

4.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This section describes the environmental and regulatory settings and discusses impacts that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115-kilovolt (kV) Subtransmission Line Project (proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project) and the proposed Alberhill System Project (proposed Alberhill Project) with respect to hazards and hazardous materials. These projects are currently being proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE, or the applicant).

During scoping for the proposed projects, comments were received regarding concerns over increased fire risk, potential impacts to skydiving, and concerns regarding electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and transmission line safety during significant natural events and traffic accidents. During scoping for the Alberhill Project, commenters were concerned that transmission lines would prevent the use of helicopters for wildfire suppression and would increase fire risk. One commenter expressed concern over fire caused by a transformer blowout. Other concerns included potential impacts on air travel due to proximity to Skylark Field Airport; effects from hazardous materials and wastes. These comments are addressed in this section.

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

Materials and wastes may be considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxicity), can be ignited by open flame (ignitability), corrode other materials (corrosivity), or react violently, explode, or generate vapors when mixed with water (reactivity). The term *hazardous material* is defined as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant current or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment (California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Section 25501(o)). Hazardous materials have the potential to leach into soils, surface water, and groundwater when spilled or released if not properly contained.

In addition to hazardous materials, hazards associated with the proposed projects include potential interference with airport operations, emergency response plans, and increased fire risk. Section 4.15, “Transportation and Traffic,” further discusses transportation hazards, and Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities,” further discusses impacts on public services, including fire and police protection services.

4.8.1.1 Hazardous Materials Sites and Environmental Site Assessments

Government Code Section 65962.5 (often referred to as the “Cortese List”) includes the State Water Resource Control Board’s (SWRCB) Geotracker database, solid waste disposal sites list, Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders list, and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control’s (DTSC’s) EnviroStor database and hazardous waste sites. A review of Cortese List sources did not identify any solid waste disposal sites, Cease and Desist Orders, or Cleanup and Abatement Orders sites within 1,000 feet of the proposed projects. However, as detailed in Table 4.8-1, sites were identified within 1,000 feet of the proposed projects in the SWRCB Geotracker and DTSC EnviroStor databases.

Table 4.8-1 Cortese List Sites within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Projects

Name	Site Type	Location	Distance	Status
Proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project				
Good Hope Gold Mine (60001982)	Mining Operation/ Metals	Intersection of Highway 74 and Richard Street	Adjacent to 115-kV Segment VIG4-	Open—Voluntary Clean-up Program
Pacific Clay (T0606500534)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	14741 Lake street Alberhill, CA	Adjacent to 115-kV Segment VIG5	Closed Case
Sycamore Creek/ Wildrose Ranch (T0600194033)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	15931 Indian Truck Trail Temecula Valley	500 feet south of fiber-optic undergrounding	Closed Case
Proposed Alberhill Project				
Good Hope Gold Mine (60001982)	Mining Operation/ Metals	Intersection of Highway 74 and Richard Street	Adjacent to 115-kV Segment ASP2	Open—Voluntary Clean-up Program
Pacific Clay (T0606500534)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	14741 Lake street Alberhill, CA	Adjacent to 115-kV Segment ASP2	Closed Case
Mobil #18-991 (T0606500318)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	31702 Mission Trail Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 100 feet west of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Open – Remediation
ARCO #5346 (T060658567)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	250 Diamond Drive Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 100 feet east of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Open – Remediation
So. Cal. Gas/ Elsinore MGP (33490082)	Historic Gas Manufacturing Plant/ PAH	226 West Flint Street Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 1,000 feet south west of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Closed Case Certified Voluntary Clean-up Program
76 Station #5739 (T0606500046)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	265 Railroad Canyon Road Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 500 feet west of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Closed Case
Arco #3067 (T0606500070)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	265 San Jacinto River Road Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 200 feet north east of 115-kV Segment ASP4 - Proposed Alberhill Project	Closed Case
Circle K #0708 (T0606500313)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	32510 Mission Trail Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 100 feet east of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Closed Case
Elsinore Valley Water District (T0606500259)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	33751 Mission Trail Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 100 feet west of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Closed Case
Laidlaw Transit (T0606500097)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	609 W Minthorn Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 200 feet south west of 115-kV Segment ASP4 - Proposed Alberhill Project	Closed Case
Rightway (T0606500035)	LUFT Site/ Petroleum Hydrocarbons	653 W Minthorn Lake Elsinore, CA	Less than 200 feet south west of 115-kV Segment ASP4	Closed Case

Sources: DTSC 2015a,b; SWRCB 2015a,b,c

Key:

CA = California

kV = kilovolt

LUFT = Leaking Underground Fuel Tank

PAH = Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

1 **Environmental Site Assessments**

2 A Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) was conducted for the proposed Alberhill Substation
3 site in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials International Standards E 1527-05.
4 The Phase I ESA identified four septic tanks and associated leach areas, a water well, and an
5 aboveground water tank (Rubicon 2009a). Although no recognized environmental conditions were
6 identified by the Phase I ESA, a Phase II ESA was conducted to test soil in proximity to the four septic
7 systems, well water, and water in the aboveground tank. Additionally, lead- and asbestos-containing
8 materials identified during the assessments were removed from the site (McKenna Environmental 2010).
9 Abandonment and abatement of the water well and septic systems are discussed in Section 2.4.4.1,
10 “Demolition of Horse Ranch Facilities and Weed Abatement” and Section 4.9, “Hydrology and Water
11 Quality.”
12

13 The Phase II ESA soil samples showed low concentrations of nitrate, acetone, benzene, and petroleum
14 hydrocarbons. The well water and water in the tank were shown to contain low concentrations of nitrate
15 that are well below maximum contaminant levels established by the U.S. Environmental Protection
16 Agency (U.S. EPA). Oil and grease in the water in the tank was found at 19.6 milligrams per liter, which
17 exceeds the 15 milligrams per liter limit established by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control
18 Board. No oil or grease was found in the well water, and no other contaminants were found in the water
19 samples tested. The depth to ground water, relative to the top of water well casing, was recorded at 7.5
20 feet (Rubicon 2009b).
21

22 A Phase I ESA was not conducted along the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project 115-kV subtransmission
23 segments or the proposed Alberhill Project 115-kV subtransmission segments and 500-kV transmission
24 lines. The alignment of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV subtransmission segments would be
25 approximately 27 miles long and constructed within approximately 23 miles of new ROW. It is not
26 anticipated that hazardous wastes or soil contaminated with hazardous materials would be encountered
27 along the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV subtransmission segments because the proposed route would
28 be situated primarily in relatively non-industrial and undeveloped areas with no history of activities that
29 would suggest contamination. However, the applicant would perform Phase I ESAs for the new ROW
30 once acquired. Similar to the proposed Valley-Ivyglen segments, it is not anticipated that hazardous
31 wastes or soil contaminated with hazardous materials would be encountered along the proposed Alberhill
32 115-kV subtransmission segments. The applicant does not yet own the property proposed for siting the
33 Alberhill 500-kV transmission lines. However, the applicant would perform Phase I ESAs and any
34 subsequent ESAs when acquiring property in fee or in easement.
35

36 **Environmental Abatement Activities**

37 The applicant removed two single-family residences, one mobile home, two garages, one barn, one shed,
38 and a concrete animal shelter from the proposed Alberhill Substation site during demolition and weed
39 abatement activities conducted from September 8 through September 20, 2011, and December 12 through
40 December 15, 2011 (Chapter 2.0, “Project Description”). No foundations were removed, and no grading
41 occurred. Prior to demolition activities, the applicant complied with requirements of the Riverside
42 County Department of Building and Safety demolition permit, including demolishing each structure
43 completely and removing all debris, disposing of debris in an approved landfill, obtaining an asbestos
44 clearance permit, and complying with County inspection requirements. All materials from horse ranch
45 demolition were delivered to an approved disposal, recycling, or landfill facility, and all hazardous waste
46 was disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility. No contaminated soil or groundwater was
47 encountered during demolition activities (SCE 2011). Thirty cubic yards of wood piles treated with
48 creosote on the site were broken off at the ground level; the aboveground portion of the poles was
49 recovered by the applicant.

1
2 During demolition activities that occurred in 2011, the applicant implemented, when needed, a number of
3 best management practices (BMPs) specified by the California Stormwater Quality Association to avoid
4 or reduce impacts from upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. These
5 BMPs included, among others: vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance measures for preventing
6 fuel spills and leaks; spill prevention and control measures for training workers and containing and
7 properly disposing of spilled materials; and waste management measures for the training of workers and
8 containment of waste to prevent the discharge of pollutants. A complete list of BMPs for demolition
9 activities at the proposed Alberhill Substation site is provided in Appendix G.

10
11 **4.8.1.2 Schools**

12
13 School facilities located within 0.25 miles of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen or Alberhill Projects are
14 presented in Table 4.8-2.
15

Table 4.8-2 Schools within 0.25 Miles of the Proposed Projects

School	Address	Approximate Distance
Proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project Components		
Todd Elementary School	25105 Mayhew Canyon Road, Corona	0.23 miles south of VIG fiber optic line along Campbell Ranch Road.
Learning Tree Preschool	26704 Murrieta Road, Menifee	0.24 miles south of 115-kV Segment VIG1
Southern California Online Academy Campus (Gordon Kiefer Independent Study School and TriValley Community Day School also share the same Lake Elsinore Unified School District campus)	1405 Education Way Lake Elsinore,	0.11 miles southwest of Staging Area VIG6 and Adjacent to Staging Area VIG14
Ortega High School and Valley Adult School Campus (Keith McCarthy Academy and Lake Elsinore Head Start occupy rooms at the same Lake Elsinore Unified School District campus)	520 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore	0.11 miles southwest of Staging Area VIG6 and Adjacent to Staging Area VIG14
Proposed Alberhill Project Components		
Southern California Online Academy Campus (Gordon Kiefer Independent Study School and TriValley Community Day School also share the same Lake Elsinore Unified School District campus)	1405 Education Way Lake Elsinore	0.25 miles southwest of 115-kV Segment ASP3
Ortega High School and Valley Adult School Campus (Keith McCarthy Academy and Lake Elsinore Head Start occupy rooms at the same Lake Elsinore Unified School District campus)	520 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore	0.25 miles southwest of 115-kV Segment ASP3
Railroad Canyon Elementary School	1300 Mill Street, Lake Elsinore	0.16 miles west of 115-kV Segment ASP4
St. Frances of Rome Preschool	21591 Lemon Street, Wildomar	0.15 miles north of 115-kV Segment ASP5

Table 4.8-2 Schools within 0.25 Miles of the Proposed Projects

School	Address	Approximate Distance
Menifee Valley Middle School	26255 Garbani Road, Menifee	0.10 miles east of 115-kV Segment ASP6
Learning Tree Preschool	26704 Murrieta Road, Menifee	0.21 miles south of 115-kV Segment ASP8

Sources: Riverside County Office of Education 2015; Lake Elsinore Unified School District 2015; Menifee School District 2014; Google Earth 2015; Yellow Pages 2015a

Key:

VIG = Valley-Ivyglen

kV = kilovolt

4.8.1.3 Airports and Airstrips

Skylark Field Airport is a private use airport located approximately 1,000 feet west of proposed 115-kV Segments ASP4 and ASP5 (Figure 2-2a). Skylark Field Airport is primarily used for skydiving and gliders. The Perris Valley Airport is located approximately 1.5 miles north/northwest of 115-kV Segments VIG1 and ASP8. Perris Valley Airport primarily serves as a departing point for jump aircrafts and as a skydiver landing location. Perris Valley Airport is privately owned; however, for State Airport Permit purposes, the airport is considered a public-use facility. (Riverside County ALUC 2004a,b, 2010).

The applicant may access local airports to stage helicopters during construction of the proposed projects. In addition, the applicant may use Chino Airport (approximately 18 miles northwest of Ivyglen Substation) for helicopter staging. Chino Airport is a public use airport (AirNav 2015). These airports are further discussed in Section 4.15, “Transportation and Traffic.”

4.8.1.4 Emergency Response

Emergency response time is defined as the speed at which fire, police, and ambulance services effectively respond to an emergency or emergency call. Law enforcement in the proposed project area is provided through the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department under contract with the cities of Lake Elsinore, Perris, Wildomar, and Menifee (Riverside County Sheriff 2015a,b). The California Highway Patrol also provides support to these jurisdictions.

The Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), provides fire and emergency services to residents of unincorporated areas of Riverside County and to numerous cities, including the cities of Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Perris, and Wildomar (RCFD 2015). The RCFD is also the Operational Area Coordinator for the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System for all fire service jurisdictions in Riverside County and has several mutual and automatic aid agreements with other cities as well as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

4.8.1.5 Fire Hazards

The Riverside Unit of CAL FIRE implements the Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan (CAL FIRE 2005). Although much of western Riverside County is identified as a potential wildfire area, the proposed projects would be located in areas that have significant potential to experience large, destructive wildfires (County of Riverside 2008). Additionally, the Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan identified equipment as the primary ignition source of wildland fires in the Riverside Unit between 1995 and 2005 (CAL FIRE 2005).

1 A significant portion of Riverside County is undeveloped and consists of rugged topography with highly
2 flammable indigenous vegetation. In particular, the hillside terrain of Riverside County has a substantial
3 fire risk. Fire potential for the County is typically greatest in the months of August, September, and
4 October, when dry vegetation coexists with hot, dry Santa Ana winds. However, fires with conflagration
5 potential can occur at any time of the year in the County (County of Riverside 2008).

6
7 CAL FIRE identifies and maps areas of significant fire and wildland fire hazards based on fuels, terrain,
8 weather, and other relevant factors. These areas include Fire Hazard Severity Zones, State Responsibility
9 Areas, and Local Responsibility Areas (CAL FIRE 2007, 2009, 2010). State Responsibility Areas and
10 Local Responsibility Areas establish whether the state or the local government, respectively, has the
11 responsibility for wildland fire protection. Components of the proposed projects would be constructed
12 within areas classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Figure 4.8-1).

13
14 Adopted fire hazard severity zone data are not yet available for all Local Responsibility Areas. Therefore,
15 proposed 115-kV segments within areas where adopted severity zone data are not yet available (e.g., 115-
16 kV Segment ASP3) are assumed to be within either high or moderate fire hazard severity zones (Figure
17 4.8-1). The microwave dish antenna proposed to be installed on an existing tower at the applicant's
18 Serrano Substation in the City of Orange is located in a very high fire hazard severity zone (CAL FIRE
19 2011).

21 **4.8.1.6 Electromagnetic Fields**

22
23 EMFs occur both naturally and as a result of human activity across a broad electrical spectrum. Naturally
24 occurring EMFs are caused by the weather and the earth's geomagnetic field. The fields caused by
25 human activity result from technological application of the electromagnetic spectrum for uses such as
26 communications, appliances, and the generation, transmission, and local distribution of electricity.

27
28 After several decades of study regarding potential public health and safety risks associated with EMF
29 from power lines, research results remain inconclusive. In 1993, the California Public Utilities
30 Commission (CPUC) implemented decision D.93 11-013, which requires utilities to use "low-cost or no-
31 cost" EMF reduction measures for EMFs associated with electrical facilities requiring certification under
32 CPUC GO 131-D. The decision directed utilities to use a 4 percent benchmark for low-cost measures.
33 The applicant included a Field Management Plan as part of its applications for the proposed projects that
34 describes the EMF reduction measures that would be part of the proposed projects. This decision also
35 implemented a number of EMF measurement, research, and education programs. The CPUC did not
36 adopt any specific numerical limits on or regulation of EMF levels related to electric power facilities.

37
38 The CPUC's January 27, 2006, decision (D.06-01-042) affirmed the 1993 decision on the low-cost/no-
39 cost policy to mitigate EMF exposure for new utility transmission and substation projects. Additionally,
40 the 2006 decision directs the CPUC's Energy Division to pursue and review all available studies
41 regarding EMF and to review scientific information and report on new findings. The CPUC has been
42 unable to determine whether there is a significant scientifically verifiable relationship between EMF
43 exposure and negative health consequences, and no change to the CPUC EMF policy has been made to
44 date. The CPUC will reconsider its EMF policies and open a new rulemaking, as necessary, if new
45 findings indicate negative EMF health impacts.

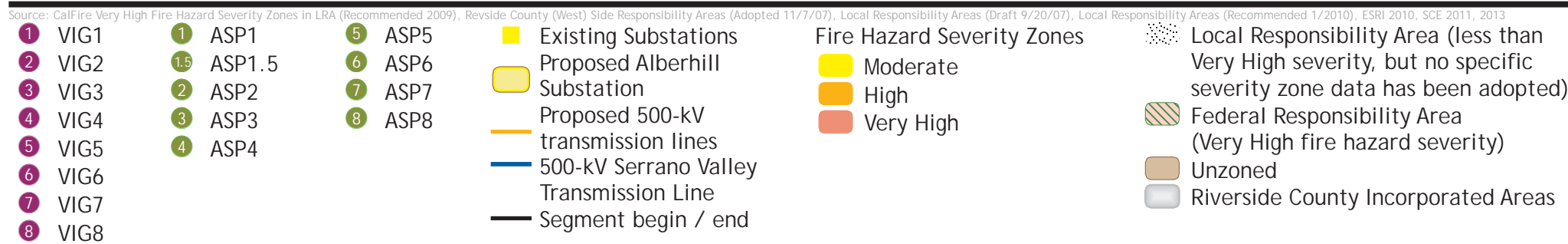
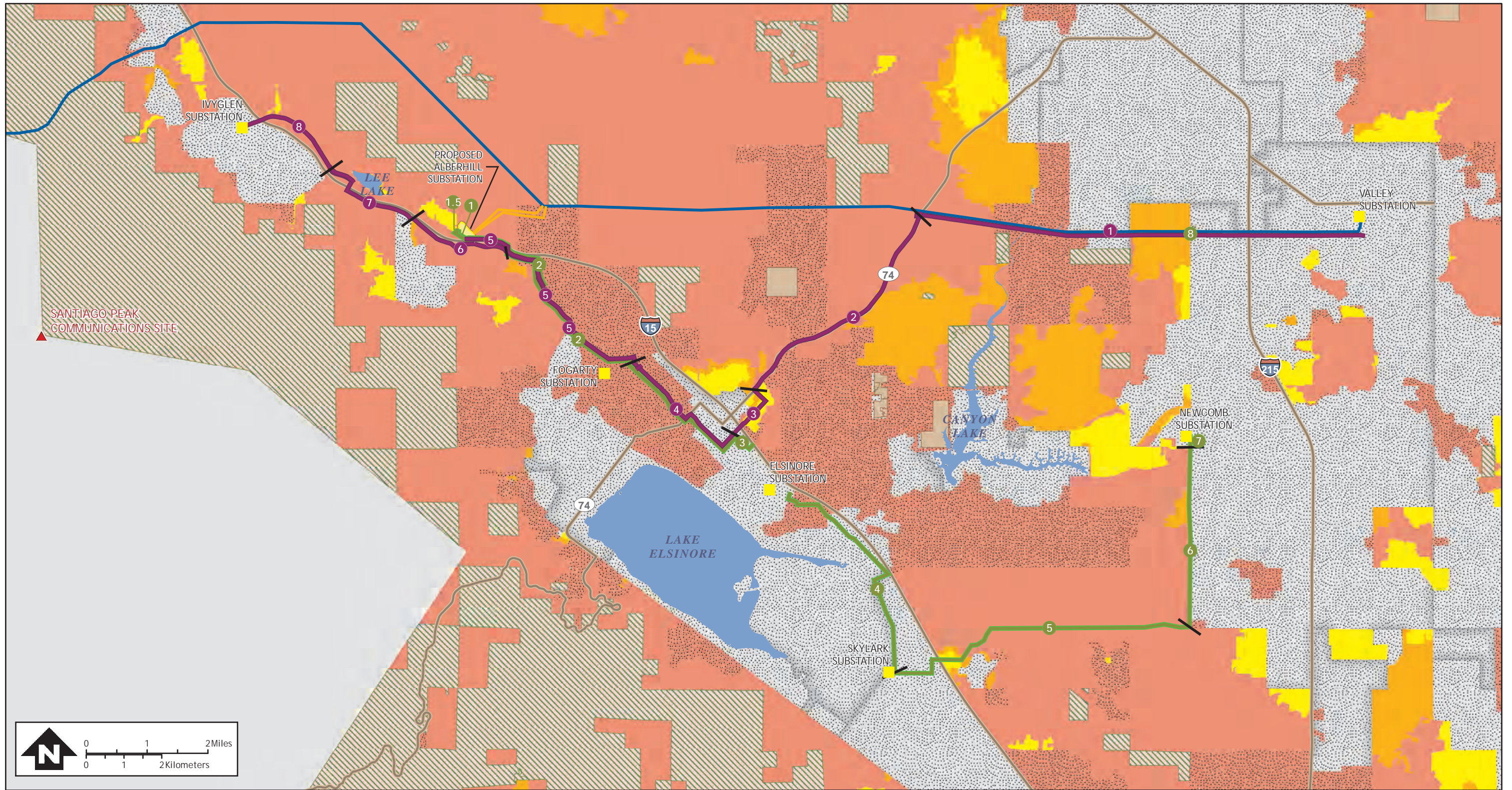


Figure 4.8-1
 Fire Hazard Severity
 Alberhill and Valley-Ivyglen Projects
 Riverside County, California

1
2 At present, the CPUC does not consider EMFs, in the context of the California Environmental Quality
3 Act (CEQA), to be an environmental impact because there is no agreement among scientists that EMFs
4 create a potential health risk and because CEQA does not define or adopt standards for defining any
5 potential risk from EMFs. Therefore, EMFs are not addressed in the Environmental Impacts and
6 Mitigation Measures section of this document. For further information about EMFs and CPUC
7 guidelines, refer to the CPUC’s web page:
8 <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Environment/ElectroMagnetic+Fields>.

9 10 **4.8.1.7 Blasting/Fracturing Hazard**

11
12 Blasting or fracturing would not be required as part of the proposed Alberhill Project. For the proposed
13 Valley-Ivyglen Project, blasting or fracturing may be required where rock is present to install the
14 proposed structures along 115-kV Segments VIG1, VIG2, VIG5, VIG6, and VIG8. Blasting or fracturing
15 would only occur in areas that require excavation and where subsurface obstructions reasonably preclude
16 excavation using conventional construction equipment. Blasting or fracturing may be required during
17 access road construction, site preparation, excavation work, or foundation work. Structure and access
18 road sites that may require blasting, further description about blasting and fracturing activities, and a list
19 of explosive or expansive agents that may be used are provided under the “Blasting and Fracturing”
20 heading in Section 2.4.5.4, “115-kV Structure Construction.”

21 22 **4.8.2 Regulatory Setting**

23 24 **4.8.2.1 Federal**

25 26 ***Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act***

27 The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known
28 as Superfund, outlines regulations for the cleanup of toxic waste sites nationwide. In 1986, Superfund
29 was amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III, also known as the
30 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. SARA Title III and the Clean Air Act of 1990
31 established a nationwide emergency planning and response program and imposed reporting requirements
32 for businesses that store, handle, or produce significant quantities of extremely hazardous materials.
33 These acts require states to implement a comprehensive system to inform local agencies and the public
34 when a significant quantity of such material is stored or handled at a facility. There are no known
35 CERCLA sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area.

36
37 When properties are purchased for commercial uses, All Appropriate Inquiries must be completed as part
38 of due diligence activities. All Appropriate Inquiries is a process of evaluating a property’s environmental
39 conditions and assessing the likelihood of contamination. If All Appropriate Inquiries are not completed
40 pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §312.21 and U.S. EPA requirements, the buyer may
41 be liable for environmental issues and cleanups of the property. The U.S. EPA recognizes American
42 Society for Testing and Materials International standards for Environmental Site Assessments as being
43 compliant with All Appropriate Inquiries requirements (U.S. EPA 2009).

44 45 ***Resource Conservation and Recovery Act***

46 The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates hazardous waste from the time that
47 waste is generated through to its management, storage, transport, treatment, and final disposal. The U.S.
48 EPA has authorized the DTSC to administer the State’s RCRA programs. A RCRA hazardous waste
49 exhibits at least one of four characteristics—ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity. To keep track

1 of hazardous waste activities, treatment, storage, and disposal facility owners and operators must keep
2 certain records and submit reports to the U.S. EPA at regular intervals. All facilities that generate,
3 transport, recycle, treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste are required to notify the U.S. EPA (or its
4 state agency) of their hazardous waste activities. A U.S. EPA Identification Number must be obtained
5 unless the waste has been excluded from regulation or exempted. Sections 3002 and 3004 of RCRA
6 require that the U.S. EPA collect information pertaining to hazardous waste management from hazardous
7 waste generators and hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities every two years. This act
8 is relevant to the proposed projects because used hazardous waste from construction and operation of the
9 proposed projects is regulated under this act.

11 ***Hazardous Materials Transportation Act***

12 The primary objective of the Hazardous Material Transportation Act is to provide adequate protection
13 against risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. This
14 act empowers the Department of Transportation to regulate the transportation of hazardous materials,
15 including explosives, by rail, aircraft, vessel, or public highway. Hazardous materials regulations are
16 subdivided by function into the following four areas within 49 CFR Parts 101, 106, 107, 171 to 177, and
17 178 to 180: Procedures and/or Policies, Material Designations, Packaging Requirements, and Operational
18 Rules. The transportation of all hazardous materials to and from the proposed project area during
19 construction and operation would be regulated by this act.

21 ***Oil Pollution Prevention***

22 The objective of the oil pollution prevention regulation in 40 CFR Part 112 is to prevent oil discharges
23 from reaching navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines. This regulation was also
24 written to ensure effective response to oil discharge. It further requires that proactive measures be used to
25 respond to oil discharge. It contains two major types of requirements: prevention requirements (the Spill
26 Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure [SPCC] rule) and Facility Response Plan requirements.

27
28 SPCC plans are required for facilities that are non-transportation-related, have an aggregate aboveground
29 storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or a completely buried storage capacity greater than 42,000
30 gallons, and a reasonable expectation of a discharge into or upon navigable waters of the United States
31 via drainage into Temescal Wash, which flows into the Santa Ana River (Figure 4.9-1 and Section 4.9,
32 “Hydrology and Water Quality”). An SPCC plan would be required for the operation of the proposed
33 Alberhill Substation because the facility would store more than 1,320 gallons of transformer oil in the
34 transformers, which could reasonably discharge into navigable waters (40 CFR Parts 112.1–112.7). The
35 Riverside County Environmental Health Department is responsible for administering SPCC plans in
36 Riverside County. The applicant has existing SPCC plans for the Valley and Ivyglen substations.

38 ***Transformer Oil Transport and Recycling***

39 Title 49 CFR Part 130 applies to the transport of transformer oil (mineral oil) when shipped in containers
40 of 3,500 gallons or more. Each transformer proposed for the Alberhill Substation would contain 33,550
41 gallons of mineral oil. According to 49 CFR Part 130, containers used for the transportation of oil subject
42 to this part must be designed, constructed, maintained, closed, and loaded such that under conditions
43 normally incident to transportation, there will be no release of oil to the environment. In addition, a
44 response plan must be developed pursuant to 49 CFR Part 130 requirements. Standards for recycling used
45 transformer oil are established in 40 CFR Part 279.

1 **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

2 The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) administers Occupational Safety and
3 Health Standards (CFR Title 29) that establish regulations for safety in the workplace and construction
4 safety, including safety regarding the use of helicopters and explosives for construction.

5
6 OSHA standards require implementation of a Hazard Communication Plan to identify and inventory all
7 hazardous materials and material safety data sheets. OSHA's standards also require employee training in
8 safe handling of hazardous materials. OSHA standards are relevant to the proposed projects because their
9 construction and operation would involve the use of heavy-duty equipment, helicopters, and heavy-duty
10 and lighter vehicles that may pose health and safety risks to workers. In addition, workers would handle
11 and use chemical substances.

12
13 OSHA blasting and explosives standards (29 CFR 1926.90) are applicable to the proposed Valley-
14 Ivyglen Project. OSHA standards outline requirements for the use and storage of explosives at job sites
15 and the protection of worker safety. OSHA standards permit only authorized and qualified persons to
16 handle and use explosives (OSHA 1993).

17
18 **Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives**

19 In addition to OSHA, explosives are regulated by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and
20 Explosives under 27 CFR 555, which outlines the requirements for the commerce of explosives. The
21 Federal Department of Transportation also has jurisdiction over explosives as discussed above under the
22 "Hazardous Materials Transportation Act" heading (BATF 2015).

23
24 **Federal Aviation Administration**

25 Under 14 CFR Part 77.9, notification of construction or alteration to the Federal Aviation Administration
26 (FAA) is required for any structures exceeding 200 feet in height. Notification is also required for public
27 use airports with runways more than 3,200 feet long if construction or alteration would exceed a slope of
28 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest runway. Two airports are located in
29 proximity to proposed project area (refer to Section 4.8.1.3, "Airports and Airstrips"). FAA regulations
30 regarding helicopter use for construction of the proposed projects are discussed in Section 4.15,
31 "Transportation and Traffic."

32
33 **United States Forest Service Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan**

34 The Cleveland National Forest includes the east-facing slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains, which, in
35 lower elevations, are almost completely developed with urban and residential uses. This area is defined
36 as Elsinore Place in the Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan. At the top of the slopes is
37 Santiago Peak (5,600 feet), the tallest peak in the Santa Ana Range. Two microwave dish antennas would
38 be installed on an existing antenna tower at the Santiago Peak Communications Site, which is managed
39 by the USFS. Although the western side of the communication site is located within Orange County, and
40 the eastern side is located within Riverside County, the site is administered by the USFS. Only the
41 Orange County side of the communication site would be accessed during construction and operation of
42 the proposed Alberhill Project.

43
44 Wildland fires have resulted in high levels of property and resource losses in the Elsinore Place area. The
45 plan includes several program strategies and tactics for preventing fire, such as installing Wildland-
46 Urban Interface Defense and Threat Zone vegetation treatments and ensuring that defensible spaces are
47 adequate to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire. The plan also includes the goal for development
48 of a hazardous material management plan (USFS 2005a). Part 3 of the plan includes *Guidelines for*

1 *Communication Tower Siting*. One of the guideline addresses fuel storage tanks associated with
2 generators and other facilities. The guideline indicate that fuel storage tanks shall meet current fire
3 department, federal, state, and local safety and hazardous materials requirements and that fuel storage
4 shall be consolidated into one tank large enough to accommodate all tenants in a facility (USFS 2005b).

6 **4.8.2.2 State**

8 ***Hazardous Materials and Waste***

9 California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 defines the term *hazardous material* as any material
10 that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant
11 present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Hazardous materials
12 include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or
13 the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and
14 safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Title
15 8, Section 339 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) lists substances identified as *hazardous*
16 *substances* for which employers must provide material safety data sheets to employees.

17
18 CCR Title 22, Section 66261.1 identifies wastes that are subject to regulation as hazardous wastes and
19 that are subject to the notification requirements pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code. The
20 code defines a waste as hazardous if it has any of the following characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity,
21 reactivity, or toxicity. It also includes hazardous wastes listed pursuant to RCRA, non-RCRA hazardous
22 wastes, hazardous wastes from specific sources, extremely hazardous wastes, hazardous wastes of
23 concern, and special wastes. The U.S. EPA has authorized the DTSC to administer the RCRA program in
24 California.

25
26 Under federal regulations, transformer oil, under most intended uses, would become used oil, the
27 recycling of which is regulated by 40 CFR 279. Use resulting in chemical or physical change or
28 contamination may also subject it to regulation as hazardous waste, which is also managed under 40 CFR
29 279. In California, however, all used oil is managed as hazardous waste until tested to show it is not
30 hazardous (Health and Safety Code section 25250.4). Requirements for the transport of hazardous waste,
31 including driver training, are established in CCR Title 26.

33 ***Extremely Hazardous Substances***

34 The CEQA Guidelines identify “extremely hazardous substances” as those defined by Section
35 25532(2)(g) of the California Health and Safety Code. These include the substances listed in Appendix A
36 of Part 355 (commencing with Section 355.10) of 40 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter J that provides a list of
37 extremely hazardous substances and their threshold planning quantities. The CEQA Guidelines define
38 “hazardous air emissions” as emissions of air contaminants identified as toxic by the California Air
39 Resources Board or the designated air pollution control officer. These include substances identified in
40 Section 44321(a to f) of the California Health and Safety Code.

42 ***Treated Wood Waste***

43 Section 25150.7 of the California Health and Safety Code outlines procedures and regulations for the
44 management and disposal of treated wood waste. Wood waste, including the type of wood utility poles
45 that would be disposed of as part of the proposed projects, may be treated with pesticides and other
46 chemicals to protect the wood. Because the chemical treatments could leach into water supplies when
47 disposed of, Section 25150.7 was developed to restrict how and where treated wood waste can be

1 disposed of. The U.S. EPA also has guidance, but not regulations, on the handling of creosote-treated
2 poles (US EPA 2015).

4 ***Certified Unified Program Agency and Hazardous Materials Plans***

5 Administration of the certified unified agency program is authorized by the California Health and Safety
6 Code (Chapter 6.11, Sections 25404-25404.8) and CCR Title 27, Division 1, Subdivision 4, Chapter 1,
7 Sections 15100–15620. This program is implemented at the local level by government agencies certified
8 by the secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. The program consolidates,
9 coordinates, and makes consistent the administrative requirements, permits, inspections, and enforcement
10 activities of environmental and emergency response programs, including Hazardous Materials Release
11 Response Plans and Inventories (i.e., Hazardous Materials Business Plans [HMBPs]), SPCC plans, and
12 Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Program permits (Bunchek personal
13 communication 2011).

14
15 The Riverside County Hazardous Materials Management Division, a division of the Riverside County
16 Department of Environmental Health, is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Riverside
17 County. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is responsible for ensuring implementation of the
18 Hazardous Materials Management Plans and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement Programs
19 (California Health and Safety Code Section 25404 and CCR Sections 15100, 15160, and 15330), which
20 are overseen by the CUPA.

22 ***Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Act of 1985***

23 The Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Act, also known as the Business Plan
24 Act, requires businesses using hazardous materials to prepare a plan that describes their facilities,
25 inventories, emergency response plans, and training programs. Hazardous materials are defined under
26 this act as raw or unused materials that are part of a process or manufacturing step. Health concerns
27 pertaining to the release of hazardous materials are similar to those relating to hazardous waste.

28
29 California Health and Safety Code (Section 25503.5) requires a business plan for emergency response for
30 facilities that store hazardous materials in excess of 55 gallons (liquid), 500 pounds (solid), or 200 cubic
31 feet (gas). Facilities that handle more than these indicated quantities of hazardous materials must submit
32 an HMBP to the CUPA prior to project construction. The proposed Alberhill Project, which would
33 include the installation of transformers that would each contain 33,550 gallons of transformer oil, would
34 be required to implement an HMBP for construction and operations (Bunchek personal communication
35 2011). In California, all used oil is managed as hazardous waste until tested to show it is not hazardous
36 (Health and Safety Code section 25250.4). The applicant would be required to submit an HMBP to the
37 CUPA for project construction and operation. In general, the HMBPs describe and identify storage areas
38 for hazardous materials and waste; describe appropriate handling, storage, and disposal techniques; and
39 include measures for avoiding and addressing spills. The proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project does not
40 include installation of transformers.

42 ***Hazardous Waste Control Act***

43 The Hazardous Waste Control Act established the state hazardous waste management program, which is
44 similar to, but more stringent than, RCRA program requirements. CCR Title 26 describes the
45 requirements for the proper management of hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Control Act,
46 including the following:

- 48 • Identification and classification;

- 1 • Generation and transportation;
- 2 • Design and permitting of recycling, treatment, storage and disposal facilities;
- 3 • Treatment standards;
- 4 • Operation of facilities and staff training; and
- 5 • Closure of facilities and liability requirements.

6
7 These regulations list more than 800 materials that may be hazardous and establish criteria for the
8 identification, packaging and disposal of such waste. Under the Hazardous Waste Control Act, and Title
9 26, the generator of hazardous waste must document waste from generation to transporter to disposal.
10 Copies of this documentation must be filed with the DTSC.

11
12 The DTSC operates programs to protect California from exposure to hazardous wastes through the
13 following practices and procedures:

- 14 • Handling of the aftermath of improper hazardous waste management by overseeing site cleanup;
- 15 • Prevention of the release of hazardous waste by ensuring that those who generate, handle,
16 transport, store, and dispose of wastes do so properly;
- 17 • Enforcement against those who fail to appropriately management hazardous wastes;
- 18 • Exploration and promotion of measures to prevent pollution and encourage reuse and recycling;
- 19 • Evaluation of site-specific soil, water, and air samples and the development of new analytical
20 methods;
- 21 • Practice in other environmental sciences, including toxicology, risk assessment and technology
22 development; and
- 23 • Involvement of the public in the DTSC’s decision-making.

24
25
26 Hazardous wastes that may be encountered or generated during the construction and operation of the
27 proposed projects would be subject to the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Control Act.

28
29 ***Emergency Services Act***

30 Under the Emergency Services Act, the state developed an emergency response plan to coordinate
31 emergency services provided by federal, state, and local agencies. Rapid response to incidents involving
32 hazardous material or hazardous waste is an important segment of the plan administered by the California
33 Emergency Management Agency. The California Emergency Management Agency coordinates the
34 response of agencies, including the California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department
35 of Transportation, California Highway Patrol, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, air quality
36 management districts, and county disaster response offices.

37
38 ***Government Code Section 65962.5: Cortese List***

39 The Cortese List includes all hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action; land designated as
40 hazardous waste property or border zone property; information received by the DTSC about hazardous
41 waste disposals on public land; sites listed pursuant to Section 25356 of the Health and Safety Code
42 (removal and remedial action sites); and sites included in the Abandoned Site Assessment Program. As
43 noted in Section 4.8.1.1, “Hazardous Materials Sites,” the Cortese List includes the State Water Resource

1 Control Board’s (SWRCB) Geotracker database, solid waste disposal sites list, Cease and Desist Orders
2 and Cleanup and Abatement Orders list; and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control’s
3 (DTSC’s) EnviroStor database and hazardous waste sites. Pursuant to Government Code Section
4 65962.5, the DTSC compiles and updates the Cortese List as appropriate, and at least annually.
5

6 **California Fire Code and Public Resources Code**

7 The California Fire Code is Part 9 of CCR Title 24 (the California Building Standards Code). The
8 California Fire Code incorporates, by adoption, the International Code Council’s International Fire Code
9 with amendments specific to California. All facilities constructed as part of the proposed projects must
10 comply with the fire codes established by Title 24 and as amended by local jurisdictions. Title 24 is
11 further discussed in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.”
12

13 **California Public Resources Code**

14 The California Public Resources Code includes fire safety regulations that restrict the use of equipment
15 that may produce a spark, flame, or fire; require the use of spark arrestors on construction equipment that
16 has an internal combustion engine; specify requirements for the safe use of gasoline-powered tools in fire
17 hazard areas; and specify fire suppression equipment that must be provided onsite for various types of
18 work in fire prone areas. The Public Resources Code requirements apply to construction activities in
19 areas designated by CAL FIRE as State Responsibility Areas with substantial wildland fire risk
20 (California Public Resources Code Section 4125). The proposed project area would be located on CAL
21 FIRE State Responsibility Areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Figure 4.8-1).
22

23 California Public Resources Code Sections 4292 and 4293 address vegetation management in
24 transmission (and subtransmission) line corridors. Within CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas that
25 include mountainous land, forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land, owners and
26 managers of electrical transmission lines are required to maintain a firebreak consisting of a clearing of
27 not less than 10 feet in each horizontal direction from the outer circumference of structures that support
28 electrical infrastructure that could be a source of ignitions and therefore present a fire risk, including
29 switches, fuses, transformers, and lightning arresters. California Public Resources Code Section 4293
30 requires the felling, cutting, or trimming of dead, rotten, decayed, diseased, or otherwise weakened trees
31 that may affect or fall on an electric line. Sections 4291 through 4299 also specify requirements for
32 maintaining clearance around other types of structures and buildings to reduce fire risk that are
33 applicable to both the proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project and Alberhill projects.
34

35 **California Occupational Health and Safety Administration**

36 The California Occupational Health and Safety Administration is responsible for developing and
37 enforcing workplace safety standards and ensuring worker safety in the handling and use of hazardous
38 materials. This administration requires businesses to prepare Injury and Illness Prevention Plans and
39 Chemical Hygiene Plans. The administration’s Hazards Communication Standard requires that workers
40 be informed of the hazards associated with the materials they handle. Manufacturers are required to label
41 containers, provide material safety data sheets in the workplace, and provide worker training.
42

43 **Underground Service Alert (DigAlert)**

44 California Government Code 4216 *et seq.* defines mandatory notification procedures for subsurface
45 excavations and installations. Pursuant to Section 4216 *et seq.*, the applicant must contact the
46 Underground Service Alert of Southern California at least two working days but no more than 14 days
47 prior to conducting excavation activities for each component of the proposed projects (DigAlert 2015).
48

1 **Building Codes**

2 ***California Building Standard Code***

3 The California Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24) provides design and construction measures for
4 structures and other facilities. Part 9 is the California Fire Code, and Part 3 is the California Electrical
5 Code. Measures provided in the California Building Standards Code are integrated and enforced through
6 city and county review of development projects, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and by local city or
7 county fire chiefs or marshals.

8
9 ***California Fire Code***

10 The California Fire Code is Part 9 of CCR Title 24 (the California Building Standards Code). The
11 California Fire Code incorporates, by adoption, the International Code Council’s International Fire Code
12 with amendments specific to California. All facilities constructed as part of the proposed project must
13 comply with the fire codes established by Title 24 and as amended by local jurisdictions. Title 24 is
14 further discussed in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.”

15
16 ***California Electrical Code***

17 The California Electrical Code is Part 3 of CCR Title 24. The California Electrical Code incorporates, by
18 adoption, the National Electrical Code (NEC) or National Fire Protection Association 70, for the safe
19 installation of electrical wiring and equipment. It is part of the NEC series published by the National Fire
20 Protection Association, a private trade association. To avoid electrical hazards, a thorough knowledge by
21 electrical contractors of the NEC is required to install any electrical power system. The NEC covers the
22 installation of electrical conductors, equipment, and raceways; signaling and communications
23 conductors; and equipment and optical fiber cables for public and private premises.

24
25 **CPUC General Orders and Decisions**

26 The CPUC regulates the construction and operation of overhead transmission lines in California through
27 the implementation and oversight of several rules and regulations known as General Orders (GOs). Rules
28 GO 95, GO 128, GO 165, and GO 166 would apply to the proposed projects.

29
30 ***CPUC General Order 95: Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction***

31 GO 95 regulates the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of overhead electric lines in
32 California. This order includes safety standards for overhead electric lines, including minimum conductor
33 ground clearance, electric line inspection requirements, and vegetation clearance requirements. Rule 35
34 (Tree Trimming) defines minimum vegetation clearances around power lines and requires 10 feet of
35 radial clearances for any conductor of a line operating at more than 110,000 volts and less than 300,000
36 volts. This rule also requires that utility providers remove dead, rotten, and diseased trees that overhang
37 or lean toward a span of an electric line. Rule 31.2 (Inspection of Lines) requires that lines be inspected
38 frequently to ensure that they are in good condition and that lines temporarily out of service be inspected
39 and maintained to prevent a hazard. This order applies to the proposed 500-kV transmission and 115-kV
40 subtransmission lines.

41
42 ***CPUC General Order 128: Rules for Construction of Underground Electric Supply and
43 Communication Systems***

44 GO 128 establishes requirements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of all underground
45 electric supply and communications systems under CPUC jurisdiction. These requirements are designed
46 to ensure safe design and operation of underground electrical facilities, including design and inspection

1 criteria, to reduce the risk of fire. GO 128 is applicable to the proposed underground 115-kV and fiber
2 optic components.

3
4 ***CPUC General Order 165: Inspection Requirements for Electric Distribution and***
5 ***Transmission Facilities***

6 GO 165 establishes requirements for electric distribution and transmission facilities (excluding facilities
7 contained in a substation) regarding inspections to ensure safe and high-quality electrical service. This
8 order establishes a minimum period between inspections and record-keeping requirements. It applies to
9 the proposed 500-kV transmission and 115-kV subtransmission lines.

10
11 ***CPUC General Order 166: Standards for Operation, Reliability, and Safety during***
12 ***Emergencies and Disasters***

13 GO 166 applies to all electric utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the CPUC and addresses electric
14 service reliability and safety. The purpose of this order is to ensure that jurisdictional electric utilities are
15 prepared for emergencies and disasters to minimize damage and inconvenience to the public that may
16 occur as a result of electric system failures, major outages, or hazards posed by damage to electric
17 distribution facilities. Investigations required by this order are conducted following every major outage,
18 pursuant to and consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 364(c) and CPUC policy.

19
20 ***CPUC Electric Safety Order Instituting Rulemaking***

21 In November 2008, after the Sesnon Fire, the CPUC issued an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to
22 Revise and Clarify Commission Regulations Relating to the Safety of Electric Lines and
23 Communications Infrastructure Provider Facilities (Electric Safety OIR; R.08-11-005). The purpose of
24 the Electric Safety OIR was to determine whether revision or clarification was needed for CPUC
25 regulations addressing potential hazards, such as fires, that could result from electric transmission and
26 distribution lines.

27
28 The CPUC issued Decision 09-08-029 (Phase 1, Measures to Reduce Fire Hazards in California Before
29 the 2009 Fall Fire Season, or Phase 1 Decision) in this proceeding in August, 2009. In the next phase of
30 this proceeding (Decision 12-01-032; Phase 2, Regulations to Reduce Fire Hazards Associated with
31 Overhead Power Lines and Communication Facilities), on January 12, 2012, the CPUC adopted an order
32 instituting rulemaking to revise and clarify its regulations relating to the safety of electric utility and
33 communications infrastructure provider facilities. This decision adopted further regulations to reduce fire
34 hazards associated with overhead power lines and aerial communication facilities located in close
35 proximity to power lines, including revisions to GO 95, GO 165, and GO 166.

36
37 GO 166 was revised to require investor-owned electric utilities in Southern California, such as SCE, to
38 prepare and submit plans to prevent power-line fires during extreme weather events. SCE provided a Fire
39 Management Plan within an Advice Letter to the CPUC that is applicable to operation, design,
40 construction, inspection, and maintenance of the applicant's overhead lines and structures (SCE 2012).
41 The CPUC is anticipated to issue a Phase 3 decision for the Electric Safety OIR that will reflect input
42 from CAL FIRE. Phase 3 will address the establishment of:

- 43
44
 - Standards for wood structures and materials that will allow utilities to reliably obtain prescribed
45 safety factors enforceable by the CPUC;
 - Modern materials and practices, with the goal of improving fire safety; and
46

- Fire safety standards for the design and construction of electrical infrastructure in areas of high fire threat.

In addition, the Phase 3 decision will address whether and how proposed fire safety standards should apply to existing facilities in high fire threat districts, as well as the development of a plan for reporting to the CPUC’s Consumer Safety and Protection Division.

4.8.2.3 Regional and Local

Regional Water Quality Control Board and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans

Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, California’s Regional Water Quality Control Boards require a Construction Activities Storm Water General Permit (Order 99-08-DWQ) for storm water discharges associated with any construction activity, including clearing, grading, excavation reconstruction, and dredge and fill activities that results in the disturbance of at least 1 acre of total land area. Since the proposed projects would disturb more than 1 acre, both this permit and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be required. SWPPPs require the use of site-specific BMPs during construction to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation and for vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance, material storage, spill prevention, and waste management. In Riverside County, permits are administered by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, federal Clean Water Act, and California Water Quality Act are further described in Section 4.9, “Hydrology and Water Quality.”

Riverside County Department of Environmental Health and Ordinances

Riverside County Ordinance No. 651.3 (pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 25500) requires the preparation of an HMBP for storage of hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities. The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health performs inspections at established facilities to verify that hazardous materials are properly stored and handled and that the types and quantities of materials reported in the HMBP are accurate. As the CUPA pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code (Chapter 6.11, Sections 25404-25404.8), this department is the regulatory body for all hazardous waste generated in the County. Transformers at the proposed Alberhill Substation would contain 33,550 gallons of transformer oil.

Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Riverside County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides guidance for the County’s planned response to emergencies associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and natural emergencies occurring in or affecting the County. The EOP serves as the County’s framework for implementation of the California Standardized Emergency Management System and, by extension, the EOP will also implement the National Incident Management System, which is being integrated into the California Standardized Emergency Management System. The EOP covers the mutual aid system, preparedness phase operations, recovery phase operations, and mitigation phase operations (County of Riverside 2006). For hazard identification, the EOP defers to the Riverside County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (County of Riverside 2012), which covers the entire proposed project area.

Riverside County has developed both an Operational Area EOP and an Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to respond to a number of natural and human-created disasters, including fire (see Section 4.8.2.3). Electric utilities are identified as critical facilities in these plans. Specific evacuation and emergency response routes have not been defined in the proposed project

1 area. Additional discussion of emergency services and emergency response is included in Section 4.13,
2 “Public Services” and Section 4.15, “Transportation.”

4 **Riverside County Fire Code and Fire Protection Ordinance**

5 The Riverside County Fire Code contains baseline minimum standards to guard against unsafe
6 development and establish site-specific investigation requirements, construction standards, and
7 inspection procedures to ensure that development does not pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare
8 of the public. Under County of Riverside Ordinance 787, the 2010 California Fire Code is adopted in its
9 entirety with amendments made to clarify the code for use by the County. As the proposed projects
10 would be constructed within Riverside County, the County Fire Code would apply.

12 **Riverside County General Plan, Safety Element**

13 The Safety Element of the County of Riverside General Plan was developed to help reduce impacts from
14 disasters in the County. The Safety Element addresses hazardous materials within Riverside County,
15 including agricultural chemicals, natural gas and petroleum, explosives, radioactive materials, and
16 various commercial chemical substances, and their use, storage, and production.

17
18 The Safety Element also adopts the Riverside County Multi-Hazard Functional Plan. According to the
19 Multi-Hazard Functional Plan, the cities of Lake Elsinore, Perris, Wildomar, Corona, and Murrieta are
20 affected by wildfire, as well as Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore Unified School
21 District, Lee Lake Water District, and Menifee Unified School District. Wildfires have occurred in these
22 locations, and the areas continue to be susceptible (County of Riverside 2012). A wildfire is defined as
23 an uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, posing danger and destruction to property.
24 Wildfires can occur in undeveloped areas and spread to urban areas where structures and other human
25 development are more concentrated. A number of policies presented in the Safety Element (County of
26 Riverside 2008) are directed at identifying and reducing fire hazards or managing hazardous waste, such
27 as:

- 29 • *Policy S 5.1: Develop and enforce construction and design standards that ensure that proposed*
30 *development incorporates fire prevention features.*
- 31 • *Policy S 5.5: Conduct and implement long-range fire safety planning, including stringent*
32 *building, fire, subdivision, and municipal code standards; improved infrastructure; and*
33 *improved mutual aid agreements with the private and public sector.*
- 34 • *Policy S 7.4: Use incentives and disincentives to persuade private businesses, consortiums, and*
35 *neighborhoods to be self-sufficient in an emergency by maintaining a fire control plan, including*
36 *an onsite firefighting capability and volunteer fire response teams to respond to and extinguish*
37 *small fires.*

39 **Riverside County General Plan, Land Use Element**

40 This element includes policies related to airport planning and safety that are intended to ensure the
41 orderly expansion of airports and adoption of land use measures that address noise and safety hazards.
42 Policies in the Land Use Element that address airports include:

- 44 • *Policy LU 14.2: Review all proposed projects and require consistency with any applicable*
45 *airport land use compatibility plan.*
- 46 • *Policy LU 14.7: Ensure that no structures or activities encroach upon or adversely affect the use*
47 *of navigable airspace.*

- **Policy LU 14.9:** All development proposals within an Airport Influence Area will be submitted to the affected airport.

Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission

The Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) is responsible for development of the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and each individual airport land use compatibility plan within the umbrella compatibility plan policy document. The individual airport land use compatibility plans define the Influence Areas of airports within the County. An Influence Area is defined as an area where current or future airport-related noise, overflight, safety, or airspace protection factors may significantly affect land uses or necessitate restrictions on those uses. An airport Influence Area constitutes the area within which certain land use actions are subject to County ALUC review.

The County ALUC Plan includes policies applicable to land use compatibility planning in the vicinity of airports throughout the County. Proposals for new development with a height of more than 100 feet within Compatibility Zone E are subject to development review by the County ALUC. Any obstruction reviewed by the FAA that receives a finding of anything other than “not a hazard to air navigation” is also subject to review by the ALUC (Riverside County ALUC 2004b).

Under the current adopted Perris Valley Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, 115-kV Segments ASP8 and VIG1 would not be located within the Perris Valley Airport Land Use zone (Riverside County ALUC 2004c). However, a draft version of the revised Perris Valley Airport Land Use Plan does locate 115-kV Segments ASP8 and VIG1 within Perris Valley Airport Influence Area E (Riverside County ALUC 2010). 115-kV Segment VIG1 would fall within the Aircraft Approach Accident Risk Intensity Contours (landings from the south) (Riverside County ALUC 2010). Additionally, sections of 115-kV Segments ASP4 and ASP5 are located within the Influence Area of the Skylark Field Airport (Riverside County ALUC 2004a).

City of Lake Elsinore

The City’s fire department contracts with Riverside County for fire services. County and City fire response areas are discussed above in Section 4.8.1.5. The City of Lake Elsinore Fire Department provides oversight for hazardous materials uses and permits for the handling, storage, and use of hazardous materials. The City maintains an Emergency Preparedness Plan website that encourages public involvement in preparing for emergencies due to earthquakes, wildfire, hazardous materials releases, and other events. The General Plan establishes goals and policies for emergency preparedness and minimizing the risk of wildland fire and hazardous materials releases and (City of Lake Elsinore 2011), including:

- **Goal 3:** Reduce the level of risk associated with the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials to protect the community’s safety, health, and natural resources.
- **Policy 3.1:** Continue to require hazardous waste generators to implement a waste reduction program per the Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan with necessary inspections per the Riverside County Hazardous Materials Handlers Program.
- **Policy 3.3:** Encourage the safe disposal of hazardous materials with County agencies to protect the City against a hazardous materials incident.

- 1 • **Goal 4:** Adhere to an integrated approach to minimizing the threat of wildland fires to protect
2 life and property using pre-fire management, suppression, and post-fire management.
- 3 • **Policy 4.1:** Require on-going brush clearance and establish low fuel landscaping policies to
4 reduce combustible vegetation along the urban/wildland interface boundary.
- 5 • **Policy 4.2:** Create fuel modification zones around development within high hazard areas by
6 thinning or clearing combustible vegetation within 100 feet of buildings and structures. The fuel
7 modification zone size may be altered with the addition of fuel resistant building techniques. The
8 fuel modification zone may be replanted with fire-resistant material for aesthetics and erosion
9 control.
- 10 • **Policy 4.3:** Establish fire resistant building techniques for new development such as non-
11 combustible wall surfacing materials, fire-retardant treated wood, heavy timber construction,
12 glazing, enclosed materials and features, insulation without paper-facing, and automatic fire
13 sprinklers.

14 **City of Menifee**

15
16 The City of Menifee Draft General Plan (City of Menifee 2013) identifies the following goals and
17 policies applicable to the proposed projects regarding hazards:
18

- 19 • **Policy LU-3.1:** Work with utility providers in the planning, designing, and siting of distribution
20 and support facilities to comply with the standards of the General Plan and Development Code.
- 21 • **Policy S-4.1:** Require fire-resistant building construction materials, the use of vegetation control
22 methods, and other construction and fire prevention features to reduce the hazard of wildland
23 fire.
- 24 • **Policy S-5.2:** Ensure that the fire department can continue to respond safely and effectively to a
25 hazardous materials incident in the City, whether it is a spill at a permitted facility, or the result
26 of an accident along a section of the freeway or railroads that extend across the City.
- 27 • **Policy S-5.4:** Ensure that all facilities that handle hazardous materials comply with federal and
28 state laws pertaining to the management of hazardous wastes and materials.
- 29 • **Policy S-5.5:** Require facilities that handle hazardous materials to implement mitigation
30 measures that reduce the risks associated with hazardous material production, storage, and
31 disposal.
- 32 • **Goal S-6:** A City that responds and recovers in an effective and timely manner from natural
33 disasters such as flooding, fire, and earthquakes, and as a result is not impacted by civil unrest
34 that may occur following a natural disaster.
- 35 • **Policy S-6.4:** Locate new essential or critical facilities away from areas susceptible to impacts
36 or damage from a natural disaster.
- 37 • **Policy S-6.5:** Promote strengthening of planned and existing critical facilities and lifelines, the
38 retrofit and rehabilitation of existing weak structures, and the relocation of certain critical
39 facilities as necessary to adequately meet the needs of Menifee's residents and workforce.

40 **City of Perris**

41
42 The Safety Element of the City of Perris General Plan (City of Perris 2005a, b) outlines the City's goals
43 for reducing the potential risks for death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation

1 resulting from hazards or catastrophic events. No components of the proposed Alberhill Project are
2 located within the City of Perris. The following goals and policies would be applicable to the Valley-
3 Ivyglen Project:

- 4
- 5 • *Goal I: Reduce risk of damage to property or loss of life due to a natural or man-made disasters.*
- 6 • *Policy I.C.2: Adopt landscaping standards to include a fire-resistant plant palette, where*
7 *appropriate.*
- 8 • *Policy I.C.4: Maintain weed abatement Code Enforcement efforts.*
- 9 • *Policy I.D.2: Continue to notify March Air Reserve Base of new development project*
10 *applications and consider their input prior to making land use decisions.*
- 11 • *Goal II: Improved response times for emergency service providers (police, fire, medical*
12 *services)*
- 13 • *Policy II.A.4: Require that access roads be completed prior to development in outlying areas.*
- 14 • *Policy I.F: Hazardous Materials. The City will cooperate with the County of Riverside and the*
15 *Riverside County Fire Department to enforce all rules related to Hazardous Materials*
16 *generators and handlers.*
- 17

18 **City of Wildomar**

19 At the time of preparation of this document, the City of Wildomar had not adopted a general plan.
20 Wildomar was incorporated in 2008 and adopted all County of Riverside ordinances at that time. County
21 ordinances remain in effect until the City enacts ordinances that supersede them. Policies listed above
22 under the Riverside County General Plan as applicable to the proposed Alberhill Project also apply to the
23 City of Wildomar. No components of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would be located within the
24 City of Wildomar.

25 **City of Orange**

26
27 As part of the proposed Alberhill Project, one microwave dish antenna would be installed at the
28 applicant's Serrano Substation on an existing antenna tower in the City of Orange in Orange County,
29 California. The City's fire department provides fire, paramedic, and ambulance services. The City's
30 General Plan includes goals and policies to protect lives and property of City residents and businesses
31 from urban and wildland fire hazards. It also includes goals and policies to minimize risks to life,
32 property, and the environment associated with producing, using, storing, or transporting hazardous
33 materials and for emergency response preparedness. The City follows the County of Orange's Hazardous
34 Materials Inspection and Enforcement Plan (City of Orange 2010).

35 **4.8.3 Methodology and Significance Criteria**

36
37
38 The evaluation of impacts from hazards and hazardous materials during construction and operation of the
39 proposed projects was based on the review of relevant federal, state, county, and local laws, regulations,
40 plans (e.g., emergency response and hazard mitigation plans), policy documents, and standards and
41 hazards and hazardous materials that would be associated with construction, operation, and maintenance
42 of the proposed projects as described in Chapter 2, "Project Description." State, county, and local maps
43 were reviewed to determine the location of schools, known hazardous materials sites, airports, and fire
44 severity zones as classified by CAL FIRE in proximity to the proposed project area.

Potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials were evaluated in accordance to the following significance criteria. The criteria were defined based on the checklist items presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed projects would cause a significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials if they would:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school;
- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area;
- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area;
- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Due to the hang gliding activity in the proposed project area, the following significance criterion has been added to this section to analyze the safety risk to hang gliders:

- Result in substantial safety risks to hang gliders

4.8.4 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures (Valley-Ivyglen Project)

4.8.4.1 Project Commitments (Valley-Ivyglen Project)

The applicant has committed to the following as part of the design of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project. See Section 2.6, "Project Commitments," for a complete description of each project commitment.

- **Project Commitment B: Worker Environmental Awareness Plan:** Prior to construction, a Worker Environmental Awareness Plan would be developed based on final engineering designs, the results of preconstruction surveys, and mitigation measures developed by the California Public Utilities Commission. A presentation would be prepared by the applicant and shown to all site workers prior to their start of work. A record of all trained personnel would be kept with the construction foreman. In addition to the instruction for compliance with any site-specific biological or cultural resource protective measures and project mitigation measures. All construction personnel would also receive instruction on site-specific dust control, cultural

1 resources identification, contaminant reduction practices, spill prevention and response
2 procedures, emergency procedures, hazardous material safety, incident reporting, Best
3 Management Practices, individual worksite responsibilities and legal requirements.

- 4 • **Project Commitment F: Geotechnical Study, Soil Testing, and Seismic Design Standards:**
5 Prior to the start of construction, the applicant would conduct geotechnical and hydrologic
6 studies and field investigations of the proposed Alberhill Substation site, 500-kV transmission
7 line routes, and all 115-kV subtransmission line routes. The studies would include an evaluation
8 of the depth to the water table, liquefaction potential, physical properties of subsurface soils, soil
9 resistivity, and slope stability (landslide susceptibility). The studies would include soil boring
10 and laboratory testing to determine the engineering properties of soils, would characterize soils
11 and underlying bedrock units, characterize groundwater conditions, and evaluate faulting and
12 seismicity risk. Soil samples would be collected and analyzed for common contaminants and the
13 presence of hazardous materials. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations
14 above action levels, the applicant would avoid the contaminated soil or work with the property
15 owner to remove the contaminated soil. The results of this study would be applied to final
16 engineering designs for the proposed projects. The information collected would be used to
17 determine final TSP foundation designs. In addition, the proposed Alberhill Substation would be
18 located in an area susceptible to earthquakes. The applicant would design the proposed
19 substation consistent with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 693 Standard,
20 Recommended Practices for Seismic Design of Substations.

21 22 **4.8.4.2 Impacts Analysis (Valley-Ivyglen Project)**

23
24 **Impact HZ-1 (VIG): Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the**
25 **routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.**
26 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
27

28 Construction and operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would include the use, transport, and
29 disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. Hazardous materials that would be used throughout the
30 proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project area during construction and operation include fuel, lubricants, and
31 antifreeze associated with construction and maintenance equipment and vehicles, as well as paints,
32 solvents, adhesives, and cleaning chemicals. Construction vehicles would be fueled by existing offsite
33 fuel supply facilities or from an offsite fuel supply truck temporarily brought onsite to provide fuel.
34 Helicopters used for 115-kV conductor stringing and tower construction would be fueled by either the
35 helicopter contractor's fuel truck or fuel service available at an airport. Perris Valley Airport and Chino
36 Airport may be used for fueling helicopters as part of the Valley-Ivyglen Project. Additionally, any of
37 the staging areas and disturbance areas along the proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV route, with the
38 exception of 115-kV Segments VIG2, VIG3, and VIG8 and Staging Area VIG5, may be used for
39 helicopter fueling.

40
41 During site preparation and excavation/foundation work activities, blasting or fracturing may be required
42 along 115-kV Segments VIG1, VIG2, VIG5, VIG6, and VIG8. Explosive agents that may be used include
43 dynamite, ammonium nitrate/fuel oil, slurry (water-gel explosive), and packaged emulsion explosives.
44 Expansive agents that may be used for fracturing include limestone, dolomite, calcium hydroxide,
45 calcium oxide, silicon dioxide, aluminum oxide, and ferric oxide as described under the "Blasting and
46 Fracturing" heading in Section 2.4.5.4, "115-kV Structure Construction."
47

48 Blasting agents are considered hazardous materials and are identified on materials safety data sheets as
49 highly reactive or unstable. None of the proposed expansive agents are listed on the 40 CFR Part 355,

1 Appendix A list of Extremely Hazardous Substances, but some of the agents or some forms of the agents
2 (e.g., fumes) are listed on the California Hazardous Substances List (CCR Title 8, Section 339),
3 including calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, aluminum oxide, and ferric oxide (fume). The definition of
4 hazardous materials includes hazardous substances (California Health and Safety Code Section 25501).
5 Materials safety data sheets identify calcium oxide as “extremely hazardous” and calcium hydroxide and
6 aluminum oxide as “hazardous” under the health hazard label. The routine use of blasting agents could
7 also introduce a potential wildfire ignition source and could generate toxic decomposition products,
8 residual solids, airborne particulates, and gases. The routine use of blasting agents, if imprecisely
9 applied, could also generate a blast radius with the potential to harm bystanders, wildlife, plant life, and
10 structures. Impacts would be potentially significant. Hazardous materials that may be required for
11 blasting or fracturing would be managed as specified in Mitigation Measure (MM) HZ-1 and MM WQ-1,
12 and contaminated soils or groundwater that may be encountered during blasting would be handled in
13 accordance with MM HZ-2 and MM WQ-1.

14
15 Construction waste would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and
16 requirements. The majority of construction-related wastes would be inert materials (clean soil,
17 vegetation, metal scrap, packaging materials, etc.), most of which would be containerized and disposed of
18 at a licensed facility. Hazardous wastes that are likely to be generated during construction include waste
19 motor oils, used transformer oil, waste hydraulic fluids, discarded batteries, waste solvents and
20 adhesives, and old conductor wire. Wooden utility poles and wooden components treated with
21 preservatives would be managed in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25150.7
22 requirements. To comply with this code, the applicant would dispose of treated wooden poles only at a
23 Class I hazardous landfill or in a composite-lined portion of a solid waste landfill unit that meets the
24 requirements outlined in the code.

25
26 Transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes and petroleum products are to be
27 conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. However, routine
28 transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum products could result in accidental
29 releases or spills, representing a potential hazard to the public and environment during construction and
30 operations. This would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of MM HZ-1 would reduce
31 potentially significant impacts from improper transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Spills
32 that occur near aquatic resources could have a significant impact on water quality that could quickly
33 spread downstream. Implementation of MM BR-15 would require the applicant to perform vehicle
34 maintenance activities at least 150 feet (or as specified by agency permits) from all aquatic resources and
35 would require immediate cleanup of hazardous materials spills.

36
37 Three hazardous material or waste sites were identified in proximity to proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project
38 components, and unrecorded hazardous material sites may also be present. Since soil contamination
39 along the proposed route has not been thoroughly investigated, it remains possible that hazardous
40 materials or wastes may be encountered along the proposed routes. Disposal of soils from contaminated
41 sites would result in a significant impact. The applicant would perform geotechnical studies along the
42 115-kV subtransmission line segments (Project Commitment F), which would include soil studies. The
43 soil analysis studies would include the collection and analysis of soil samples for common contaminants
44 and the presence of hazardous materials. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations
45 above action levels, the applicant would avoid the contaminated soil or work with the property owner to
46 remove it. In addition, the applicant would train construction personnel to notify the foreman and
47 regional spill response coordinator in the event of hazardous materials spills and leaks from equipment or
48 upon the discovery of soil or groundwater contamination (Project Commitment B). Since soil
49 contamination along the proposed route has not been thoroughly investigated, it remains possible that
50 hazardous materials or wastes may be encountered along the proposed routes, and the improper handling

1 of encountered materials could lead to significant impacts. MM HZ-2 would require the applicant to
2 develop a Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan, which would define procedures for soil
3 and groundwater testing if unanticipated contamination is encountered. Implementation of MM HZ-2
4 would reduce the risk of improperly handling and disposing of contaminated soil, contaminated
5 groundwater, and spilled hazardous materials by generating accurate and precise data on the
6 contamination extent and characteristic.

7
8 The applicant would prepare and require all site workers to participate in Worker Environmental
9 Awareness Plan training prior to construction (Project Commitment B). The training would instruct
10 workers on their individual responsibilities under the SWPPP, site-specific BMPs, and location of
11 material safety data sheets. The Worker Environmental Awareness Plan would also instruct workers on
12 proper procedures in the event of hazardous materials spills, leaks from equipment, or upon the discovery
13 of soil or groundwater contamination. The SWPPP would require that the location of hazardous materials
14 be identified and protective measures, notifications, and cleanup requirements for spills of hazardous
15 materials to be developed. Impacts may be significant related to stormwater without implementation of
16 specific measures. MM BR-15 outlines minimum BMPs that must be included in the project SWPPP.

17
18 In summary, implementation of Project Commitments B and F in addition to compliance with applicable
19 laws and regulations would reduce impacts from the routine use, transport, and disposal of hazardous
20 materials, but impacts would remain significant. Implementation of MM HZ-1, MM HZ-2, MM BR-15,
21 and MM WQ-1 would reduce impacts under this criterion to less than significant levels.

22 **Mitigation Measures**

23 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

24
25
26 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.** Prior to construction, the applicant shall prepare a
27 hazardous materials management, handling, transport, storage, disposal, and emergency response plan for
28 project construction, operation, and maintenance, following the requirements of applicable federal, state,
29 and local regulations. Unless otherwise implemented prior to construction in accordance with plans
30 required by the Riverside County Hazardous Materials Management Division, the plan includes the
31 following:

- 32
33 1. Train project personnel in appropriate work practices including spill prevention and response
34 measures.
- 35 2. Contain all hazardous materials at work sites and properly dispose of all such materials.
 - 36 a. Hazardous materials shall be stored on pallets within fenced and secured areas and protected
37 from exposure to weather.
 - 38 b. Fuels and lubricants shall be stored only at designated staging areas.
- 39 3. Maintain hazardous material spill kits for small spills at all active work sites and staging areas.
- 40 4. Thoroughly clean up all spills as soon as they occur.
- 41 5. Store sorbent and barrier materials at the Alberhill Substation site and all construction staging
42 areas, including staging areas used during activities for decommissioning of the Alberhill
43 Substation. Sorbent and barrier materials shall be used to contain runoff from contaminated areas
44 and from accidental releases of oil or other potentially hazardous materials to prevent the runoff
45 from entering the storm drainage system.

6. Perform all routine equipment maintenance at a shop or at the staging area and recover and dispose of wastes in an appropriate manner.
7. Monitor and remove any vehicles with chronic or continuous leaks from use and complete repairs before returning them to operation.
8. Store shovels and drums at the staging area. If small quantities of soil become contaminated, use shovels to collect the soil and store in drums before proper offsite disposal. Large quantities of contaminated soil may be collected using heavy equipment and stored in drums or other suitable containers prior to disposal. Should contamination occur adjacent to staging areas because of runoff, shovels and/or heavy equipment shall be used to collect the contaminated material.

The applicant shall submit the plan to CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days prior to the start of construction. The applicant shall implement the plan during construction, operation, and maintenance of the projects.

MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan. Prior to the start of construction, to the extent not otherwise included within plans required by the Riverside County Hazardous Materials Management Division, the applicant shall develop a Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan to address the unearthing or exposure of buried hazardous materials or contamination or contaminated groundwater during construction of the projects. The Plan shall detail steps that the applicant or its contractor will take to prevent the spread of contamination, the sampling necessary if contamination is discovered, and remedial action to be taken. The Plan, at minimum, shall include the following:

1. Contact information for federal, regional, and local agencies, the applicant's environmental coordinator(s) responsible for the cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater, and licensed disposal facilities and haulers.
2. Procedures to minimize environmental impacts in the event that hazardous soils, contaminated groundwater, or other hazardous materials are encountered during construction including stopping work; securing and marking the contaminated area; preventing the spread of contamination; testing; primary, secondary, and final cleanup procedures; and proper disposal in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
3. Training requirements for construction workers performing excavation activities including training on types of contamination including common contaminants (e.g., petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, mercury, and metals, asbestos, acetone, nitrate, semi-volatile organic compounds and volatile organic compounds (benzene), polychlorinated biphenyls, sanitary waste, and pesticides) and *hazardous materials* (as defined by the California Health and Safety Code) and identifying potentially hazardous contamination (e.g., stained or discolored soil and odor).
4. Dewatering procedures including storage, testing, treatment, and disposal requirements and dewatering BMPs set forth in the applicant's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

The applicant shall submit the plan to CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days prior to the start of construction. The applicant shall implement the plan during construction of the projects.

MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.

Impact HZ-2 (VIG): Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release

1 **of hazardous materials into the environment.**
2 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
3

4 As described under Impact HZ-1 (VIG), the applicant would transport, use, or dispose of hazardous
5 materials and petroleum products in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
6 However, routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum products could result
7 in accidental releases or spills, representing a potential hazard to the public and environment during
8 construction and operations.
9

10 There are no large volume containers associated with the Valley-Ivyglen Subtransmission Line Project.
11 However, hazards could result from the disturbance of unknown contaminated sites during construction
12 or operation and maintenance activities. As indicated in HZ-1 (VIG), the applicant would perform
13 collection and analysis of soil samples for common contaminants and the presence of hazardous
14 materials.
15

16 Accidental contact with existing underground utility lines or private utilities line such as leach lines
17 associated with a septic system during construction of the proposed Valley Ivyglen Project could release
18 hazardous materials. Compliance with California Government Code 4216.1 (DigAlert) would reduce
19 potential impacts to public utility lines. However, significant impacts would remain for private
20 underground infrastructure. Prior to finalizing the engineering design, MM HZ-3 requires the applicant to
21 contact the Underground Service Alert of Southern California to identify the exact locations of gas
22 pipelines within the project area. In addition, the applicant will contact affected private landowners to
23 determine if septic systems and associated leach fields, as well as other underground facilities, may be
24 impacted by construction of the projects. Final engineering plans for the projects will be designed to
25 avoid or minimize interference or damage to underground facilities, both public and private. Once
26 identified, the applicant will immediately notify by telephone the owner of underground facilities that
27 may have been damaged or dislocated during construction of the projects. The implementation of MM
28 HZ-3 would reduce potential impacts to private underground infrastructure to less than significant.
29

30 Felled aboveground transmission lines would pose a health and safety hazard to people in the area if
31 people come in contact with active lines. Compliance with CPUC GO 95, GO 165, and GO166 would
32 reduce the risk and prevent significant impacts that may occur during accidents and natural events, which
33 would cause public safety hazards from felled aboveground transmission lines to less than significant.
34

35 Compliance with applicable regulation, Project Commitment B, and Project Commitment F would reduce
36 the risk but not prevent significant impacts that may still occur from upset and accident conditions
37 involving the release of hazardous materials. The implementation of a site-specific hazardous materials
38 management plan (MM HZ-1), a contaminated soil/groundwater contingency plan (MM HZ-2), an
39 investigation of public and private underground facilities (MM HZ-3), a SWPPP (MM BR-15), and
40 blasting management plan (MM WQ-1) would further prevent the potential for upset and accident
41 conditions and would reduce impacts under this criterion to less than significant levels.
42

43 ***Mitigation Measures***

44 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

46 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.**

48 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**
49

1 **MM HZ-3: DigAlert.** As part of the siting and engineering for the projects, the applicant shall precisely
2 locate all underground natural gas lines that may be impacted. Prior to finalizing the engineering design,
3 the applicant shall contact the Underground Service Alert of Southern California (DigAlert) to identify
4 the exact locations of gas pipelines within the project area. In addition, prior to construction the applicant
5 shall contact affected private landowners to determine if septic systems and associated leach fields as
6 well as other underground facilities may be impacted by construction of the projects. Final engineering
7 plans for the projects shall be designed to avoid damage to underground facilities, both public and
8 private. The applicant shall immediately notify by telephone the owner of underground facilities that may
9 have been damaged or dislocated during construction of the projects.

10
11 **MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.**

12
13 **Impact HZ-3 (VIG): Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous**
14 **materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed**
15 **school.**

16 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
17

18 Four schools are located within 0.25 miles of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project (Table 4.8-2). It is not
19 anticipated that the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would involve the handling or emission of
20 hazardous or acutely hazardous materials as defined by CEQA Section 21151.4 in quantities equal to or
21 greater than the state threshold quantities specified in Section 25532 of the California Health and Safety
22 Code.

23
24 Diesel-powered vehicles and construction equipment would be used during construction of the proposed
25 Valley-Ivyglen Project. Diesel exhaust emissions are considered toxic emissions by the California Air
26 Resources Board. Diesel exhaust would be emitted within 0.25 miles of schools; however, because
27 construction activities would be temporary and would not take place at any single location for an
28 extended period, impacts from diesel exhaust emissions would be less than significant.

29
30 As discussed under Impact HZ-1 (VIG) and Impact HZ-2 (VIG), hazardous materials could be released
31 during construction or operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project. Project Commitments B and F
32 and compliance with applicable laws and regulations would reduce impacts but not to less than
33 significant. Implementation of MM HZ-1, MM HZ-2, MM HZ-3, MM BR-15, and MM WQ-1 would
34 reduce impacts under this criterion to less than significant levels.

35
36 ***Mitigation Measures***

37 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

38
39 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.**

40
41 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**

42
43 **MM HZ-3: DigAlert.**

44
45 **MM WQ-1: Blasting Plan and Best Management Practices.**

46
47 **Impact HZ-4 (VIG): Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites**
48 **compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result,**

1 **would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.**
2 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
3

4 As described in Section 4.8.1.1, Cortese List (Government Code Section 65962.5) database searches
5 identified three solid waste disposal sites, sites with Cease and Desist Orders or Cleanup and Abatement
6 Orders, or DTSC EnviroStor sites within 1,000 feet of components of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen
7 Project (DTSC 2015a,b; SWRCB 2015a,b,c).
8

9 Since project components would not be located on these identified sites, it is not anticipated that the
10 associated project activities would expose contaminated soils. However, it remains possible that
11 hazardous materials or wastes from undocumented releases may be encountered along the proposed
12 route, since there has not been a soil contamination investigation of the proposed route. Discovery of
13 hazardous materials or wastes could lead to a potentially significant hazard to the public or environment
14 if materials are improperly handled. MM HZ-2 would require the applicant to develop a Contaminated
15 Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan to address the potential for encountering subsurface sources of
16 contamination throughout all areas to be disturbed during construction of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen
17 Project. Implementation of MM HZ-2 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.
18

19 ***Mitigation Measure***

20 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**

21
22 **Impact HZ-5 (VIG): For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan**
23 **has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use**
24 **airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or**
25 **working in the project area.**

26 *NO IMPACT*
27

28 Proposed 115-kV Segment VIG1 would be located approximately 1.5 miles south of Perris Valley
29 Airport but would not be located within a Perris Valley Airport Land Use zone under the current Perris
30 Valley Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Riverside County ALUC 2004c). A portion of the 115-kV
31 Segment VIG1 would be located within the Perris Valley Airport Compatibility Zone E under the draft
32 version of the revised Perris Valley Airport Land Use Plan (Riverside County ALUC 2010). Applicable
33 development conditions within Perris Valley Airport Influence Area E include required airspace review
34 for developments over 150 feet tall due to concerns about compatibility with airport activities (Riverside
35 County ALUC 2004b). The segment would also be located within an Aircraft Approach Accident Risk
36 Intensity Contours, which indicates that the proposed segment would be located in an area with
37 statistically higher potential for accidents based on nationwide data (Riverside County ALUC 2010).
38

39 The proposed 115-kV Segment VIG1 would be located within the applicant's existing ROW, on the
40 north side of the existing Valley-Serrano 500 kV transmission line. LWSPs installed as part of 115-kV
41 Segment VIG1 are anticipated to extend about 75 feet above the ground surface but would not exceed
42 115 feet above the ground surface. Because these structures would be less than 150 feet in height,
43 installation of these structures would not require airspace review under the draft version of the revised
44 Perris Valley Airport Land Use Plan. Furthermore, the existing lattice steel towers of the Valley –
45 Serrano 500-kV transmission line range from 129 to 132 feet above the ground and would be taller than
46 the LWSPs installed as part of 115-kV Segment VIG1. 115-kV Segment VIG1 would therefore not result
47 in a significant safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area and there would be no
48 impact under this criterion.
49

1 Airspace hazards, in general, are discussed in Section 4.15, “Traffic and Transportation.”
2
3

4 **Impact HZ-6 (VIG): For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project**
5 **result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.**

6 *NO IMPACT*
7

8 There are no private airstrips within 2 miles of the proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project components.
9 Therefore, there would be no impact under this criterion. Airspace hazards, in general, are discussed in
10 Section 4.15, “Traffic and Transportation.”
11

12 **Impact HZ-7 (VIG): Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted**
13 **emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.**

14 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT*
15

16 No emergency or evacuation routes are identified in the Riverside County General Plan, Riverside
17 County EOP, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, City of Lake Elsinore General Plan, City of Perris General
18 Plan, or City of Menifee Draft General Plan in the vicinity of any of component of the proposed Valley–
19 Ivyglen Project (County of Riverside 2006, 2008, 2012; City of Lake Elsinore 2011; City of Menifee
20 2013).
21

22 Construction of the proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project could interfere with emergency response services at
23 locations where subtransmission line stringing activities would occur. The temporary road and lane
24 closures associated with construction activities could lengthen response times required for emergency
25 vehicles passing through the construction zone. Construction activities completed within or along public
26 streets would be conducted in accordance with local ordinances, applicable general plan policies, the
27 Riverside County EOP and Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and control measures
28 published in the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (California Inter-Utility Coordinating
29 Committee 2014).
30

31 In places where the components of the proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project would span a road or require
32 lane closure, construction activities would be coordinated with the local jurisdiction in accordance with
33 local ordinances and permit conditions to avoid closure of emergency routes. Traffic Control Plans would
34 be developed and implemented as required by Riverside County and the cities of Lake Elsinore, Menifee,
35 and Perris during local permitting processes that would provide traffic control services to ensure
36 adequate flow of traffic during lane or road closures (Section 4.15, “Transportation and Traffic”).
37

38 Operation of the proposed Valley–Ivyglen Project would not result in lane closures or other obstructions
39 to area roads or traffic. Maintenance would be performed consistent with local ordinances, applicable
40 general plan policies, the Riverside County EOP and Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan,
41 and control measures published in the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (California Inter-
42 Utility Coordinating Committee 2014). Therefore, impacts under this criterion would be less than
43 significant.
44

45 **Impact HZ-8 (VIG): Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death**
46 **involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to**
47 **urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**

48 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
49

1 Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project
2 would increase fire risk during refueling, vehicle and equipment use, welding, vegetation clearing,
3 worker cigarette smoking, and other activities. Fires could ignite when objects contact the proposed
4 electrical lines or other energized equipment, when a live-phase conductor falls to the ground, due to
5 conductor-to-conductor contact, or due to power surges.

6
7 The proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would be constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with
8 California Public Resources Code Sections 4291 through 4299, which regulate vegetation management.
9 Per these regulations, the applicant would maintain vegetation clearance areas along the subtransmission
10 line segments. The proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would also be constructed and maintained in a
11 manner consistent with CPUC GO 95, GO 128, GO 165, and GO 166 for overhead and underground
12 subtransmission line construction, inspection, and safety.

13
14 Because segments of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would be located in Very High Fire Hazard
15 Severity Zones and in areas identified by CAL FIRE as having significant potential for large, destructive
16 wildfires (CAL FIRE 2005), construction of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would substantially
17 increase fire risk regardless of vegetation clearing and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and
18 standards. Operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would also increase fire risk. MM HZ-4
19 presents requirements for a Fire Control and Emergency Response Plan that would reduce the risk of fire
20 and impacts that would result should a fire occur. Implementation of MM HZ-4 would ensure that
21 impacts under this criterion are less than significant during construction and operation.

22 23 **Mitigation Measure**

24 **MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.** The applicant, in consultation with its contractors,
25 shall develop and implement site-specific fire control and emergency response plans to address the risk
26 of fire or other emergencies (e.g., flooding) during construction, operation, and maintenance of the
27 projects. The plans and a record of contact and coordination with the fire departments with jurisdiction
28 over each worksite shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to start of construction.
29 The plans shall describe fire prevention and response practices that the applicant and its contractors will
30 implement to minimize the risk of fire, and in the event of fire or other emergencies, provide for
31 immediate response.

32
33 The site-specific plans shall specify that the applicant or its contractors will furnish supervision, labor,
34 tools, equipment, and materials for the prevention of fire and extinguishing and controlling the spread of
35 fires started as a result of project activities.

36
37 During Construction:

- 38
39
- 40 • The applicant or its contractors shall assign Fire Risk Managers who will be present at each
41 worksite during construction activities, whose sole responsibility will be to monitor the
42 contractor's fire-prevention activities, and who will have full authority to stop construction as
43 needed to prevent fire hazards. The Fire Risk Managers shall:
 - 44 - Serve as liaisons to fire departments and act as a point of contact for fire departments in the
45 event of fire or other emergency;
 - 46 - Manage the prevention, detection, control, and extinguishing of fires set accidentally as a
47 result of construction activity;
 - 48 - Review site-specific fire control and emergency response plans with construction personnel
prior to starting work at each project area;

- 1 - Ensure that all construction personnel are trained in fire safety measures relevant to their
2 responsibilities. At minimum, construction personnel shall be trained in fire and emergency
3 reporting and incipient-stage fire prevention, control, and extinguishing (i.e., the fire can be
4 controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, small hose systems, or portable
5 water supplies without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus). Each member
6 of the construction workforce shall be trained and equipped to extinguish small fires;
- 7 - Be equipped with radio and cellular telephone access for the duration of each work day;
- 8 - Ensure that all construction personnel are provided with operational radio and cellular
9 telephone access at each worksite to allow for immediate reporting of fires or other
10 emergencies and ensure that communication pathways and equipment are tested and
11 confirmed operational each day prior to initiating construction activities at each worksite;
12 and
- 13 - Maintain an updated key personnel and emergency services contact (telephone and email) list
14 onsite and available to construction personnel.
- 15 • Construction workers shall immediately report all fires to the nearest Fire Risk Manager.

16
17 During All Project Phases:

- 18 • Equipment installed and maintained as part of the project shall include:
 - 19 - Spark arresters that are in good working order and meet applicable regulatory standards for
20 all internal combustion engines (both stationary and mobile);
 - 21 - Fire suppression equipment on all motorized vehicles that includes, at minimum, one shovel
22 and one pressurized chemical fire extinguisher;
 - 23 - A fire extinguisher capable of extinguishing any equipment-caused fire on all heavy
24 construction equipment; and
 - 25 - Portable communication devices (e.g., radios or cellular telephones) and communication
26 protocols for project workers to coordinate with local agencies and emergency personnel in
27 the event of fire or other emergencies.
- 28 • Measures to be undertaken by the applicant or its contractors shall include:
 - 29 - Prohibiting smoking during the operation of light or heavy construction equipment; in
30 wildland areas; and within 30 feet of any area where combustible materials (e.g., fuels, gases,
31 and solvents) are stored;
 - 32 - Limiting smoking to paved areas or areas cleared of all vegetation;
 - 33 - Posting no-smoking signs and fire rules on project bulletin boards, at contractor field offices,
34 and in other areas visible to workers during fire season;
 - 35 - Maintaining all worksites in an orderly, safe, and clean manner. Maintaining staging areas
36 and parking areas free of extraneous flammable materials. Removing all oily rags and used
37 oil filters from worksites;
 - 38 - Confining hot-work activities (e.g., welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, and arc cutting) to
39 cleared areas with a minimum 10-foot clearance radius measured from place of hot-work
40 activity;
 - 41 - Ensuring an appropriate fire extinguisher is present before initiating each hot-work activity;
 - 42 - Ensuring an appropriate fire extinguisher is present before initiating each hot-work activity;

- Preventing vehicles with hot exhaust manifolds from idling on roads with combustible vegetation under the vehicles;
 - Ensuring all Blasting Plan (MM WQ-1) BMPs are followed, e.g., pre-blast and post-blast inspections;
 - Notifying the fire department with jurisdiction over the worksite in advance of all planned burning activities (e.g., to clear vegetation). Special care shall be taken to prevent damage to adjacent structures, trees, and vegetation during planned burning activities; and
 - Any additional fire prevention and detection measures to lower the risk of wildland fires.
- Measures to be undertaken by the applicant or its contractors for days when the National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning for a project area shall include:
 - Abiding by all restrictions and requirements that may be imposed by fire departments during Red Flag Warning periods (e.g., parking restrictions; road closures; and work activity and equipment use restrictions and requirements); and
 - Prohibiting smoking at all worksites.

Impact HZ-9 (VIG): Result in substantial safety risks to hang gliders.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

The proposed subtransmission line would be located in an area known to be used for hang glider landing. The vacant fields adjacent to Interstate-15 (I-15) where it crosses Nichols Road are used as a landing zone for hang gliders west of I-15. This area is about 1,250 feet east of 115-kV Segments VIG4 and VIG5. Overhead electrical lines are present along Pierce Street, Baker Street, and an unnamed dirt road approximately 650 feet southeast of the intersection of Baker Street and Pierce Street. The existing wood structures support a section of the Valley-Elsinore-Fogarty-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Line (with structures approximately 90 feet above ground surface) and distribution lines (with structures approximately 65 feet above ground surface). Proposed 115-kV Segments VIG4 and VIG5 would include the installation of replacement structures that range in height between 75 and 105 feet above ground surface along these existing subtransmission and distribution line ROWs. Although some of the proposed structures would be incrementally taller than some of the existing structures, the replacement of these structures would not substantially increase safety risks to hang gliders. Therefore, impacts under this criterion would be less than significant.

4.8.5 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures (Alberhill Project)

4.8.5.1 Project Commitments (Alberhill Project)

The applicant has committed to the following as part of the design of the proposed Alberhill Project. See Section 2.6, “Project Commitments,” for a complete description of each project commitment.

- **Project Commitment A: Landscaping and Irrigation Plan:** Prior to the start of construction, the applicant would develop a Landscaping and Irrigation Plan for the proposed Alberhill Substation that is consistent with surrounding community standards. The applicant would consult with Riverside County about the Plan and incorporate applicable County recommendations to the extent possible. Landscaping would be designed to filter views from the surrounding community and other potential sensitive receptors near the proposed substation and be consistent with the surrounding community. The landscape plan would include a plant species list and installation and construction requirements. The applicant would contract a landscape architect to complete

1 the landscaping plan during final engineering for the Alberhill Project. Irrigation and landscaping
2 installation would occur after construction of the proposed substation perimeter wall and water
3 service has been established. During operations, the applicant would maintain the substation site
4 pursuant to the Landscaping and Irrigation Plan and be responsible for upkeep as long as the
5 applicant owns the property.

- 6 • **Project Commitment B: Worker Environmental Awareness Plan:** Prior to construction, a
7 Worker Environmental Awareness Plan would be developed based on final engineering designs,
8 the results of preconstruction surveys, and mitigation measures developed by the California
9 Public Utilities Commission. A presentation would be prepared by the applicant and shown to all
10 site workers prior to their start of work. A record of all trained personnel would be kept with the
11 construction foreman. In addition to the instruction for compliance with any site-specific
12 biological or cultural resource protective measures and project mitigation measures. All
13 construction personnel would also receive instruction on site-specific dust control, cultural
14 resources identification, contaminant reduction practices, spill prevention and response
15 procedures, emergency procedures, hazardous material safety, incident reporting, Best
16 Management Practices, individual worksite responsibilities and legal requirements.
- 17 • **Project Commitment F: Geotechnical Study, Soil Testing, and Seismic Design Standards:**
18 Prior to the start of construction, the applicant would conduct geotechnical and hydrologic
19 studies and field investigations of the proposed Alberhill Substation site, 500-kV transmission
20 line routes, and all 115-kV subtransmission line routes. The studies would include an evaluation
21 of the depth to the water table, liquefaction potential, physical properties of subsurface soils, soil
22 resistivity, and slope stability (landslide susceptibility). The studies would include soil boring
23 and laboratory testing to determine the engineering properties of soils, would characterize soils
24 and underlying bedrock units, characterize groundwater conditions, and evaluate faulting and
25 seismicity risk. Soil samples would be collected and analyzed for common contaminants and the
26 presence of hazardous materials. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations
27 above action levels, the applicant would avoid the contaminated soil or work with the property
28 owner to remove the contaminated soil. The results of this study would be applied to final
29 engineering designs for the proposed projects. The information collected would be used to
30 determine final TSP foundation designs. In addition, the proposed Alberhill Substation would be
31 located in an area susceptible to earthquakes. The applicant would design the proposed
32 substation consistent with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 693 Standard,
33 Recommended Practices for Seismic Design of Substations.

34 35 **4.8.5.2 Impacts Analysis (Alberhill Project)** 36

37 **Impact HZ-1 (ASP): Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the**
38 **routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.**
39 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
40

41 Construction and operation of the proposed Alberhill Project would include the use, transport, and
42 disposal of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials that would be used throughout the proposed
43 Alberhill Project area during construction and operation include fuel, lubricants, and antifreeze
44 associated with construction and maintenance equipment and vehicles, as well as paints, solvents,
45 adhesives, and cleaning chemicals. Blasting would not occur as part of the proposed Alberhill Project.
46

47 Construction vehicles would be fueled by existing offsite fuel supply facilities or from an offsite fuel
48 supply truck temporarily brought onsite to provide fuel. Helicopters used for 500-kV transmission line

1 construction and conductor stringing would be fueled by either the helicopter contractor's fuel truck or
2 fuel service available at a local airport (e.g., Skylark Field). Helicopter fueling may occur at Skylark
3 Field Airport, Perris Valley Airport, or the applicant's Chino Air Operations Facility, the proposed
4 Alberhill Substation site, Staging Area ASP1, Staging Area ASP2, and Staging Area ASP3. Small
5 quantities of fuel (10 to 40 gallons) would be stored onsite for gasoline-powered hand tools, small
6 portable generators, and the emergency backup generator; otherwise, the applicant would not store bulk
7 fuels at work sites during construction of the proposed Alberhill Project.

8
9 Construction of the Alberhill Substation would require the transportation of approximately 134,200
10 gallons of transformer oil. Federal and state laws regulate transport vehicle specifications, driver
11 qualifications, and load container specifications used for transportation of the proposed volume of oil
12 such that under normal conditions, no release of oil to the environment would occur.

13
14 Construction waste would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and
15 requirements. The majority of construction-related waste would be inert material (clean soil, vegetation,
16 metal scrap, packaging materials, etc.), most of which would be containerized and disposed of at a
17 licensed facility. Hazardous wastes that are likely to be generated during construction include waste
18 motor oils, used transformer oil, waste hydraulic fluids, discarded batteries, waste solvents and
19 adhesives, aboveground storage tanks, contaminated water, and old conductor wire. Wooden utility poles
20 and wooden components treated with preservatives would be managed in accordance with California
21 Health and Safety Code Section 25150.7 requirements. To comply with this code, the applicant would
22 dispose of treated wooden poles only at a Class I hazardous landfill or in a composite-lined portion of a
23 solid waste landfill unit that meets the requirements outlined in the code. During construction at the
24 proposed Alberhill Substation site, the applicant or its contractor may encounter subsurface structures
25 such as pipelines or unknown/undetected storage tanks, or materials resulting in a release of
26 contaminants such as lead, asbestos, pesticides, or fuel, that may be associated with past uses.

27
28 During operation, the applicant would store up to 134,200 gallons of transformer oil used as insulating
29 media for the 500/115-kV transformers; approximately 960 gallons of diesel (Low-Sulfur Diesel No. 2)
30 for the backup generator; and lead-calcium batteries would be stored in the control room at the proposed
31 Alberhill Substation. Prior to operation, an SPCC plan would be developed and implemented. The
32 proposed Alberhill Substation would be unstaffed, and electrical equipment within the proposed
33 substation would be remotely monitored and controlled by an automated system from the applicant's
34 Valley Substation Regional Control Center. The applicant's personnel would visit the proposed Alberhill
35 Substation for electrical switching and routine maintenance purposes at least once per week. Routine
36 maintenance would include equipment testing, equipment monitoring, and repair. Maintenance activities
37 at the transmission and subtransmission lines would be inspection-related and would occur at least once
38 per year by driving and/or flying the line routes. It is not anticipated that vehicle fueling would occur at
39 the proposed substation site or along the transmission or subtransmission lines during routine
40 maintenance.

41
42 The applicant would transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum products in
43 accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including the preparation and
44 implementation of an SPCC plan (40 CFR Part 112) and an HMBP (Riverside County Ordinance 651.3,
45 California Health and Safety Code Section 25500) for construction and operation of the proposed
46 Alberhill Substation. However, routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum
47 products could result in accidental releases or spills, representing a potentially significant hazard to the
48 public and environment during construction and operations. The applicant would prepare and require all
49 site workers to participate in Worker Environmental Awareness Plan training prior to construction, as
50 described in Project Commitment B. The training would instruct workers on their individual

1 responsibilities under the SWPPP, site-specific BMPs, and location of material safety data sheets. The
2 Worker Environmental Awareness Plan would also instruct workers on proper procedures in the event of
3 hazardous materials spills, leaks from equipment, or upon the discovery of soil or groundwater
4 contamination. Project Commitment B would reduce impacts but not to less than significant. The
5 applicant would also develop and implement a Hazardous Material Management Plan (MM HZ-1) that
6 would address prevention, control, and clean-up of upset and accident conditions involving the release of
7 hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM HZ-1.
8

9 The closest aquatic resource, Lake Elsinore, is located 1 mile east of the closest Alberhill Project
10 component. Spills that occur near storm drains that lead to Lake Elsinore or the other surface waters
11 shown in Figure 4.9-2 could have a significant impact on water quality that could quickly spread
12 downstream. Implementation of MM BR-15 would require the applicant to perform vehicle maintenance
13 activities at least 150 feet (or as specified by agency permits) from all aquatic resources and would
14 require immediate cleanup of hazardous materials spills.
15

16 Eleven hazardous material or waste sites were identified in proximity to proposed Alberhill Project
17 components, and unrecorded hazardous material sites may also be present. It remains possible that
18 hazardous materials or wastes from undocumented releases may be encountered along the proposed
19 routes because soil contamination in these areas has not been thoroughly investigated. Improper handling
20 and disposal of soils from contaminated sites would result in a significant impact. The applicant would
21 perform geotechnical studies along the 115-kV subtransmission line segments (Project Commitment F),
22 which would include soil studies. The soil analysis studies would include the collection and analysis of
23 soil samples for common contaminants and the presence of hazardous materials. If chemicals are detected
24 in the soil samples at concentrations above action levels, the applicant would avoid the contaminated soil
25 or work with the property owner to remove it. In addition, the applicant would train construction
26 personnel to notify the foreman and regional spill response coordinator in the event of hazardous
27 materials spills and leaks from equipment or upon the discovery of soil or groundwater contamination
28 (Project Commitment B). Project Commitments B and F would reduce impacts, but impacts would
29 remain significant if unanticipated contamination is discovered. MM HZ-2 would require the applicant to
30 develop a Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan, which would define procedures for soil
31 and groundwater testing if unanticipated contamination is encountered. Implementation of MM HZ-2
32 would reduce the risk of improper handling and disposal of contaminated soil, contaminated
33 groundwater, and spilled hazardous materials by generating accurate and precise data on the
34 contamination extent and characteristic.
35

36 In summary, compliance with applicable laws and regulations and implementation of Project
37 Commitment B would reduce impacts under this criterion. However, implementation of MM HZ-1, MM
38 HZ-2, and MM BR-15 would reduce impacts under this criterion to a less than significant level.
39

40 ***Mitigation Measures***

41 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

42
43 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.**

44
45 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**

46
47 **Impact HZ-2 (ASP): Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through**
48 **reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release**

of hazardous materials into the environment.
LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION

Construction and operation of the proposed project would require the transport of large quantities (i.e., more than 10,000 gallons) of new and used transformer oil to and from the proposed Alberhill Substation site. In addition, 960 gallons of Low-Sulfur Diesel No. 2 would be stored at the proposed substation site within the fuel tank of a backup generator. The transportation of oil, fuel, and hazardous materials would have the potential to leak along roadways and enter nearby sensitive areas. Federal and state regulations regarding hazardous materials/wastes are designed to ensure that the use, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials are done safely and in a manner to avoid upset and accident conditions. Upset and accident conditions involving release of these materials would be a significant impact.

The applicant would implement a SWPPP to prevent the release of stored hazardous materials on site during construction, which would be reviewed and overseen by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (MM BR-15). The applicant would also develop and implement a Hazardous Material Management Plan (MM HZ-1) that would address prevention, control, and cleanup of upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Impacts during construction of the substation would be less than significant with implementation of these mitigation measures.

During operation of the proposed substation, the applicant would also implement an SPCC plan to prevent a release of stored hazardous materials on site during operation. In addition, an HMBP would be developed to describe and identify storage areas for hazardous materials and waste; describe appropriate handling, storage, and disposal techniques; and provide measures for avoiding and addressing spills. The substation would also have secondary containment around the transformer and a grading design that incorporates requirements from the SPCC plan. Typical required SPCC plan features include secondary containment, curbs, berms, and basins designed and installed to contain spills should they occur. Impacts would still be potentially significant. Project Commitment B would ensure that workers have a list of phone numbers of key personnel associated with the proposed project to ensure proposer communication during an emergency (e.g., environmental compliance coordinator and regional spill response coordinator). Compliance with the applicable regulations would reduce the potential for leakage of transported hazardous materials to less than significant.

During construction activities, especially in the area of the proposed substation site, the applicant or its contractor may encounter subsurface structures such as pipelines or unknown/undetected storage tanks, or materials resulting in a release of contaminants such as lead, asbestos, pesticides, or fuel, that may be associated with past uses. It is not anticipated that hazardous materials would be encountered along the 115-kV subtransmission lines because they would be constructed within existing ROWs. The applicant has stated that it performs Phase I ESAs and subsequent ESAs when acquiring property in fee or in easement. A review of state databases found that two active leaking underground fuel tank (LUFT) cleanup sites are located within 100 feet of 115-kV Segment ASP4 (Table 4.8-1), indicating that underground soil or groundwater contamination could be present along this route. Impacts may occur if fuel has spread offsite from one or both of the LUFT sites onto the ROW. These impacts are further discussed below under Impact HZ-4. Records searches indicated that no active cleanup sites are located within 0.3 miles of the proposed substation site, but lead- and asbestos-containing materials were identified and removed from the site (McKenna Environmental 2010). Additionally, demolition activities that took place at the site in 2011 indicated the presence of creosote-treated wood poles at the site. Past uses of the proposed substation site and the aboveground materials removed from the site during demolition activities indicate the potential presence of underground hazardous materials or petroleum products that could be disturbed and/or released during excavation activities.

1 The Phase I and II ESAs indicate that four septic tanks and associated leach areas, a water well, and an
2 aboveground water tank are located at the proposed Alberhill Substation site (Rubicon 2009a,b).
3 Abandonment and abatement of the water well and septic systems are discussed in Section 4.9,
4 “Hydrology and Water Quality.” The applicant would dispose of the water in the aboveground tank at a
5 facility licensed to accept water contaminated with oil and grease, and the water tank would be removed
6 and disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. There could still be
7 contamination on the substation site, which could lead to a potentially significant impact. As described in
8 Project Commitment F, the applicant would conduct follow-up assessments to the Phase II ESA (Rubicon
9 2009b) at the proposed substation site, along the proposed 500-kV transmission lines, and along the
10 proposed 115-kV subtransmission lines. Soil samples would be collected and analyzed for common
11 contaminants. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations above action levels, the
12 applicant would avoid the contaminated soil or work with the property owner to remove it (Project
13 Commitment F). In addition, construction personnel would be trained to notify the foreman and regional
14 spill response coordinator in the event of hazardous materials spills and leaks from equipment or upon
15 the discovery of soil or groundwater contamination (Project Commitment B). Project Commitments
16 would reduce impacts, but the impacts would remain significant. The implementation of MM HZ-2
17 would address the potential for encountering subsurface sources of contamination throughout all areas
18 that may be disturbed during construction of the proposed project or identified after conducting onsite
19 evaluations for the presence of hazardous materials and other contaminants. Mitigation would reduce the
20 potential for significant impacts related to below-ground contaminants to less than significant.

21
22 Accidental contact with existing underground utility lines or private utilities line such as leach lines
23 associated with a septic system during construction of the proposed Alberhill Project could release
24 hazardous materials. Compliance with California Government Code 4216.1 (DigAlert) would reduce
25 potential impacts to public utility lines. However, significant impacts would remain for private
26 underground infrastructure. Prior to finalizing the engineering design, MM HZ-3 would require the
27 applicant to contact the Underground Service Alert of Southern California to identify the exact locations
28 of gas pipelines within the project area. In addition, the applicant will contact affected private
29 landowners to determine if septic systems and associated leach fields, as well as other underground
30 facilities, may be impacted by construction of the projects. Final engineering plans for the projects will
31 be designed to avoid or minimize interference or damage to underground facilities, both public and
32 private. Once identified, the applicant will immediately notify by telephone the owner of underground
33 facilities that may have been damaged or dislocated during construction of the projects. The
34 implementation of MM HZ-3 would reduce potential impacts to private underground infrastructure to
35 less than significant.

36
37 As described under Impact HZ-1 (ASP), the applicant would transport, use, or dispose of hazardous
38 materials and petroleum products in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
39 However, routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum products could result
40 in accidental releases or spills, representing a potential hazard to the public and environment during
41 construction and operations.

42
43 Felled aboveground transmission lines would pose a health and safety hazard to people in the area if
44 people come in contact with active lines. Compliance with CPUC GO 95, GO 165, and GO 166 would
45 reduce the risk and prevent significant impacts that may occur during accidents and natural events that
46 would cause public safety hazards from damaged overhead electrical lines.

47
48 In summary, compliance with applicable regulations and implementation of a SPCC plan, HMBP, Project
49 Commitment B, and Project Commitment F would reduce the risk but not prevent significant impacts that
50 may still occur from upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. The

1 implementation of a site-specific hazardous materials management plan (MM HZ-1), a SWPPP (BR-15),
2 and a contaminated soil/groundwater contingency plan (MM HZ-2) would further prevent the potential
3 for upset and accident conditions and would reduce impacts under this criterion to less than significant
4 levels.

5
6 **Mitigation Measures**

7 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

8
9 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.**

10
11 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**

12
13 **MM HZ-3: DigAlert.**

14
15 **Impact HZ-3 (ASP): Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous**
16 **materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed**
17 **school.**

18 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*

19
20 Twelve schools are located within 0.25 miles of the proposed Alberhill Project 115-kV subtransmission
21 segments (Table 4.8-2). No schools are located within 0.25 miles of the proposed Alberhill Substation
22 site or 500-kV transmission line routes. Construction and operation of the 115-kV subtransmission
23 segments would not involve the handling or emission of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials as
24 defined by CEQA Section 21151.4 in quantities equal to or greater than the state threshold quantities
25 specified in Section 25532 of the California Health and Safety Code.

26
27 Diesel-powered vehicles and construction equipment would be used during construction of the proposed
28 Alberhill Project. The California Air Resources Board considers diesel exhaust emissions toxic. Diesel
29 exhaust would be emitted within 0.25 miles of schools along the proposed 115-kV subtransmission line
30 segments; however, because construction activities would be temporary and would not take place at any
31 single location for an extended period, impacts from diesel exhaust emissions would be less than
32 significant.

33
34 As discussed under Impact HZ-1 (ASP) and Impact HZ-2 (ASP), hazardous materials could be released
35 during construction or operation of the proposed Alberhill Project. However, Project Commitments B
36 and F and implementation of MM HZ-1, MM HZ-2, MM HZ-3, and MM BR-15, in addition to
37 compliance with applicable laws and regulations, would reduce impacts under this criterion to less than
38 significant levels.

39
40 **Mitigation Measures**

41 **MM BR-15: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs).**

42
43 **MM HZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management.**

44
45 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**

46
47 **MM HZ-3: DigAlert.**

1 **Impact HZ-4 (ASP): Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites**
2 **compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result,**
3 **would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.**
4 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
5

6 As described in Section 4.8.1.1, Cortese List (Government Code Section 65962.5) database searches did
7 not identify solid waste disposal sites, sites with Cease and Desist Orders or Cleanup and Abatement
8 Orders, or DTSC EnviroStor and hazardous waste sites within 1,000 feet of components of the proposed
9 Alberhill Project (DTSC 2015a,b; SWRCB 2015a,b,c). Two open-case LUFT sites (Table 4.8-1),
10 however, were listed in the SWRCB Geotracker database that would be located less than 100 feet from
11 115-kV Segment ASP4. No other open-case SWRCB Geotracker sites were identified within 1,000 feet
12 of the proposed Alberhill Project. There are also nine other Cortese List sites, including eight closed-
13 cased LUFT sites and an open-case DTSC voluntary cleanup site.
14

15 The two LUFT sites are located on the property of operational gas stations (Yellow Pages 2015b). It is
16 not anticipated that excavation along 115-kV Segment ASP4, which would occur within an existing
17 ROW, would expose contaminated soils, but impacts could occur if the fuel leaks have spread
18 underground from the LUFT sites into the ROW or if undocumented sites or released are discovered.
19 This would lead to a potentially significant impact. MM HZ-2 would require the applicant to develop a
20 Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan to address the potential for encountering subsurface
21 sources of contamination throughout all areas to be disturbed during construction of the proposed
22 Alberhill Project. Therefore, impacts under this criterion would be less than significant with mitigation.
23

24 Several potentially contaminated soil and/or groundwater sites have been identified adjacent to proposed
25 Alberhill Project components, as indicated in Table 4.8-1. Excavation and handling of contaminated soils
26 associated with these sites or any other previously unrecorded contaminated site would result in a
27 significant impact. The applicant would perform geotechnical studies along the proposed 500-kV
28 transmission lines and 115-kV subtransmission line segments (Project Commitment F). The geotechnical
29 studies would include the collection and analysis of soil samples for common contaminants and the
30 presence of hazardous materials. If chemicals are detected in the soil samples at concentrations above
31 action levels, the applicant would avoid the contaminated soil or work with the property owner to remove
32 it. In addition, the applicant would train construction personnel to notify the foreman and regional spill
33 response coordinator in the event of hazardous materials spills and leaks from equipment or upon the
34 discovery of soil or groundwater contamination (Project Commitment B). Impacts would still be
35 potentially significant without guidelines to adhere to during construction activities. MM HZ-2 would
36 require the applicant to develop a Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan, which would
37 define procedures for soil and groundwater testing. Impacts would be less than significant with
38 implementation of MM HZ-2.
39

40 ***Mitigation Measure***

41 **MM HZ-2: Contaminated Soil/Groundwater Contingency Plan.**
42

43 **Impact HZ-5 (ASP): For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan**
44 **has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use**
45 **airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or**
46 **working in the project area.**
47 *NO IMPACT*
48

1 Proposed 115-kV Segment ASP8 would be located approximately 1.6 miles southeast of Perris Valley
2 Airport but would not be located within a Perris Valley Airport Land use zone under the adopted Perris
3 Valley Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Riverside County ALUC 2004c). 115-kV Segment ASP8
4 would be located within the Perris Valley Airport Compatibility Zone E under the draft version of the
5 revised Perris Valley Airport Land Use Plan (Riverside County ALUC 2010). Applicable development
6 conditions within Perris Valley Airport Compatibility Zone E include required airspace review for
7 developments over 150 feet due to concerns about compatibility with airport activities (Riverside County
8 ALUC 2004b). The segment would also be located within an Aircraft Approach Accident Risk Intensity
9 Contours, which indicates that the proposed segment would be located in an area with statistically higher
10 potential for accidents based on nationwide data (Riverside County ALUC 2010).

11
12 The proposed 115-kV Segment ASP8 would be located within the applicant's existing ROW, on the
13 south side of the existing Valley-Serrano 500-kV transmission line. The line would have LWSPs and
14 TSPs that would range from 70 to 115 feet tall. Because these structures are less than 150 feet in height,
15 installation of these structures would not require airspace review under the draft version of the revised
16 Perris Valley Airport Land Use Plan. Furthermore, the existing Valley - Serrano 500-kV transmission
17 line lattice steel towers range from 129 to 132 feet above the ground and would be taller than the LWSPs
18 and TSPs that would be installed as part of 115-kV Segment ASP8. Installation of 115-kV Segment
19 ASP8 would therefore not result in a significant safety hazard for people residing or working in the
20 project area and there would be no impact under this criterion.

21
22 Airspace hazards, in general, are discussed in Section 4.15, "Traffic and Transportation."

23
24 **Impact HZ-6 (ASP): For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project**
25 **result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.**
26 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT*

27
28 Sections of 115-kV Segments ASP4 and ASP5 would be located less than 1,000 feet east of Skylark Field
29 Airport (Figure 2-2b). Construction would occur along an existing 115-kV subtransmission line and
30 within an existing ROW.

31
32 The lightweight steel poles installed along 115-kV Segments ASP4 and ASP5 within the Influence Area
33 of Skylark Field Airport would range in height from 70 to 115 feet (Figure 2-6). The Skylark Field
34 Airport manager stated that an initial review of the project did not raise concerns with regard to the
35 proposed Alberhill Project as long as the structures installed are less than 120 feet high (Gulledge
36 personal communication 2010). The 115-kV structures would range from 70 to 115 feet tall. Because the
37 proposed structures would be less than 120 feet in height, installation of structures along ASP4 and ASP5
38 within the vicinity of the Skylark Field Airport would not result in a safety hazard for people working in
39 the project area. Impacts under this criterion would be less than significant.

40
41
42 **Impact HZ-7 (ASP): Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted**
43 **emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.**
44 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT*

45
46 No emergency or evacuation routes are identified in the Riverside County General Plan, Riverside
47 County EOP, or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City of Lake Elsinore General Plan, or the City of
48 Menifee Draft General Plan in the vicinity of any of component of the proposed Alberhill Project
49 (County of Riverside 2006, 2008, 2012; City of Lake Elsinore 2011; City of Menifee 2013). The City of
50 Orange's EOP does not define evacuation routes for emergencies (City of Orange 2010).

1
2 Construction activities completed within or along public streets would be conducted in accordance with
3 local ordinances, applicable general plan policies, Riverside County EOP and Multi-Jurisdictional Local
4 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and control measures published in the California Joint Utility Traffic Control
5 Manual (California Inter-Utility Coordinating Committee 2014). In places where the components of the
6 proposed Alberhill Project would span a road or require lane closure, construction activities would be
7 coordinated with the local jurisdiction in accordance with local ordinances and permit conditions to
8 avoid closure of emergency routes. Traffic Control Plans would be developed and implemented as
9 required by Riverside County and the cities of Lake Elsinore, Menifee, and Wildomar during local
10 permitting processes that would provide traffic control services to ensure adequate flow of traffic during
11 lane or road closures (Section 4.15, "Transportation and Traffic").
12

13 Operation of the proposed Alberhill Project would not result in lane closures or other obstructions to area
14 roads or traffic. Maintenance would be performed consistent with local ordinances, applicable general
15 plan policies, the Riverside County EOP and Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and
16 control measures published in the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (California Inter-Utility
17 Coordinating Committee 2014). Therefore, impacts under this criterion would be less than significant.
18

19 **Impact HZ-8 (ASP): Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death**
20 **involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to**
21 **urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**
22 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION*
23

24 Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with the proposed Alberhill Project would
25 increase fire risk during refueling, vehicle and equipment use, welding, vegetation clearing, worker
26 cigarette smoking, and other activities. Fires could ignite when objects contact the proposed power lines
27 or other energized equipment, when a live-phase conductor falls to the ground, due to conductor-to-
28 conductor contact, or due to power surges.
29

30 During construction, the applicant would clear vegetation from the proposed Alberhill Substation site and
31 staging areas and along access roads and power line routes. Landscaping and irrigation would be
32 installed after the proposed Alberhill Substation wall is constructed and maintained during operation of
33 the proposed Alberhill Project (Project Commitment A). To address fire risk during operation of the
34 proposed Alberhill Substation, the applicant would install an early-detect smoke and fire detection
35 system in the proposed Alberhill Substation control room. Handheld fire extinguishers rated for electrical
36 fire would be available in the control building and within the proposed Alberhill Substation boundary.
37 The 500-kV transmission lines, transformer bank leads, and 115-kV operating buses would have
38 lightning arresters.
39

40 Additionally, the proposed transmission and subtransmission facilities would be constructed and
41 maintained in a manner consistent with California Public Resources Code Sections 4291 through 4299,
42 which regulate vegetation management. Per these regulations, the applicant would maintain vegetation
43 clearance areas around the proposed Alberhill Substation and transmission and subtransmission lines.
44 The proposed Alberhill Project would also be constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with
45 CPUC GO 95, GO 165, and GO 166 for power line construction, inspection, and safety.
46

47 Because components of the proposed Alberhill Project would be located in Very High Fire Hazard
48 Severity Zones and in areas identified by CAL FIRE as having significant potential for large, destructive
49 wildfires (CAL FIRE 2005), construction of the proposed Alberhill Project would substantially increase
50 fire risk regardless of fire prevention systems that would be installed, vegetation clearing, and

1 compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards. Operation of the proposed Alberhill Project
2 would also increase fire risk. These impacts would be potentially significant given nearby residential
3 areas. MM HZ-4 presents requirements for a Fire Control and Emergency Response Plan that would
4 reduce the risk of fire and impacts that would result should a fire occur. Implementation of MM HZ-4
5 would ensure that impacts under this criterion are less than significant during construction and operation.
6

7 **Mitigation Measure**

8 **MM HZ-4: Fire Control and Emergency Response.**

9 **Impact HZ-9 (ASP): Result in substantial safety risks to hang gliders.**

10 *NO IMPACT*

11
12
13 The proposed subtransmission line would be located in an area known to be used for hang glider landing.
14 The vacant fields adjacent to Interstate-15 (I-15) where it crosses Nichols Road are used as a landing
15 zone for hang gliders west of I-15. This area is about 1,250 feet east of 115-kV Segment ASP2. Here,
16 115-kV ASP2 would be placed on existing structures installed as part of proposed 115-kV Segments
17 VIG4 and VIG5 and would not require increasing the height of the structures. Therefore, installation of
18 115-kV ASP2 would not result in substantial safety risks to hang gliders and there would be no impact
19 under this criterion.
20

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