
**SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST
POWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS
SCENERY CONSERVATION PLAN**

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PREPARED BY:



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Figure F-1: TL625C Detailed Map

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1 – INTRODUCTION

This Scenery Conservation Plan (Plan) outlines the proposed actions to be taken by San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) and its contractors to satisfy the requirements of Mitigation Measure (MM) VIS-1 from the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects (Project) Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) Record of Decision (ROD) for the Project. The Project includes the following components:

- replacement of approximately 2,100 existing wood poles with fire-resistant, weathered steel poles;
- undergrounding of approximately 26 miles of existing 12 kilovolt (kV) distribution lines;
- removal of approximately 30 miles of existing 12 kV and 19 miles of existing 69 kV overhead facilities; and,
- decommissioning of 13 miles of access roads.

MM VIS-1 calls for identification and implementation of specific design considerations at selected locations that will minimize the Project's visual disturbance to the naturally established scenery. The Final EIR/EIS assessment identified locations along five of the Project segments where implementation of MM VIS-1 is required to reduce visual prominence and contrast to the natural landscape. MM VIS-2 calls for compensation for the loss of scenic quality associated with Project segments that are inconsistent with USFS Land Management Plan (LMP) scenic integrity objectives. The Final EIR/EIS assessment identified three Project segments where implementation of MM VIS-2 is required to compensate the USFS for negative scenery effects.

This Plan identifies specific design considerations intended to reduce the visible prominence and contrast of individual Project components as described in the FEIR/FEIS, including modified pole design, location, surface treatments, and screening options that will help these components more effectively blend in with the surrounding landscape setting. Photorealistic visual simulations of typical proposed design features that may be applied to poles identified for visual treatment are included in Attachment A: Visual Simulations. These simulations illustrate the anticipated effectiveness of these design considerations in reducing visual contrast and prominence. Appendix A: TL625B Visibility and Treatments of Structures Referenced in MM VIS-1 describes specific analysis and proposed treatments of structures along TL625B; as SDG&E moves forward in the Project construction schedule, further details specific to the additional Project segments will be appended to this Plan according to the schedule requirements outlined in the MMCRP. Per a request from the USFS, this Plan also identifies three possible processes for how SDG&E may provide the required compensation to the USFS for loss in scenic quality, as required in MM VIS-2.

2 – OBJECTIVES

This Plan is intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- Prescribe specific, feasible actions designed to minimize anticipated visual disturbance to the naturally established scenery at specified Project pole locations by reducing visual prominence and contrast between Project components and the natural landscape.
- Ensure the implementation of individual pole designs identified in this Plan are in accordance with of MM VIS-1.
- Provide a process for compensating the USFS for effects from Project components identified in this Plan and MM VIS-2.

3 – MMCRP MITIGATION MEASURE

The full text of MM VIS-1 is provided as follows:

MM VIS –1: Prepare and Implement a Scenery Conservation Plan

SDG&E shall file with the CPUC a Scenery Conservation Plan that is approved by the Forest Service and provided to other applicable jurisdictional agencies for review and comment. Each 69 kV power line or 12 kV distribution line segment will be covered under an individual section of the plan, and each section will be reviewed and approved by the appropriate agencies prior to any ground-disturbing activities for the specific segment. The purpose of this plan is to identify and implement specific actions that will minimize the project's visual disturbance to the naturally established scenery. Specific actions shall also be identified and implemented for individual poles to protect existing views from established scenic vistas and roadways located outside of the CNF. Power and distribution line support towers shall be designed to minimize their visual prominence and contrast to the natural landscape. Individual poles anticipated to create adverse effects to scenic vistas and/or particularly noticeable visual contrast in existing views shall be designed, located, shaped, textured, and/or screened as necessary to minimize their visual contrast, blend and complement the adjacent forest and community character. Methods such as limiting the number of climbing pegs and identifying less visually intrusive pole markings for high voltage lines, consistent with CPUC requirements, shall be considered. SDG&E shall also be required to provide photorealistic visual simulations of typical proposed designs that include typical design features that may be incorporated into poles identified for visual treatment to demonstrate the effectiveness of such features in reducing visual contrast and prominence as viewed from sensitive viewsheds.

Table 1: Scenery Conservation Plan Project Components lists the Project alignments, segment, and components identified in this mitigation measure, including 54 specific structures with corresponding pole numbers.

The full text of MM VIS-2 is provided as follows:

MM VIS-2:

If the Forest Service selects to fire harden TL626, TL629, TL6923 or C157 or relocate TL626 (Options 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4 and 5), it would have to approve a project-specific CNF Land Management Plan Amendment contemporaneously with the decision to authorize the MSUP and pole replacement project. The project-specific plan amendment would amend the Land Management Plan to allow project-specific exemptions for inconsistencies with the CNF Land Management Plan scenic integrity objectives. SDG&E would be required to compensate the Forest Service for the loss in scenic quality associated with the negative scenery effects that are inconsistent with the LMP scenic integrity objectives. Compensation shall be accomplished through agency approved scenery restoration activities, fee-payment for scenery restoration projects, or preservation of comparable lands.

The final approved Project includes removing TL626 from service and reconstructing TL6931 outside of USFS-administered land; therefore, this measure is only applicable to TL629, TL6923, and C157.

4 – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Table 2: Overview of Scenery Conservation Pole Treatments provides a description of specific treatments that SDG&E may use, in whole or in part, as needed to reduce potential visual impacts, along with the anticipated effectiveness of each treatment type. Appendix A: TL625B Visibility and Treatments of Structures Referenced in MM VIS-1 provides an overview of the visual setting along TL625B as well as the proposed treatments and effectiveness of these treatments for the four replacement pole locations identified in the MMCRP. Additional appendices for each Project segment will be included in this Plan prior to beginning construction on these Project segments, as required by the MMCRP. SDG&E will implement the specific treatments described for each segment to the extent needed to reduce potential visual impacts at these locations.

Implementation of MM VIS-2 requires compensation to the USFS for negative scenery effects on existing High scenic integrity objective lands traversed by TL629 and TL6923 as viewed from Key Observation Points 4, 13, and 15, and Very High scenic integrity objective lands traversed by C157. As specified by MM VIS-2, compensation can be achieved through the following:

1. agency-approved scenery restoration activities,
2. fee payment for scenery restoration projects, or
3. preservation of comparable lands.

SDG&E will work with the USFS to determine which option will be most applicable for each Project segment in order to provide the necessary compensation.

Table 1: Scenery Conservation Plan Project Components

Project Alignment	Pole Numbers
SDG&E Proposed Project	
Transmission Line (TL) 625B	Z272901; Z272886; Z272885; Z272870
TL625C	Z273002; Z272998; Z272997; Z272996; Z272995; Z272993; Z272992; Z272991; Z272990; Z272989; Z272980; Z272972; Z272971; Z272970; Z272969; Z272960; Z272934; Z239692; Z272922
TL626B	Z213734; Z213735 Z213736; Z2123737; Z213738; Z213739
TL629A	Along River Drive, Viejas Boulevard and SR-79 through Descanso, Z173133; Z173134; Z173135; Z173136; Z173137; Z173138; Z173139; Z173141; Z173142; Z812701; P373878
TL682	Z118035; Z118036; Z111236; Z118037; Z118038; Z118144
Circuit (C) 440	P-304; P-60; P-303; P-305; P-306; P40368; P109956; P40370

Source: Final EIR/EIS MMRP (June 2015).

Table 2: Overview of Scenery Conservation Pole Treatments

Treatment	Effectiveness
Reduce the high voltage markings on replacement poles, while conforming to CPUC General Order 95 Rule 51.6.	Reducing the number of yellow bands to one, will reduce the level of visual contrast and prominence of replacement pole in the landscape.
Adjust pole location.	In particular cases, minor repositioning of replacement pole could reduce its visibility when seen from close range locations. In addition, consideration will be given to co-locating adjacent or associated poles in order to reduce the overall number of project structures.
Modify pole design.	Repositioning particular pole components, such as switching apparatus, could be employed to reduce or to simplify form of replacement pole; thereby, lessening its visual prominence.
Plant screening vegetation.	At select locations, introducing native plant species similar to existing vegetation seen in the immediate area will partially screen the replacement pole and help it blend in and complement surrounding landscape character.
Modify color of components such as poles, climbing steps, equipment or hardware.	Modifying color of specific components will lessen visual contrast of components and thereby help the replacement pole to blend more effectively with the surrounding landscape.

Note: Site specific treatments for individual project poles will be outlined in Appendices A through G.

5 – SCHEDULE

Prior to commencing Project construction for each Project segment identified in MM VIS-1 and referenced in this Plan, SDG&E will provide to the CPUC a copy of this Plan with the relevant appendix as approved by the USFS. Because Project implementation is anticipated to take place over an approximately four-year period, submittal of appendices B through G will occur incrementally as needed. The anticipated start of construction activities for the relevant Project components is as follows:

- TL682: January 2017
- TL626B: August 2017
- TL629A: December 2017
- C440: April 2018
- TL625C: March 2019

6 – REFERENCES

- California Public Utilities Commission. General Order 95. *Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction. Rule 51.6A. High Voltage Marking of Poles.* Online. http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/GO_95_rule_51_6.html. Site visited October 2015.
- Dudek. 2015. *Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement and Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects.* Online. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/Final-EIR-EIS.htm>. Site visited October 2015.
- Environmental Vision. *Visual Resources Technical Study for Cleveland National Forest Electric Safety and Reliability Project.* April 2012.
- Insignia Environmental. *Draft Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Projects Habitat Restoration Plan.* November 2015.
- USFS. 2015. Cleveland National Forest. Online. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cleveland/landmanagement/planning>. Site visited October 2015.

ATTACHMENT A: VISUAL SIMULATIONS



Steel pole without Scenery Conservation Plan treatments, Simulation 1.



Steel pole with Scenery Conservation Plan treatments, Simulation 2.

APPENDIX A: TL625B
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

TL625B

Segment TL625B of 69 kV power line TL625 roughly parallels Japatul Road between Loveland Substation and Barrett Tap, passing through both private and CNF-administered land as well as the northern edge of Loveland Reservoir, a joint USFS and Sweetwater Authority administered recreation facility used for fishing, camping, and hiking. Characteristic visual conditions of the surrounding landscape include rugged mountainous terrain with numerous exposed boulder outcrops, covered with a mixture of low-growing chaparral scrub and grassland and limited areas of riparian forest around Loveland Reservoir. According to the Final EIR/EIS, viewer sensitivity in this area is considered moderate due to the presence of recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the reservoir. With the exception of a small number of dispersed residences in the area, viewer exposure is generally short-term and, in addition to recreational visitors to Loveland Reservoir, primarily consists of motorists traveling along Japatul Road.

TL625B largely traverses low-lying terrain several hundred feet from the roadway, and is primarily seen against the varied texture and color of the surrounding mountains for much of its approximately 6-mile length. The Final EIR/EIS analysis indicates that TL625B would not be visually prominent within the landscape when seen against this varied backdrop. However, at several locations where the roadway reaches a topographic crest and where the alignment crosses or comes in close proximity to the roadway, the replacement poles would be seen briefly at close range by passing motorists as well as at close range for longer durations by a limited number of residences. Due to anticipated levels of noticeable visual contrast at these locations, the Final EIR/EIS found that implementation of VIS-1 is warranted with respect to these concerns at four replacement pole locations.

Figure A-1: TL625B Detailed Map shows the location of these poles along Japatul Road. Table A-1: Overview of Scenery Conservation Pole Treatments summarizes the subject pole locations, identifies appropriate treatments designed to reduce visual contrast within the landscape, and describes the anticipated effectiveness of each treatment in terms of how these treatments will reduce potential visibility of the replacement pole. Attachment A: Visual Simulations presents a typical pole with “before” and “after” simulation views demonstrating the potential reduction in visual contrast and project visibility that is anticipated following use of these treatments.



Figure A-1: TL625B Detailed Map

**Scenery Conservation Plan
SDG&E Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects**

- New Steel
- Removal
- Undergrounding
- Wood-to-Steel 12 kV
- Wood-to-Steel Replacement
- Project Poles in Scenery Conservation Plan

Table A-1: Overview of Scenery Conservation Pole Treatments

Replacement Pole Number	Land Ownership	Treatment	Effectiveness
Z272901	Private	Modify pole design: Co-locate facilities with adjacent distribution pole and relocate intelleruptor.	Co-locating all facilities from three poles to one pole will reduce the overall visual contrast and prominence of the facilities at this location.
		Plant screening vegetation: Install native chaparral container stock outside of the required 10-foot fire clearance zone and away from the roadway edge, in conjunction with the habitat restoration plan, to reduce visual contrast between bare-ground pole clearance area and surrounding landscape. Species would reflect local vegetation in composition.	Planting a mixture of local species similar in form and texture to surrounding native vegetation within existing ROW will reduce the visual prominence of the replacement pole as well as help it blend more effectively with the surrounding landscape character, thereby reducing visibility of pole as seen by nearby residences and passing motorists.
		Weatherized/textured climbing steps: Install custom manufactured weatherized/textured climbing steps as opposed to standard galvanized steps.	Located adjacent to the roadway edge, this replacement pole will be seen at close range, partially silhouetted against the sky, by both motorists and nearby residents. Using weatherized/textured climbing steps will simplify the overall profile of replacement pole, thereby reducing its visual contrast and prominence.
		Reduce visually intrusive high voltage marking: Reduce the high voltage markings, while conforming to CPUC General Order 95 Rule 51.6.	Reducing the number of yellow bands to one, will reduce the level of visual contrast and prominence of replacement pole within the landscape, when seen at close range by both motorists and adjacent residents.

Replacement Pole Number	Land Ownership	Treatment	Effectiveness
Z272886	USFS	<p>Adjust pole location: Reposition pole away from paved driveway intersection.</p>	<p>Relocating replacement pole away from the driveway intersection and aligning it in a position more similar to existing utility structures seen along the roadway will reduce its visual prominence. Additionally, by repositioning this replacement structure, existing vegetation will partially screen lower portion of pole and eliminate need for visually intrusive road hazard signage.</p>
		<p>Weatherized/textured climbing steps: Install custom manufactured weatherized/textured climbing steps as opposed to standard galvanized steps.</p>	<p>The replacement pole is situated at a crest in the roadway and will be seen at close range partially silhouetted against the sky by motorists. Using weatherized/textured climbing steps will simplify the overall profile of replacement pole, thereby reducing its visual contrast and prominence.</p>
		<p>Reduce visually intrusive high voltage marking: Reduce the high voltage markings, while conforming to CPUC General Order 95 Rule 51.6.</p>	<p>Reducing the number of yellow bands to one, will reduce the level of visual contrast and prominence of replacement pole within the landscape, when seen at close range by motorists.</p>
Z272885	USFS	<p>Weatherized/textured climbing steps: Install custom manufactured weatherized/textured climbing steps as opposed to standard galvanized steps.</p>	<p>Using weatherized/textured climbing steps will simplify the overall profile of replacement pole, thereby reducing its visual contrast and prominence</p>
		<p>Reduce visually intrusive high voltage marking: Reduce the high voltage markings, while conforming to CPUC General Order 95 Rule 51.6.</p>	<p>Reducing the number of yellow bands to one, will reduce the level of visual contrast and prominence of replacement pole within the landscape, when seen at close range by motorists.</p>

Replacement Pole Number	Land Ownership	Treatment	Effectiveness
Z272870	Private	Weatherized/textured climbing steps: Install custom manufactured weatherized/textured climbing steps as opposed to standard galvanized steps.	Using weatherized/textured climbing steps will simplify the overall profile of replacement pole, thereby reducing its visual contrast and prominence.
		Reduce visually intrusive high voltage marking: Reduce the high voltage markings, while conforming to CPUC General Order 95 Rule 51.6.	Reducing the number of yellow bands to one, will reduce the level of visual contrast and prominence of replacement pole within the landscape, when seen at close range by motorists.

APPENDIX B: TL682
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT COMPONENT
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)

APPENDIX C: TL626B
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT COMPONENT
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)

APPENDIX D: TL629A
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT COMPONENT
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)

APPENDIX E: C440
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT COMPONENT
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)

APPENDIX F: TL625C
VISIBILITY AND TREATMENTS OF STRUCTURES REFERENCED IN MM VIS-1

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT COMPONENT
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)

APPENDIX G: PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

(WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF EACH PROJECT COMPONENT ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IN THIS PLAN)