinement area occurs outside of the baseline survey areas. As a result, supplemental hydrological, biological, and cultural resources surveys were conducted in 2017 and 2018. Additional details regarding the specific surveys conducted can be found in each applicable resource section in Attachment A: Minor Project Refinement Request Screening Form, and the boundaries of the survey areas are depicted in Attachment C: Survey Area Map.</li> <li>(b) Will the proposed refinement result in a new significant impact or a substantial</li> </ul>						⊠ No			
increase in the severity of a used in the EIR/EIS?	n previously identified	d significa	int impact based o	n the c	riteria	□ Yes	⊠ No		
(c) Does the proposed refin or policy?	ement conflict with a	ny mitiga	ation measure or a	pplical	ole law	□ Yes	🛛 No		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Attachment B.10 C442 Route Map depicts the 2015 baseline data.

(d) Does the proposed refinement trigger an additional permit requirement?							
Describe refinement being requested (attach drawings and photos as needed):							
As depicted in Attachment A: Minor Project Refinement Request Screening Form and Attachment B: Photographs, SDG&E proposes to add the Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard for use during reconstruction of C442 (northern section) and TL629A. The yard will be approximately 1.94 acres. Access to the yard will occur via Pine Creek Road, which is located west of the yard. No grading will be required, but minimal mowing may be required for fire prevention maintenance. The yard will be used for approximately 18 months. The activities associated with the utilization of the yard will be consistent with the project description provided in the Final EIR/EIS.							

#### Provide need for refinement (attach drawings and photos as needed):

A staging yard on the northern section of C442 was approved as part of the 2015 baseline data; however, it is not large enough to support helicopter operations and contains sensitive biological habitat. Therefore, the Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard is requested to provide additional space for helicopter activities and materials storage to support construction on the northern section of C442. The yard will also be used to aid construction on TL629A due to its close proximity to the alignment.

Date refinement is expected to be implemented	: 02-12-18
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### **Resource Agency Coordination**

Resource Agency	Name	Action Required	Date		entation hed if yes)
Not Applicable (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	□ Yes	□ No

ATTACHMENT A: MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT REQUEST SCREENING FORM

## MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT REQUEST SCREENING FORM

#### **RESOURCE EVALUATION**

The requested refinement was evaluated to verify that it will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact based on the criteria used in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects (Project). The following Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist answers the consistency questions for each resource category and includes a description and justification, as necessary. The consistency questions were developed using the California Environmental Quality Act Checklist provided in the Final EIR/EIS. Refer to the Final EIR/EIS for the details on the Project impact evaluation.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Visual Resources</b> (e.g., adversely affect scenic vistas, damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings, create sources of light or glare, or result in an inconsistency with applicable scenic integrity objectives)?	$\boxtimes$		
Final EIR/EIS evaluation <sup>2</sup> : Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Visual Resources:

The requested refinement is consistent with the visual resource analysis as defined in the Final EIR/EIS, and will not impact scenic vistas or substantially affect existing views from Old Highway 80 (a County of San Diego Scenic Route). Impacts to the visual character of the area that may occur as a result of mowing and the presence of equipment will be temporary and reduced with implementation of Applicant-Proposed Measure (APM) VIS-01 and APM VIS-02. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously analyzed impact to visual resources as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Final EIR evaluation: Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Significant       and unavoidable (Class I)/Adverse and unavoidable	0,0			
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#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Air Quality:

Activities associated with construction and utilization of the refinement area (e.g., the type of equipment used and the number of truck trips) will be consistent with those discussed in the Final EIR/EIS and will not increase air emissions beyond what was analyzed. The refinement area is located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors (the closest of which is approximately 115 feet away and is the property owner of the refinement area), which is similar to other staging and/or fly yards that were approved in the Final EIR/EIS. Accordingly, use of the refinement area may result in a minor increase in air quality impacts in the localized area. However, mowing will be a short-term and temporary activity, and large equipment and helicopter use will be temporary and intermittent. In addition, with implementation of APM AIR-01 through APM AIR-05, use of the refinement area will not expose adjacent sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, which is consistent with the analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact to air quality as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Final EIR/EIS evaluations of impact significance are provided for each resource; this table notes the most significant determination within each resource section identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Biological Resources</b> (e.g., result in temporary or permanent loss of native vegetation, preserve areas, native wildlife and/or their habitats; cause an adverse effect to jurisdictional waters or sensitive or special-status species; result in the introduction of invasive, non-native, or noxious plant species; conflict with local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan; or interfere with the movement of any resident or migratory wildlife)? <i>Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation</i> ( <i>Class II</i> )/Adverse			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Biological Resources:

The requested refinement was not surveyed for sensitive vegetation communities and special-status plant and wildlife species during initial surveys that were conducted for the Project. Therefore, a supplemental survey of the refinement area was conducted in 2017 to determine if sensitive biological resources occur within or adjacent to the refinement area. No special-status plant or wildlife species or other biological resource issues were identified within or adjacent to the refinement area that were not analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS. Attachment C: Survey Area Map depicts the locations of the refinement area and biological survey results.

The addition of the refinement area will result in an increase of approximately 1.94 acres of temporary impacts to disturbed (barren/ruderal) habitat, and occurs within United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service- (USFWS)-designated arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) critical habitat. The requested yard was evaluated for arroyo toad potential on December 20, 2017 by a qualified biologist, and it was determined that the yard does not support arroyo toad breeding or aestivation habitat. However, occupied breeding habitat occurs approximately 450 feet east in Pine Valley Creek. Additionally, a large sandy terrace, which is high-quality aestivation habitat, occurs between the occupied breeding habitat and the embankment up to the yard area. Although a relatively small embankment (approximately 12 feet in elevation gain) occurs between the aestivation habitat and the requested yard, it does not represent a significant topographical barrier. The yard supports adequate foraging habitat for arroyo toads, and the potential for encounter exists. Therefore, SDG&E will implement the following recommendations provided by the biologist<sup>3</sup>:

- installing a barrier fence along the perimeter;
- monitoring initial ground disturbance by a biologist who is familiar with arroyo toad;
- regularly inspecting the yard and perimeter fencing by a biologist, including weekly visits by an authorized arroyo toad biologist; and
- performing a nighttime survey during arroyo toad breeding season.

In addition, all mitigation measures (MMs) defined in the Project's Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program—as well as other permit and plan conditions—will be implemented as applicable to minimize or mitigate for additional impacts. Thus, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact to biological resources as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The previously approved staging yard on the northern section of Circuit (C) 442 was sited within native vegetation, as well as within USFWS-designated arroyo toad critical habitat. As a result, similar recommendations would have been implemented to use the yard. Therefore, use of the refinement area does not introduce any new potential impacts to arroyo toad.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Cultural and Paleontological Resources</b> (e.g., cause an adverse change to Traditional Cultural Properties or historical, archeological, or paleontological resources; or disturb any human remains)?			
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Cultural and Paleontological Resources:

The requested refinement was not surveyed during initial surveys for the Project, but it does occur within the Project's area of potential effect, as defined in the Project's Programmatic Agreement (PA). A supplemental, intensive pedestrian survey of the refinement area was conducted by ASM Affiliates, Inc. in 2018. No new cultural resources were recorded during the supplemental survey, and one previously recorded cultural resource was identified during the record search conducted for the refinement area. However, based on the lack of cultural resources observed during the recent survey, it appears that this previously recorded cultural resource was incorrectly mapped, and if present, it is now located under a newly paved cul-de-sac and lacks integrity. Due to the legacy boundary that was identified, it is recommended that no blading or grading occur at the requested refinement area. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified potential impact to cultural resources as defined in the Final EIR/EIS.

The requested refinement is underlain by the same geological formations along C442 and Transmission Line (TL) 629A as analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS, which include geologic rock units/formations assigned a rank of Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) Class 2 (low sensitivity). Because the refinement is not underlain by rock units with a PFYC Class 3 (moderate or unknown sensitivity) ranking, additional paleontological monitoring and an update to the Paleontological Monitoring & Treatment Plan will not be required. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified potential impact to paleontological resources as defined in the Final EIR/EIS.

<b>Greenhouse Gases</b> (e.g., result in a net increase of greenhouse gas emissions, or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions)?	$\boxtimes$	
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant (Class III)/Not adverse		

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Greenhouses Gases:

Activities associated with utilization of the requested refinement area are consistent with the greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. Although additional mowing may occur, the requested refinement will not trigger an exceedance of the GHG threshold of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year or an exceedance of the County of San Diego Climate Action Plan criteria for annual grading and land clearing due to the small change in acreage. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact to GHG emissions as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Public Health and Safety</b> (e.g., result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; emit hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of a school; be located on a hazardous materials site; result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area; interfere with an adopted emergency plan; or create safety hazards due to structural failure)? <i>Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse</i>			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Public Health and Safety:

The requested refinement occurs within the area assessed in the *Report on ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Cleveland National Forest Electric Safety and Reliability Project San Diego County, California.* No known hazardous materials sites are located in the requested refinement area. Additionally, the closest privately owned airport to the refinement area is Rancho Vallecito Airport, which is located more than 11 miles northeast. Therefore, temporary helicopter operations are not expected to interfere with air traffic patterns and are consistent with the analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. Thus, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact to public health and safety as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<b>Fire and Fuels Management</b> (e.g., increase the probability of a wildfire, reduce the effectiveness of firefighting, or introduce non-native plants that would contribute to ignition potential)? <i>Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation</i> <i>(Class II)/Adverse</i>			
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#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Fire and Fuels Management:

The requested refinement will be located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and is consistent with the Fire and Fuels Management analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. The potential risk of wildfire ignition and spread associated with the refinement area will be managed in compliance with the Project's Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact to fire and fuels management.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b> (e.g., result in increased levels of turbidity, introduce contaminants, deplete groundwater supplies, or degrade water quality)?	$\boxtimes$		
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality:

The requested refinement was not surveyed for the presence of waters of the state and/or the U.S. (i.e., jurisdictional wetlands or non-wetland waters) during initial surveys that were conducted for the Project. Therefore, a supplemental survey of the refinement area was conducted in 2017. The requested refinement does not contain any waters of the state and/or U.S. under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although Pine Valley Creek is located approximately 340 feet east of the refinement area and an unnamed stream is located approximately 185 feet west of the refinement area, impacts to these waters will be avoided, and no additional jurisdictional water permitting will be required. To minimize potential impacts from erosion and off-site sedimentation during construction, the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for C440 and C442 will be updated with the refinement area upon approval of this request. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to hydrology and water quality as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<b>Land Use</b> (e.g., disturb land uses at or near the Project components, divide an established community, or conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project)?		
Final EIR evaluation:		

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Land Use:

Property owners within 1,000 feet of the requested refinement area have not been notified of construction activities. In accordance with the Construction Notification Plan and MM LU-1, these property owners will be notified 15 days prior to use of the refinement area. The requested refinement will not introduce a new land use, establish a permanent barrier or obstacle between uses, or create a physical division or separation of use. In addition, the requested refinement will not conflict with the applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project, as it is located in the same County of San Diego land use and zoning designations that were analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to land use.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Noise</b> (e.g., disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances; or cause ground borne vibration)?	$\square$		
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse			

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Noise:

Additional construction-related noise will be generated within the requested refinement area due to mowing and the operation of helicopters and large equipment. As stated previously in the Air Quality section, the refinement area is located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors (the closest of which is approximately 115 feet away and is the property owner of the refinement area), which is similar to other staging and/or fly yards that were approved in the Final EIR/EIS. Accordingly, use of the refinement area will result in temporary increases in noise levels. However, mowing will be a short-term and temporary activity, and large equipment and helicopter use will be temporary and intermittent. In addition, with implementation of noise-related MMs and APMs, noise impacts from construction activities associated with the refinement area will be the same as those analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to noise as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<b>Public Services and Utilities</b> (e.g., result in construction of new, or expansion of existing, facilities for fire protection, municipal water supplies, telecommunications, and solid waste; or disrupt electric service)?	$\boxtimes$	
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse		

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Public Services and Utilities:

The requested refinement is consistent with the public services and utilities analysis in the Final EIR/EIS, and will not require new or expanded facilities or services. Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to public services and utilities as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

<b>Recreation</b> (e.g., reduce access and visitation to recreation areas, preclude recreational activities, or result in increased, unauthorized access to specially designated or restricted areas)?	$\boxtimes$	
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse		

#### Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Recreation:

The requested refinement area is near the Noble Canyon Trailhead, Pine Creek Road Pathway and Phantom Trails, Pine Creek Trailhead, and Pine Valley County Park, similar to the approved C442 and TL629A alignments. Although construction vehicles will use Old Highway 80 and Pine Creek Road to access the refinement area, direct access to and parking at these facilities will be maintained during construction. Therefore, use of the refinement area will not substantially reduce or preclude access or visitation to these recreational areas, nor will it increase the possibility of unauthorized access to specially designated or restricted areas, consistent with the Final EIR/EIS. In conclusion, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to recreation.

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist			
Would the proposed action(s) result in a new impact, or increase the severity of a previously analyzed impact to:	No Change	Potentially Significant Change	N/A
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b> (e.g., conflict with an applicable congestion management program or a plan, ordinance, or policy associated with the circulation system or alternative transportation; increase hazards due to a design feature; or result in inadequate emergency access)?			
Final EIR evaluation: Less than significant (Class III)/Not adverse			

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Transportation and Traffic:

The requested refinement will not require additional or different types of construction vehicles and equipment than those discussed in the Final EIR/EIS for construction of the approved Project. In addition, the total number of truck trips associated with construction of the Project will not change, and use of the refinement area will affect the same roadways analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS, including Interstate (I-) 8, Old Highway 80, and Pine Creek Road. Therefore, with the implementation of APM TRANS-01 through APM TRANS-05, use of the refinement area will not create additional impacts to the existing levels of service (LOS)<sup>4</sup>. Thus, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact to transportation and traffic.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> I-8 and Pine Creek Road have an LOS of A through C, and Old Highway 80 has an LOS of A through D.

**ATTACHMENT B: PHOTOGRAPHS** 



Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Minor Project Refinement Request #12 Attachment B: Photographs



## Photograph 1:

East-facing view of the requested Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard and the property owner's residence (i.e., the nearest sensitive receptor), as observed on January 4, 2018.



### Photograph 2:

Southeast-facing view of the requested Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard along the northern property line, as well as the property owner's residence (i.e., the nearest sensitive receptor), as observed on January 4, 2018.

ATTACHMENT C: SURVEY AREA MAP

