

1 **Executive Summary**

2
3 **Introduction, Background, and Overview of the Proposed Projects**

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5 Southern California Edison (SCE, or the applicant) filed a Petition for Modification (PFM) of California
6 Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 10-08-009 (CPUC 2010a) granting SCE a Permit to
7 Construct (PTC) the Valley-Ivyglen Subtransmission Line on April 2, 2013 (SCE 2013). On May 23,
8 2014, SCE filed an Amended Petition for Modification (SCE 2014). The CPUC deemed the PFM
9 complete on April 28, 2015.

10
11 SCE filed an application (A.09-09-022) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
12 with the CPUC on September 30, 2009, to construct the Alberhill System Project (proposed Alberhill
13 Project). The applicant filed an amendment to the Alberhill Project application on March 15, 2010,
14 (Application A.09-09-022, amended) and filed amended sections of the Proponent’s Environmental
15 Assessment on April 11, 2011, which were deemed complete on May 26, 2011.

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17 The CPUC is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for review of the
18 Valley-Ivyglen 115-kilovolt (kV) Subtransmission Project (proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project) and the
19 proposed Alberhill Project. The CPUC has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to
20 comply with CEQA.

21
22 This EIR includes descriptions and analysis for the Valley-Ivyglen Project and the Alberhill Project.
23 Both proposed projects would be constructed within the same right-of-way (ROW) from the intersection
24 of Collier Avenue and Third Street in the City of Lake Elsinore, approximately 6.5 miles northwest to the
25 proposed Alberhill Substation site. Within this ROW, the 115-kV conductor required for the proposed
26 Alberhill Project would be installed on the 115-kV structures constructed as part of the proposed Valley-
27 Ivyglen Project. The CPUC determined that it would be in the public’s best interest to consolidate the
28 CEQA analyses for the Alberhill System Project CPCN application and the Valley-Ivyglen Project PFM
29 for a previously-approved PTC into a single CEQA document because the components of the proposed
30 Valley-Ivyglen Project are required for construction of the proposed Alberhill Project and the two
31 projects would be constructed during the same period. Refer to Chapter 1, “Introduction,” for additional
32 background of both proposed projects.

33
34 The proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would involve the construction of a new single-circuit 115-kV
35 subtransmission line¹ and fiber optic line. The proposed Alberhill Project would include a new 500/115-
36 kV substation (Alberhill Substation), new 500-kV transmission lines, new and modified 115-kV
37 subtransmission lines, and telecommunications system installations. A complete description of the
38 proposed projects and associated figures are provided in Chapter 2, “Project Description.”

¹ *Transmission lines* are designed to operate at or above 200 kV (CPUC 1995). For the purposes of this EIR, the term *subtransmission line* refers to powerlines designed to operate at 50 to 200 kV.

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2 **Objectives of the Proposed Projects**

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4 **Valley-Ivyglen Project**

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6 The CPUC developed the following objectives for the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project:

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 - 9 • Serve projected electrical demand requirements in the Electrical Needs Area (ENA);
 - 10 • Increase electrical reliability to ENA by providing a direct connection between the Applicant's Valley 500/115-kV Substation and Ivyglen 115/12-kV Substation; and
 - 11 • Improve operational and maintenance flexibility on subtransmission lines without interruption of
 - 12 service.

13 **Alberhill Project**

14
15 The CPUC developed the following objectives for the proposed Alberhill Project:

- 16 1. Relieve projected electrical demand that would exceed the operating limit of the two load-serving
- 17 Valley South 115-kV System 500/115-kV transformers;
- 18 2. Construct a new 500/115-kV substation within the ENA that provides safe and reliable electrical
- 19 service pursuant to North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Western Electricity
- 20 Coordinating Council standards; and
- 21 3. Maintain system ties between a new 115-kV System and the Valley South 115-kV System that
- 22 enable either of these systems to provide electricity in place of the other during maintenance,
- 23 during emergency events, or to relieve other operational issues on one of the systems.
- 24

25 **Approach to Environmental Review**

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27 As the Lead Agency, the CPUC must determine, through the CEQA process, whether a proposed project

28 would result in significant impacts to the environment, and whether those impacts could be avoided,

29 eliminated, compensated for, or reduced to less than significant levels. This EIR will become part of the

30 body of evidence that the CPUC will use in deciding whether to approve SCE's application for the

31 Valley-Ivyglen Project and SCE's application for the Alberhill System Project.

32

33 The CPUC ~~received~~ ~~is seeking~~ public comments on this Draft EIR ~~and responses~~. ~~The CPUC will respond~~

34 ~~to those comments are contained herein on the Draft EIR, conduct additional analysis as necessary, and~~

35 ~~modify mitigation measures as appropriate~~. If the CPUC approves the projects, CPUC staff would closely

36 monitor the applicant's compliance with the requirements imposed by the mitigation measures contained

37 in Chapter 9.

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39 **Environmental Impacts**

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41 The EIR addresses all potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the public scoping.

42 Table ES-1 summarizes the environment impact for each resource for each project and the mitigation

43 measures implemented for the impacts.

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Projects

Resource	Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Project	Alberhill System Project
Aesthetics	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i> MM AES-1: Staging Area Screening MM AES-2: Segment VIG2 <u>Wood Poles and</u> Undergrounding MM AES-3: Glare Reduction MM AES-4: Lake Street Pole Placement and Landscaping MM AES-5: Night Lighting during Construction	<i>Significant</i> MM AES-1: Staging Area Screening MM AES-3: Glare Reduction MM AES-6: Hillside and Natural Slope Preservation MM AES-7: Alberhill Substation Visual Treatments MM AES-8: Treatment of 500-kV Transmission Towers MM AES-9: Use <u>wood, self-weathering, or galvanized</u> steel poles MM AES-10: Undergrounding on Murrieta Road
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>
Air Quality	<i>Significant</i> MM AQ-1: Minimize NO _x and PM emissions from off-road diesel powered construction equipment MM AQ-2: Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x) Credits. MM AQ-3: <u>Dust Control Plan</u> Additional Fugitive Dust Controls MM AQ-4: Odor Reduction at Staging Yard VIG13	<i>Significant</i> MM AQ-1: Minimize NO _x and PM emissions from off-road diesel powered construction equipment MM AQ-2: Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x) Credits. MM AQ-3: <u>Dust Control Plan</u> Additional Fugitive Dust Controls MM AQ-5: Volatile Organic Compounds Credits
Biological Resources	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i> MM BR-1: Limit Construction to Designated Areas and Avoid Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Areas. MM BR-2: Preconstruction Surveys. MM BR-3: Biological Monitoring During Construction. MM BR-4: Limit Removal of Native Vegetation Communities and Trees. MM BR-5: California gnatcatcher protection measures. MM BR-6: Oak tree protection measures. MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements. MM BR-8: Special Status Plant Avoidance and Mitigation Measures. MM BR-9: Invasive Plant Control Measures. MM BR-10: Prevent Wildlife Entrapment. MM BR-11: Migratory Birds and Raptors Impact Reduction Measures. MM BR-12: Burrowing Owl Impact Reduction Measures. MM BR-13: Trash Abatement.	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i> MM BR-1: Limit Construction to Designated Areas and Avoid Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Areas. MM BR-2: Preconstruction Surveys. MM BR-3: Biological Monitoring During Construction. MM BR-4: Limit Removal of Native Vegetation Communities and Trees. MM BR-5: California gnatcatcher protection measures. MM BR-6: Oak tree protection measures. MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements. MM BR-8: Special Status Plant Avoidance and Mitigation Measures. MM BR-9: Invasive Plant Control Measures. MM BR-10: Prevent Wildlife Entrapment. MM BR-11: Migratory Birds and Raptors Impact Reduction Measures. MM BR-12: Burrowing Owl Impact Reduction Measures. MM BR-13: Trash Abatement.

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Projects

Resource	Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Project	Alberhill System Project
	<p>MM BR-14: Protection of Special Status Species on Castle and Cooke Land.</p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p><u>MM BR-18: Implementation of all Project Commitments</u></p>	<p>MM BR-14: Protection of Special Status Species on Castle and Cooke Land.</p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>MM BR-16: Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Take Avoidance within Core Reserve.</p> <p><u>MM BR-18: Implementation of all Project Commitments</u></p>
Cultural Resources	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM CR-1a: Ensure preconstruction survey coverage of all work areas and staging areas.</p> <p>MM CR-1b: Avoid impacts to known and undiscovered historic resources and unique archaeological resources (except for site P33-000714).</p> <p>MM CR-2: Monitor ground disturbing activities (includes Native American monitoring).</p> <p>MM CR-3: Follow historic resource and unique archaeological resource discovery protocol.</p> <p>MM CR-4: Monitor Paleontologically Sensitive Areas.</p> <p>MM CR-5: Follow Paleontological Resource Discovery Protocol.</p> <p>MM CR-6: Avoid impacts to contributing elements of P33-000714.</p> <p>MM CR-7: Follow Necessary Procedures for Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains.</p>	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM CR-1a: Ensure preconstruction survey coverage of all work areas and staging areas.</p> <p>MM CR-1b: Avoid impacts to known and undiscovered historic resources and unique archaeological resources (except for site P33-000714).</p> <p>MM CR-2: Monitor ground disturbing activities (includes Native American monitoring).</p> <p>MM CR-3: Follow historic resource and unique archaeological resource discovery protocol.</p> <p>MM CR-4: Monitor Paleontologically Sensitive Areas.</p> <p>MM CR-5: Follow Paleontological Resource Discovery Protocol.</p> <p>MM CR-7: Follow Necessary Procedures for Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains.</p>
Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM GE-1: Seismic Safety Training</p>	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM GE-1: Seismic Safety Training</p>
Greenhouse Gases	<p><i>Less than Significant</i></p>	<p><i>Less than Significant</i></p>
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.</p> <p>MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.</p> <p>MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.</p> <p>MM HZ-3: <u>Contacting Affected Land Owners Regarding Underground Facilities DigAlert.</u></p> <p>MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.</p>	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.</p> <p>MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.</p> <p>MM HZ-3: <u>Contacting Affected Land Owners Regarding Underground Facilities DigAlert.</u></p> <p>MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.</p>

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Projects

Resource	Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Project	Alberhill System Project
Hydrology and Water Quality	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.</p> <p>MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements.</p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.</p> <p>MM WQ-2: Drainage crossing procedures and practices.</p> <p>MM WQ-3: Design of access roads with erosion control measures.</p> <p>MM WQ-4: Disposal of groundwater from dewatering excavations.</p> <p>MM WQ-5: Maintain capacity and connectivity of drainages.</p> <p>MM WQ-6: Avoid impeding MDP implementation and function.</p> <p>MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.</p>	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.</p> <p>MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements.</p> <p>MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.</p> <p>MM WQ-2: Drainage crossing procedures and practices.</p> <p>MM WQ-3: Design of access roads with erosion control measures.</p> <p>MM WQ-4: Disposal of groundwater from dewatering excavations.</p> <p>MM WQ-5: Maintain capacity and connectivity of drainages.</p> <p>MM WQ-6: Avoid impeding MDP implementation and function.</p> <p>MM WQ-7: Design detention basin to adequate size.</p> <p>MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.</p>
Land Use and Planning	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM BR-6: Oak tree protection measures.</p> <p>MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements.</p> <p>MM BR-8: Special Status Plant Avoidance and Mitigation Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-11: Migratory Birds and Raptors Impact Reduction Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-12: Burrowing Owl Impact Reduction Measures</p>	<p><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation</i></p> <p>MM BR-2: Preconstruction Surveys.</p> <p>MM BR-3: Biological Monitoring During Construction.</p> <p>MM BR-6: Oak tree protection measures.</p> <p>MM BR-7: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan Requirements.</p> <p>MM BR-8: Special Status Plant Avoidance and Mitigation Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-9: Invasive Plant Control Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-11: Migratory Birds and Raptors Impact Reduction Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-12: Burrowing Owl Impact Reduction Measures.</p> <p>MM BR-16: Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Take Avoidance within Core Reserve</p>

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Projects

Resource	Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Project	Alberhill System Project
Noise and Vibration	Significant MM NV-1: Construction and Maintenance Noise Reduction Measures. MM NV-2: Blasting Vibration Control Measures.	Significant MM NV-1: Construction and Maintenance Noise Reduction Measures. MM NV-3: Low Noise Substation Equipment and Noise Barriers. MM NV-4: Corona Noise Reduction Insulators.
Population and Housing	Less than Significant	Less than Significant
Public Services and Utilities	Less than Significant with Mitigation MM AE-6: Hillside and Natural Slope Preservation MM BR-1: Limit Construction to Designated Areas and Avoid Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Areas. MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs). MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response	Less than Significant with Mitigation MM AE-6: Hillside and Natural Slope Preservation MM BR-1: Limit Construction to Designated Areas and Avoid Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Areas. MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs). MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response
Recreation	Less than Significant	Less than Significant
Transportation	Less than Significant with Mitigation MM TT-1: Traffic Management and Control Plan MM TT-2: Heavy Vehicle Traffic Restrictions. MM TT-3: Highway Closure Plan. MM TT-4: Helicopter Lift Plan. MM TT-5: FAA No-Hazard Determination MM TT-6: Road Damage Repair. MM TT-7: Emergency Service Provider Notification.	Less than Significant with Mitigation MM TT-1: Traffic Management and Control Plan MM TT-2: Heavy Vehicle Traffic Restrictions. MM TT-3: Highway Closure Plan. MM TT-4: Helicopter Lift Plan. MM TT-5: FAA No-Hazard Determination MM TT-6: Road Damage Repair. MM TT-7: Emergency Service Provider Notification.
Cumulative	Significant	Significant

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2 The mitigation measures are further detailed in their respective resource sections and in Chapter 9,
3 “Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan.”
4

5 **Cumulative Impacts and Other CEQA Considerations**

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7 The CEQA Guidelines require that potential cumulative impacts be assessed by developing either a list of
8 past, present, and probable future projects that would produce related or cumulative effects in
9 combination with the proposed project or a summary of projections contained in adopted general plans or
10 related planning documents. The discussion of cumulative impacts presented in Chapter 6, “Cumulative
11 Impacts and Other CEQA Considerations,” of this document describes the potential cumulative impacts
12 for each resource area addressed in Chapter 4, “Environmental Analysis.” An analysis of whether the
13 proposed projects would result in growth-inducing impacts or significant and irreversible environmental
14 changes is presented in Chapter 7, “Other CEQA Considerations.”
15

16 **Alternatives**

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18 Alternatives to the proposed projects have been identified and evaluated in accordance with CEQA
19 Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines (§15126.6[a]) state:

20
21 *An EIR shall describe a reasonable range of alternatives to the project, or to the location of*
22 *the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would*
23 *avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.*
24

25 CEQA Guidelines (§15364) define feasibility as:

26
27 *....capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time,*
28 *taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.*
29

30 Alternatives to the proposed projects were suggested during the scoping period by the public and
31 government agencies after the applicant submitted its applications to the CPUC. Some of the alternatives
32 reviewed in this report were presented in SCE’s applications and others were identified by the CPUC
33 Energy Division as a result of the agency’s independent review. In total, 14 alternatives were identified
34 for the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project and 33 alternatives were identified for the proposed Alberhill
35 Project (Appendix D, “Alternatives Screening Report”).
36

37 The alternatives were evaluated based on a screening process that considered the following criteria: meets
38 the basic objectives of the project, lessens significant impacts, is feasible, and represents a reasonable
39 range of alternatives. Alternatives were eliminated from consideration if they failed to meet these criteria.
40 Six alternatives were retained for further consideration in the EIR for the proposed Valley-Ivyglen
41 Project and three alternatives were retained for further consideration in the EIR for the proposed Alberhill
42 Project. These alternatives are discussed further in Chapter 3, “Description of Alternatives,” and Chapter
43 5, “Consideration of Alternatives,” and include:
44

45 **Valley-Ivyglen Project**

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47 |
48 |
49 |
1. Alternative A - Underground along Campbell Ranch Road (115-kV Segment VIG8)
 2. Alternative B1 - Underground along Santiago Canyon Road (115-kV Segment VIG8)
 3. Alternative B2 - Santiago Canyon Road Underground and Overhead (115-kV Segment VIG8)

4. Alternative C - Underground along Temescal Canyon Road and Horsethief Canyon Road (115-kV Segment VIG6)
5. Alternative M - Underground along the Entire Proposed Project Alignment
6. No Project Alternative

Alberhill Project

1. Alternative B - All Gas-Insulated Switchgear at Proposed Substation Site
2. Alternative DD - Serrano Commerce Center Substation Site
3. No Project Alternative

Major Conclusions of the Draft EIR

The Draft EIR resulted in the following major conclusions:

- **Significant Impacts.** For the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project, three significant adverse impacts have been identified. The proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would result in a significant adverse environmental impact related to Air Quality (Section 4.3), Noise and Vibration (Section 4.11), and Cumulative Impacts (Chapter 6).

For the proposed Alberhill Project, four significant adverse impacts have been identified. The proposed Alberhill Project would result in a significant adverse environmental impact related to Aesthetics (Section 4.1), Air Quality (Section 4.3), Noise and Vibration (Section 4.11), and Cumulative Impacts (Chapter 6).

- **Environmentally Superior Alternative.** None of the alternatives identified for either of the projects are considered environmentally superior to the proposed project (Chapter 5). ~~For the Proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project, VIG Alternative C is the Environmentally Superior Alternative. VIG Alternative C would locate a section of 115-kV Segment VIG6 along Temescal Canyon Road (approximately 1 mile) from Love Lane to Horsethief Road and then south on Horsethief Road to De Palma Road would be installed underground in a new conduit.~~
~~For the Proposed Alberhill Project, ASP Alternative DD is the Environmentally Superior Alternative. ASP Alternative DD would include construction of a 500/115-kV substation, similar to the proposed Alberhill Substation, in an area covered by Riverside County Specific Plan No. 353.~~

Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan

A Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the proposed projects is presented in Chapter 9 of this document. A final Mitigation Monitoring Plan will be prepared for the Final EIR that incorporates any changes to the proposed projects or mitigation measures that are made as a result of public review of the Draft EIR and further consideration of the proposed projects by the CPUC. A Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program will then be prepared if the CPUC approves the proposed projects.