

CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The following sections (4.1 through 4.15) evaluate the potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) South Bay Substation Relocation Project (Proposed Project). In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project components are evaluated for the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Sections 4.1 through 4.15 include discussions of the existing conditions as they pertain to each resource area, as well as the Proposed Project's potential impacts to these resources. Additionally, at the beginning of each section, a checklist summarizing the level of impact (i.e., No Impact, Less-Than-Significant Impact, Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures, and Potentially Significant Impact) to these resource areas, according to the significance criteria used for analysis, has been included. Section 4.16 Cumulative Analysis discusses past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within the Proposed Project area and the Proposed Project's potential to contribute to a significant cumulative effect.

The Proposed Project would result in no impacts to Agricultural Resources, Land Use and Planning, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems, and less-than-significant impacts to Aesthetics, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Population and Housing. Cumulative impacts would also be less than significant. The Proposed Project would result in potentially significant impacts to the remaining six resource areas; however, with the implementation of applicant-proposed measures (APMs), these impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. The following provides a brief summary of these resource areas and

the primary impacts that would result from the Proposed Project. All of the listed impacts would be reduced to the less-than-significant level by the proposed APMs.

- Air Quality – Temporary impacts to air quality associated with construction activities
- Biological Resources – Permanent impacts to biological resources, including the filling of wetlands and removal of potential sensitive species habitat
- Cultural Resources – Potential for discovery and damage to unknown cultural resources resulting from grading and excavation activities
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources – Potential for permanent impacts associated with expansive soils, differential settling, and seismic ground motion
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials – Temporary and permanent impacts associated with the transport and use of hazardous materials, the potential release of hazardous materials resulting from the demolition of the existing South Bay Substation, and operation of the proposed Bay Boulevard Substation
- Transportation and Traffic – Temporary impacts associated with construction-related road and public right-of-way encroachments

APMs that would be implemented to ensure that all potential impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level are discussed in their relevant sections, as well as summarized in Table 3-18: Applicant-Proposed Measures in Chapter 3 – Project Description.