

Comment Set A0013, cont. Imperial County Air Pollution Control Board

The ICAPCD Board strongly disagrees with this statement for several reasons such as those mentioned above. The ICAPCD Board believes the LNG pipeline expansion project is another step in the process to facilitate additional power generation facilities being built just across the international border from Imperial County. Again, it has not been determined what the impacts of Ahot gas will be on fuel burning sources and control equipment. However, it is a fact that this new source of gas has a higher Wobbe Index that translates into higher Nox emissions (precursor to Ozone). The ICAPCD Board insists that Table-G.5 reflect Air Quality as a cumulative impact and it be assessed accordingly.

A0013-13 cont.

It should be noted that on November 23, 2007, EPA published a proposed finding that Imperial County did not attain the 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. This was based upon ambient air quality data from years 2004-2006. As a result, Imperial County was reclassified as a "moderate 8-hour ozone non-attainment area". This requires Imperial County to attain the Ozone standards as expeditiously as practicable but no later than June 2010. It also means that California must submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions to meet the requirements. EPA also has finalized their finding of Imperial County as a serious non-attainment area for PM-10. Both of these actions will require California and Imperial County to submit approvable SIPs by the end of 2008.

As for State standards, Imperial County is Moderate non-attainment for both PM10 and Ozone. The City of Calexico alone has been designated as non-attainment for both CO and PM2.5.

Comparison of Alternatives - Section H:

Imperial Valley Link (Volume 5, Table H-2 and Table H-3, page H-10 to 13):

All three of the discussed alternative routes (FTHL Eastern Alternative, SDG&E West of Dunaway Alternative, and SDG&E West Main Canal-Huff Road Modification Alternative) have the same air quality impacts listed: AQ-1 and AQ-4 for the Significant Unmitigable (Class 1) Impacts. While the majority of the impacts are during construction phase, the ICAPCD Board feels that by instituting further mitigation measures as described in the Imperial County Air Quality CEQA Handbook (November 2007) would assist in reducing construction emissions even further.

A0013-14

Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) - Section I (Volume 5 page I-1):

General comment: The ICAPCD Board would like to re-enforce the fact that the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District has the jurisdictional authority over all air quality matters for the Salton Sea Air Basin in Imperial County. That being said, provided the air quality mitigation measures that get included in the final MMCRP meet the Imperial County Air Quality CEQA guidance and meet current ICAPCD rules and regulations, then ensuring that those measures are continually being implemented will be paramount. It appears that the MMCRP adequately establishes roles, responsibilities and monitoring procedures for the CPUC, BLM, Environmental Monitors, and the applicant - SDG &E. Failure to meet any ICAPCD requirements for any portion of the Proposed Project within Imperial County will be grounds for enforcement actions being taken by the Imperial County APCD.

A0013-15

I.5- Mitigation Compliance Responsibility (Volume 5 page I-4):

The last paragraph in this section states: The applicant shall inform the CPUC, the BLM, and their monitors in writing of any mitigation measures that are not or cannot be successfully implemented. The ICAPCD requests to be notified in writing prior to any proposed changes to any mitigation measures listed for Air Quality for the Proposed Project.

A0013-16

Appendix 12 - Air Quality - Full Text of Mitigation Measures (Volume 6 page Ap.12-89):

AQ-1a: Suppress dust at all work or staging areas and on public roads.

Provisions a - j meet the requirements as specified in the Imperial County APCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook. Provision (j) - filing of Dust Control Plan, needs to be done prior (30 days) to any construction activities taking place.

A0013-17

AQ-1b: Use low-emission construction equipment:

When this document was developed, the Tier 2 rating for California Emission Standards for Off-Road Compression-Ignition Engines was acceptable under California Code of Regulations, Title 13. However, since we are now in 2008, and

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the project may or may not start construction in 2008 the CARB Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program will require Tier 3 ratings on all engines. This mitigation measure needs to be revised to state that equipment will meet the latest Tier rating (Tier 3) standards as required by the California Air Resources Board.

A0013-18 cont.

AQ-1c: Comply with Imperial County dust control requirements:

This measure should be expanded to include a statement that the project will comply with all ICAPCD rules and regulations - not just Rule 800 (ex. Rule 401 - Opacity, Rule 407 - Nuisance).

A0013-19

AQ-1d: Implement dust reduction measures:

“Prohibit” construction grading on days when the wind gusts exceed 25 mph to the extent feasible to control fugitive dust. The wording to the extent feasible needs justification - if the winds exceed 25 mph - all construction grading shall be stopped until such time as winds drop below this threshold.

A0013-20

AQ-1e - 1g:

No Comments.

AQ-1h: Obtain Nox and Particulate Matter emission offsets.

The ICAPCD Board supports this mitigation measure as a requirement of the Proposed Project. However, it is unclear where the emission credits will come from. SDG&E shall obtain the offsets, and the ICAPCD will require that said offsets be relinquished to the ICAPCD prior to construction, not to be held by SDG&E. We recommend that you meet with ICAPCD staff to establish an agreed upon offset package.

A0013-21

AQ-3a: Offset emission increases of PM10 and Ozone precursors:

The power plant operator shall achieve emission reductions in PM10, PM2.5, or particulate matter precursors and ozone precursors to fully offset the emission increases associated with biomass/biogas or fossil fuel-fired electrical generation facilities. This mitigation measure is confusing. Is there a particular power plant (singular) that is targeted, or is it any generating facility? How will the Proposed Project proponent ensure that these facilities, including those located in Mexico, fully offset? How will assurances be made that the offsets meet all requirements in the Clean Air Act and ICAPCD rules and regulations?

A0013-22

AQ-4a: Offset construction-phase greenhouse gas emissions with carbon credits:

It is unclear where the Proposed Project will obtain the 55,000 tons for each year of the two years of construction. Will these be obtained from the California Climate Registry or another source? Once again, the ICAPCD Board believes the offsets should not be held but should be relinquished as to not be utilized for future endeavors, thus ensuring a net air quality benefit.

A0013-23

AQ-4b: Offset operation-phase greenhouse gas emissions with carbon credits:

Basically the same response as in AQ-4a above with the exception to the related following statement in this section reflects that the proponents recognize that there will be impacts from generating facilities outside the U.S. SDG&E shall follow established methodologies to report indirect GHG emissions from energy imported and consumed to support operation of the Proposed Project and indirect GHG emissions from transmission and distribution losses associated with the Proposed Project. If the Proposed Project is going to have indirect GHG emissions from energy imported it is only logical that those same facilities that are producing GHG emissions are also producing criteria pollutants as well that can adversely impact the air quality in Imperial County. It appears that in this draft EIS/EIR that there is a pick and chooses approach to addressing emissions that may come from across the border. This is at the very heart of our concerns. The applicant, CPUC, and BLM know there are going to be emissions from current and proposed future generation facilities in Mexico and dismiss the associated emissions as indirect in association with this proposed project. There needs to be a

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requirement that any generation facility that utilizes any component or connecting component of this Proposed Project be required to install and maintain Best Available Control Technology and provide offsets in accordance to U.S. standards.

A0013-24 cont.

AQ-4c: Avoid sulfur hexafluoride emissions:

No Comments.

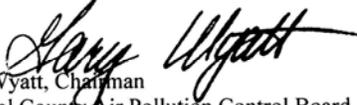
AQ-4d: Offset greenhouse gas emissions from power generation with carbon credits:

A0013-25

Essentially same comment structure as that in AQ-3a above.

In Closing, the ICAPCD Board urges the CPUC and BLM to carefully consider all submitted comments in regards to the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project and make it a priority to take into account the health and well-being of the residents of Imperial County and the border region.

Sincerely,


Gary Wyatt, Chairman
Imperial County Air Pollution Control Board

cc: Billie C. Blanchard, CPUC, Project Manager
Lynda Kastoll, BLM, Project Manager
Imperial County Board of Supervisors
Jurg Heuberger, Planning Director, Imperial County
Robertta Burns, CEO, Imperial County
Ralph Cordova, County Counsel, Imperial County

Responses to Comment Set A0013 Imperial County Air Pollution Control Board

- A0013-1 The analysis in the Draft EIR/EIS of the La Rumorosa Wind Development has been updated in the Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS to reflect the information from the Sempra Presidential Permit and addendum. Please see Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Section 2 for a description of the Sempra project and impact analysis.
- A0013-2 Please refer to General Response GR-7 for a discussion of the Sunrise Powerlink Project and its connection to Mexican Generation.
- A0013-3 The opposition of the ICAPCD Board to earlier transmission projects at Imperial Valley Substation, and especially pertaining to power plants built in Mexico, is noted. The Draft EIR/EIS (in Section B) describes the projects that are reasonably foreseeable as “Connected Actions” or “Indirect Effects.” General Response GR-7 shows that new fossil fuel burning facilities in Mexico are not reasonably foreseeable and institutional measures exist to ensure that air quality in the Imperial Valley is not further degraded by new conventional power plants in Mexico.
- A0013-4 The support of the ICAPCD Board for renewable projects is noted.
- A0013-5 The comment notes the 2007 version of the ICAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, and the Final EIR/EIS includes minor revisions, where applicable, to reflect the new guidelines. The new guidelines include “standard” measures for PM10 control, which are reflected in the Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and Mitigation Measure AQ-4a. These measures would help to ensure compliance with ICAPCD Regulation VIII for dust control.

Beyond the measures for compliance with Regulation VIII, the new guidelines also have “discretionary” measures for a greater degree of PM10 reductions and measures for construction combustion equipment. The recommended “discretionary” dust control measures are met through portions of Mitigation Measure AQ-4a [see subparagraphs (a), (b), (f), (h), and (i) in the mitigation] and AQ-APM-2 (Table D.11-10), except for the recommendation for a trip reduction plan and implementing lunch shuttle service for construction employees. A trip reduction plan would not be appropriate for the construction workers associated with the Proposed Project would be expected to carpool to the remote sites two-per vehicle (as described in Section D.9.4.3, Transportation and Traffic, Table D.9-12). Also, AQ-APM-4 and Mitigation Measure AQ-1f would encourage carpooling to the same effect. Running a lunch shuttle service would be impractical again because of the remote location of most work, which would necessitate workers or contractors bringing food to the job site.

The new guidelines address construction combustion equipment with “standard” and “enhanced” recommendations. The “standard” measures for equipment are met through Mitigation Measure AQ-4b, which applies to all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, and idling would be minimized through AQ-APM-5 and Mitigation Measure AQ-1g. The “enhanced” measures for curtailing construction during peak hour traffic or adjusting activities for nearby short-term impacts would not be appropriate for the Proposed Project. The generally remote work would neither substantially conflict with

traffic on Imperial County roads nor lead to adverse short-term effects that could be reduced through rescheduling.

The air quality analysis in the Draft EIR/EIS and References in Section D.11.21 are updated with this Final EIR/EIS to cite the 2007 CEQA Air Quality Handbook. The thresholds of significance in Section D.11.4.1 and Table D.11-8 do not change. The classification of project-level significance in the Imperial Valley (Section D.11.5) or overall impacts of the Proposed Project (Section D.11.13) do not change with this revision. Mitigation Measure AQ-1b includes a minor clarification to reflect the 2007 version of the ICAPCD recommendations.

A0013-6 The description of Air Quality Plans and Regulations in Section D.11.3.3 is revised in the Final EIR/EIS to reflect the notification requirements identified in this comment. The description of the portable equipment registration program (p. D.11-13) is revised as follows:

CARB Portable Equipment Registration Program and Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Diesel Particulate Matter from Portable Engines. [...] Included are engines that are registered under CARB's PERP, engines with local air district permits, and engines that were historically exempt from district permits. For PERP equipment that is not home based in Imperial County, owners/operators are required by ICAPCD to notify the local air district five days in advance of operating the equipment in Imperial County, and the ICAPCD requires a copy of all PERP registered equipment's permits and conditions of operation prior to operation in Imperial County.

A0013-7 The ICAPCD review schedule is noted in the Final EIR/EIS with the following revision to Mitigation Measure AQ-1a:

AQ-1a Suppress dust at all work or staging areas and on public roads. SDG&E shall: [...]; and (j) prepare and file 30 days in advance of construction with the ICAPCD, SDAPCD, BLM, and CPUC a Dust Control Plan that describes how these measures would be implemented and monitored at all locations of the project.

A0013-8 The Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) (Section D.11.3.3, p. D.11-13) exists for portable engines that are newly purchased. New engine purchases would be subject to the Tier 3 and ATCM standards, but the Final EIR/EIS includes a minor clarification showing that Mitigation Measure AQ-1b applies to all portable engines *and* all off-road diesel vehicles that are existing and in-use, not just the new. No other revision is needed because the EIR/EIS considers that SDG&E will comply with PERP requirements and the ATCM while Mitigation Measure AQ-1b addresses other engines in use.

A0013-9 See General Response GR-7 regarding potential increases in electricity imports from Mexico.

A0013-10 SDG&E is not presently proposing any of the potential "Future Transmission System Expansion" projects that are identified in Section B.2.7 of the Draft EIR/EIS Project Description. Without a specific proposal, analyzing the necessity and reasoning for the Future Transmission System Expansion projects is not within the scope of this EIR/EIS or the Sunrise general proceeding.

A0013-11 Mitigation Measure AQ-4a shows the quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions that would be necessary to reduce construction impacts. For Mitigation Measure AQ-4b, it would not be possible to specify the quantity because operation-phase emissions will change over the life of the project (for example, as the work fleet becomes cleaner over time or as the line may require varying levels of maintenance or emergency repairs).

In response to the comment, Mitigation Measures AQ-4a and AQ-4b include revisions to more clearly identify the potential source of the reductions. The California Climate Action Registry is one possible source of verifiable greenhouse gas reductions. SDG&E may also take other previously voluntary actions where credits could be created or obtained and permanently retired to ensure a net air quality benefit. Also see Response A0028-6 for additional information on how the GHG reductions in the revised Mitigation Measures AQ-4a and AQ-4b provide a reasonable and feasible way to further reduce the GHG impact; however, the impact would still remain significant and unmitigable (Class I). Please refer to General Response GR-8 for a discussion of GHG impacts of the Sunrise Powerlink Project and alternatives.

The Final EIR/EIS includes the following revisions to Mitigation Measures AQ-4a and AQ-4b to clarify how reductions may be created by SDG&E to offset the project-related emissions.

AQ-4a Offset construction-phase greenhouse gas emissions with carbon credits.

SDG&E shall create greenhouse gas emission reductions or obtain and hold for the duration of project construction sufficient carbon credits to fully offset construction-phase greenhouse gas emissions. During construction SDG&E shall report to the CPUC quarterly the status of efforts to create reductions or obtain banked credits and the quantity of construction-phase greenhouse gas emissions offset by credits. At a minimum, SDG&E shall create or obtain and hold carbon credits to offset 55,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions for each of the two years of construction. Carbon Reduction Tons (CRTs) verified according to the rules of the California Climate Action Registry may be retired by SDG&E to satisfy this requirement.

AQ-4b Offset operation-phase greenhouse gas emissions with carbon credits.

SDG&E shall create greenhouse gas emission reductions or obtain and hold for the life of the project sufficient carbon credits to fully offset greenhouse gas emissions caused by activity to support transmission line operation, maintenance, and inspection activities. To determine the quantity of carbon credits that must be created or obtained and held each year, SDG&E must develop a complete GHG inventory annually for project-related operational emissions. SDG&E shall follow established methodologies to report and inventory indirect GHG emissions from energy imported and consumed to support operation of the Proposed Project and indirect GHG emissions from transmission and distribution losses associated with the Proposed Project. SDG&E shall report to the CPUC annually the status of efforts to obtain banked credits and the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions offset by credits. Established methodologies for determining project-related emissions include the current California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) General Reporting Protocol, and the Power/Utility Reporting Protocol appendix to the General Reporting Protocol. Carbon Reduction Tons (CRTs) verified

according to the rules of the California Climate Action Registry may be retired by SDG&E to satisfy this requirement.

- A0013-12 The commenter expresses concern that a new or existing fossil fuel-fired power plant may utilize the increased capacity at the Imperial Valley Substation or natural gas from the Mexicali region, which is not subject to California's standards. Please refer to Section 2 of the Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS for a discussion of the Sempra Presidential Permit Application and related facilities, including the La Rumorosa Wind Energy Projects. Please also see General Response GR-7 for information on the liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure in Mexico, the cross-border transmission line, Mexican power plants, and how these relate to the Proposed Project and its analysis in the EIR/EIS.
- A0013-13 The existing air quality in the Imperial Valley and border region air quality are noted in the Draft EIR/EIS in Sections D.11.1.2 and D.11.1.4, respectively. Burning gas with a higher heating value or Wobbe index could change the emissions performance of the affected power plants, within existing limits, but it would be speculative to attribute any change in availability of LNG in Mexico to the Proposed Project. See also General Response GR-7 for information on potential increases in power generation in Mexico and Response to Comment A0013-12.
- A0013-14 See Response A0013-5 for information on how the current ICAPCD guidance is included in the mitigation measures.
- A0013-15 The comment notes that failure to satisfy mitigation measures implementing ICAPCD recommendations and ICAPCD rules would be grounds for enforcement action. See Response A0013-5 for information on how the current ICAPCD guidance is included in the mitigation measures.
- A0013-16 The Roles and Responsibilities identified for Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting (Draft EIR/EIS Section I.3, p. I-3) indicate that the environmental monitors would ensure that appropriate agency reviews and approvals are obtained, including review of ICAPCD for changes to air quality mitigation measures (as indicated as a responsible agency in Section D.11.20, Table D.11-26).
- A0013-17 See Response A0013-7 for filing the dust control plan in advance of construction.
- A0013-18 See Response A0013-8 for information on the requirements for diesel engines associated with off-road equipment and portable equipment.
- A0013-19 No revision is necessary because all activities would be required by law to comply with the ICAPCD rules and regulations.
- A0013-20 The Applicant Proposed Measure AQ-APM-2 (Draft EIR/EIS Table D.11-10) is consistent with the 2007 ICAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, which does not prohibit grading on windy days. Although the measure allows some discretion on when grading is halted, the emission limits of ICAPCD Regulation VIII would continue to apply.
- A0013-21 Due to the short-term nature of construction, Mitigation Measure AQ-1h recommends SDG&E hold the specified quantity of offsets. Permanently retiring offsets would be appropriate for long-term effects, and the ICAPCD may demonstrate that some quantity of permanently retired offsets would be appropriate for the short-term effects of con-

struction. This could be accomplished through an alternative mitigation strategy allowed by the measure, subject to ICAPCD approval, sufficient to reduce project-related emissions to levels below the federal General Conformity Rule applicability threshold.

- A0013-22 For the Non-Wires Alternatives, Mitigation Measure AQ-3a would require power plant developers to offset any new power plant emissions caused by implementing these alternatives. If a Non-Wires Alternative is approved with this mitigation measure, CPUC and BLM as lead agencies monitoring implementation of this measure would verify the offsets from the power plants regardless of the location of the power plants.
- A0013-23 Please see Responses A0013-11 A0028-6, which provide additional information on the source of GHG reductions.
- A0013-24 Please see Responses A0013-11 and A0028-6, which provide additional information on how GHG reductions could be created. General Response GR-7 addresses potential impacts from generating facilities outside the U.S.
- A0013-25 Please see Responses A0013-11 and A0028-6, which provide additional information on the source of GHG reductions.