

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST POWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS



A Sempra Energy utility MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT REQUEST FORM

Date Submitted:	05-17-19		Request #:		034		
Date Approval Required:	05-31-19		Landowner:		XXXX	XXXX	
APN:	XXX-XXX-XX; XX	X-XXX-X	XX				
Refinement from (check all	that apply):						
☐ Mitigation Measure	☐ APM ☐ Project Description ☐ Drawing			Drawing		Other	
Identify source (mitigation measure, project description, etc.):							
Notice to Proceed request #20/Minor Project Refinement (MPR) request #26 for Transmission Line (TL) 629A of the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects (Project) was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and United States Forest Service on April 19, 2019. Since this approval and prior to use of the yard, the landowner of the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard decided to no longer lease the yard to San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E); therefore, an alternative yard—the River Drive Staging Yard—is needed to provide an area for parking and turnaround on River Drive along TL629A. A brief description and justification of the refinement is provided on page 2 of this MPR request.							
Attachments (check all that	t apply):						
⊠ Refinement Request Screening Form ⊠ Photos (See ⊠ Maps (see Attachment A: Minor Attachment B: (See Attachment C: Project Refinement Request Photographs) Survey Area Map) Screening Form) Survey Area Map)				□ 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).					ertain		
(a) Is the proposed refinement outside the geographic boundary of the EIR/EIS study area? The requested refinement is located within the geographic boundary of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS) study area, which is depicted in Figure ES-1 Regional Overview Map in the Final EIR/EIS. The refinement occurs completely within the baseline biological survey area, and partially within the baseline cultural and hydrological survey areas. Supplemental hydrological, biological, and cultural resources surveys were conducted in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Additional details regarding the specific surveys conducted are provided 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.				□ Yes	⊠ No		
Refinement Request Screening Form, and the boundaries of the survey areas are depicted in					□ Yes	⊠ No	

(c) Does the proposed refinement conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy?							⊠ No	
(d) Does the proposed refiner	nent trigger an addit	ional	permit requirer	nent?		□ Yes	⊠ No	
Describe refinement being requested (attach drawings and photos as needed):								
SDG&E requests to replace the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard with the River Drive Staging Yard. This change will result in a decrease of approximately 0.07 acre of temporary impacts. The River Drive Staging Yard will be generally used as a parking and turnaround area along River Drive, but minor materials storage may occur as well. Minor vegetation removal will be required for yard utilization and fire-prevention maintenance. The yard will be accessed via River Drive, and is anticipated to be used for approximately four to six months. The activities associated with the utilization of the refinement area will be consistent with the project description provided in the Final EIR/EIS for staging yards. Attachment B: Photographs and Attachment C: Survey Area Map depict the refinement area.								
Provide need for refinement	(attach drawings and	l pho	tos as needed):					
The landowner of the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard has decided to no longer lease the yard to SDG&E therefore, a new area (River Drive Staging Yard) is needed to provide parking and turnaround on River Drive, which is a narrow road with few areas where that can occur.								
Date refinement is expected t	o be implemented:	06-0	03-19					
Resource Agency Coordination								
Resource Agency	Name	Action Required Date Documentat						
Not Applicable (N/A)	N/A		N/A	N/A	□Ye	es 🛭 🗈	☑ No	

ATTACHMENT A: MINOR	PROJECT REFINEMENT I	REQUEST SCREENING FORM

MINOR PROJECT REFINEMENT REQUEST SCREENING FORM

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Final EIR/EIS Consistency Checklist

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 (CNF) 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 below each resource category, 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 details on the Project's impact evaluation.

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		
Visual Resources (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)?					
Final EIR/EIS evaluation ¹ : Significant and unavoidable (Class I)/Adverse and unavoidable					
Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Visual Resources:					
The requested refinement will be consistent with the visual resort impact scenic vistas or substantially affect existing views from e Diego Scenic Routes. While impacts to the visual character of the removal, the impact area will be smaller than required for the Stein impacts will be temporary and reduced with the implementation and APM VIS-02. Therefore, the requested refinement will not reincrease in the severity of a previously analyzed impact to visual	ligible State Scen ne area may occur evens Ranch Stagi of Applicant-Prop result in a new sig	ic Highways or C as a result of mi ing Yard. In add cosed Measure (a nificant impact of	County of San inor vegetation lition, these APM) VIS-01 or a substantial		
Air Quality (e.g. produce additional emissions, conflict with applicable local air quality plans, or expose sensitive receptors to additional pollutants)? Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Significant and unavoidable (Class I)/Adverse and unavoidable					

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Air Quality:

Activities associated with utilization of the requested refinement area (e.g., the type of equipment used) will be consistent with those discussed in the Final EIR/EIS and will not increase air emissions beyond what was analyzed. Similar to the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard, the refinement area is located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors. Potential air quality impacts to sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of Project components were analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS. While minor vegetation removal may result in a minor increase in air quality impacts in the localized area, the impact area will be smaller than required for the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard. In addition, with the implementation of APM AIR-01 through APM AIR-05, use of the refinement area will not expose nearby 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 analyzed impact to air quality as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

A-1

¹ 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		
Biological Resources (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)? Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse					

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Biological Resources:

The requested refinement area was surveyed for sensitive vegetation communities and special-status plant and wildlife species during initial Project surveys. In addition, the requested refinement area was surveyed in 2019 during the Pre-Activity Survey Report process, in accordance with SDG&E's Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). Other supplemental surveys conducted in 2017, 2018, and 2019 along Transmission Line (TL) 629A included a bat roost assessment, focused surveys, and follow-up surveys for Townsend's bigeared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii) and all other bat species; protocol-level surveys for Hermes copper butterfly (Lycaena hermes); and focused surveys for rare plants.

Replacing the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard with the refinement area will result in a decrease of approximately 0.03 acre of temporary impacts to bare ground and approximately 0.19 acre of temporary impacts to non-native grassland², and an increase of approximately 0.15 acre of temporary impacts to disturbed (ruderal/barren) habitat.³ In addition, there will be a net decrease of 0.07 acre of temporary impacts to United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service-designated critical habitat for arroyo toad (Anaxyrus californicus) and U.S. Forest Service occupied habitat for arroyo toad. The refinement area is considered potential foraging and dispersal habitat for arroyo toad; therefore, exclusion fencing will be installed along the perimeter of the refinement area.

The refinement area abuts a southern riparian forest; minor tree trimming may be required for use of the refinement area, but no ground disturbance will occur underneath the canopy. No special-status plants, specialstatus butterfly host plants, or special-status butterfly habitat occur within the requested refinement. All APMs and 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 any additional impacts. 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 biological resources as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

² The portions of the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard that overlap with temporary pole work areas are not included in these totals.

³ Bare ground and disturbed (ruderal/barren) habitat fall in the Agricultural/Disturbed/Developed/Bare Ground impact category for SDG&E's Subregional NCCP. Non-native grassland falls in the Non-Native Grassland impact category for SDG&E's Subregional NCCP.

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			
Cultural and Paleontological Resources (e.g., cause an adverse change to Traditional Cultural Properties or historical, archeological, or paleontological resources; or disturb any human remains)?						
Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse						

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

The requested refinement area occurs within the Project's area of potential effect, as defined in the Project's Programmatic Agreement. The refinement area was partially surveyed for cultural resources during initial surveys for the Project in 2009. In addition, intensive supplemental pedestrian surveys of the refinement area were conducted by ASM Affiliates, Inc. in 2016, 2018, and 2019. No new cultural resources were recorded, and no previously recorded cultural resources were identified during the supplemental surveys. 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 cultural resources as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

The requested refinement is underlain by geological formations assigned a rank of Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) Class 2 (low sensitivity). Because the refinement does not require excavation 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 analyzed impact to paleontological resources as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Greenhouse Gases (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)?	×	П	
Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant (Class III)/Not adverse	_		

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Greenhouses Gases:

Activities associated with the utilization of the requested refinement area are consistent with the greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. In addition, the requested refinement will result in a decrease in the area of ground disturbance, and will not trigger an exceedance of the GHG threshold of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year or the County of San Diego Climate Action Plan criteria for annual grading and land clearing. 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 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		
Public Health and Safety (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)? Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse	\boxtimes				

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*. In addition, a supplemental survey of the refinement area was conducted by Haley & Aldrich, Inc. and Insignia Environmental in 2019. No known hazardous materials sites are located in the refinement area. 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 public health and safety as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Fire and Fuels Management (e.g., increase the probability of a wildfire, reduce the effectiveness of firefighting, or introduce non-native plants that would contribute to ignition potential)?	\boxtimes	
Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse		

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Fire and Fuels Management:

The requested refinement is located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which was included in 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 analyzed impact to fire and fuels management 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		
Hydrology and Water Quality (e.g., result in increased levels of turbidity, introduce contaminants, deplete groundwater supplies, or degrade water quality)?					
Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Significant and unavoidable (Class I)/Adverse and unavoidable					
Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality:					

The refinement area was partially surveyed for the presence of waters of the state and/or the U.S. (i.e., jurisdictional wetlands or non-wetland waters) during initial Project surveys. Supplemental water resource surveys of the refinement area were conducted in 2018 and 2019. The requested refinement does not contain any waters of the state or the U.S. The Sweetwater River is located approximately 100 feet south of the refinement area, but impacts to the river will be avoided and no jurisdictional water permitting will be required. To minimize potential impacts from erosion and off-site sedimentation during construction, the refinement area will be included in a Change of Information for the Circuit 79A, TL625C, and TL629A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (Waste Discharge Identification #9 37C386349) and submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Multiple Applications and Report Tracking System. 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 hydrology and water quality as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

Land Use (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/EIS evaluation: Significant and unavoidable (Class I)/Adverse and unavoidable	×		
--	---	--	--

Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Land Use:

In accordance with the Construction Notification Plan and MM LU-1, property owners within 1,000 feet of TL629A were notified of construction activities associated with Notice to Proceed #20 on March 18, 2019, and the property owners within 1,000 feet of the requested refinement were included in that notification process. 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 analyzed impact to land use 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		
Noise (e.g., disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances; or cause ground borne vibration)? <i>Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse</i>					
Construction-related noise will be generated within the requested refinement area due to minor vegetation removal and large equipment operation. Similar to the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard, the refinement area is located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors. Potential noise impacts to sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of Project components were analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS. While use of the refinement area may result in temporary increases in noise levels, the impact area will be smaller than required for Stevens Ranch Staging Yard. In addition, with the 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 analyzed impact to noise as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.					
Public Services and Utilities (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)? Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse					
Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts on Public Services and Utilities: The requested refinement will be 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 analyzed impact to public services and utilities as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.					
Recreation (e.g., reduce access and visitation to recreation areas, preclude recreational activities, or result in increased, unauthorized access to specially designated or restricted areas)? Final EIR/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/Adverse	×				
Summary of Proposed Minor Project Refinement Impacts of The requested refinement area is located within the approved TL and Hiking Trail and proposed Descanso Valley Pathway. Cons of the refinement area will not reduce or preclude access or visits areas, nor will it increase the possibility of unauthorized access to Therefore, the requested refinement will not result in a new significant severity of a previously analyzed impact to recreation as identified	629A alignment, istent with the anation to the previous specially design ficant impact or a	alysis in the Fina ously mentioned a nated or restricted a substantial incre	l EIR/EIS, use recreational l areas.		

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	
Transportation and Traffic (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/EIS evaluation: Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)/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. In addition, the total number of truck trips associated with construction of the Project will not change, and the use of the requested refinement area will affect the same roadways as the Stevens Ranch Staging Yard and what was analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS (i.e., River Drive). With the implementation of APM TRANS-01 through APM TRANS-05, potential temporary impacts to the traffic flow will be adequately addressed. 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 transportation and traffic as identified in the Final EIR/EIS.

ATTACHMENT B: PHOTOGRAPHS



Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects

Minor Project Refinement Request #34 Attachment B: Photographs



Photograph 1:

Southeast-facing view of the requested River Drive Staging Yard, as observed on May 2, 2019.



Photograph 2:

Northwest-facing view of the requested River Drive Staging Yard, as observed on May 2, 2019.

ATTACHMENT C: SURVEY AREA MAP

