

1
2 **7.0 Other CEQA Considerations**
3

4 This chapter addresses other considerations related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
5 considerations that have not been discussed in other sections of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR),
6 including:

- 7 • 7.1: Growth-inducing Impacts
- 8 • 7.2: Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes
- 9 • 7.3: Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts
- 10 • 7.4: Impacts of Mitigation Measures
- 11 • 7.5: Energy Conservation
- 12 • 7.6: Effects Not Found to Be Significant

13
14
15 **7.1 Growth-Inducing Impacts**
16

17 CEQA Guidelines section 15126.2(d) requires a discussion of “the ways in which the proposed project
18 could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or
19 indirectly, in the surrounding environment.” Projects may also be considered growth inducing if they would
20 remove an obstacle to population growth, such as “a major expansion of a waste water treatment plant [that]
21 would . . . allow for more construction in service areas.” The discussion must not assume that growth in an
22 area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. The proposed Valley-
23 Ivyglen 115-kilovolt (kV) Subtransmission Line Project (proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project) and the
24 proposed Alberhill System Project (proposed Alberhill Project) may result in growth from additional
25 employment and from provision of additional electric power.

26
27 **7.1.1 Growth from Employment During Construction and Operation**
28

29 **7.1.1.1 Valley-Ivyglen Project**
30

31 ***Construction***

32 The applicant anticipates that most, if not all, construction workers for the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project
33 (up to 125 per day) would come from the applicant’s local crew in Alhambra, California, or from
34 contractors located in communities within the proposed project area (SCE 2014). Depending on the
35 availability of the applicant’s local construction crews, outside contractors may also be used. In the event
36 that a non-local contractor provided all 125 construction workers, the population of local cities would
37 increase by a total of approximately 0.02 percent compared to 2014 population data (SCAG 2014). It is not
38 anticipated that any workers from out of the area would permanently relocate to the area; therefore, the
39 employment-related population increase during construction of the Valley-Ivyglen Project would be
40 temporary.

41
42 ***Operation***

43 During operation, the components of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would be un-staffed and existing
44 local SCE staff would be adequate to conduct the occasional maintenance or emergency repairs (SCE
45 2014). Therefore, operation and maintenance of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would not affect
46 population growth due to employment.

1
2 **7.1.1.2 Alberhill System Project**

3
4 **Construction**

5 The applicant anticipates that most, if not all, construction workers for the proposed Alberhill Project (up to
6 200 per day) would come from the applicant’s Menifee or Wildomar Service Centers, which are located
7 within the proposed project area (SCE 2011). Depending on the availability of the applicant’s local
8 construction crews, outside contractors may also be used. In the event that a non-local contractor provided
9 all 200 construction workers, the population of local cities would increase by a total of approximately 0.04
10 percent compared to 2014 population data (SCAG 2014). It is not anticipated that any workers from out of
11 the area would permanently relocate to the area; therefore, the employment-related population increase
12 during construction of the Valley-Ivyglen Project would be temporary.

13
14 **Operation**

15 During operation, the components of the proposed Alberhill Project would be un-staffed and existing local
16 SCE staff would be adequate to conduct the occasional maintenance or emergency repairs (SCE 2014).
17 Therefore, operation and maintenance of the proposed Alberhill Project would have no direct impact on
18 population due to employment.

19
20 **7.1.2 Growth from the Provision of Additional Electric Power**

21
22 **7.1.2.1 Valley-Ivyglen Project**

23
24 The purpose of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project is to reduce reliability concerns associated with the
25 existing single 115-kV subtransmission line that serves Fogarty and Ivyglen Substations, as well as to
26 eliminate the potential for 115-kV system overloads resulting from the loss of a 115-kV element within the
27 Electrical Needs Area. The proposed Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Line would relieve loads on
28 the existing Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Line and provide a second source of power to Ivyglen
29 Substation by creating a second 115-kV connection between Valley Substation and Ivyglen Substation.
30 Operational flexibility would be improved by increasing the applicant’s ability to transfer load between
31 115-kV substations within the Electrical Needs Area. The applicant’s ability to provide safe and reliable
32 electrical service within the Electrical Needs Area would also be enhanced. In addition, the proposed
33 Valley-Ivyglen 115-kV Subtransmission Line would enhance the proposed Alberhill 115-kV System’s
34 ability to provide service to 115-kV facilities within the proposed system as planned by the applicant.

35
36 The proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project is intended to allow for provision of electricity to reliably serve
37 projected load growth, which is caused by population growth. The proposed project would therefore
38 indirectly affect growth by removing a barrier to growth through avoiding overloads by allowing delivery of
39 additional power.

40
41 **7.1.2.2 Alberhill System Project**

42
43 The purpose of the proposed Alberhill Project is to relieve projected electrical demand that would exceed
44 the operating limit of the two load-serving Valley South 115-kV System 500/115-kV transformers by
45 constructing a new 500/115-kV substation (i.e., Alberhill Substation) within the Electrical Needs Area. The
46 proposed Alberhill Substation would allow for the provision of safe and reliable electrical service pursuant
47 to North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Western Electricity Coordinating Council
48 standards. System ties between a new 115-kV System (i.e., the proposed Alberhill 115-kV System served
49 by the proposed Alberhill Substation) and the Valley South 115-kV System would be maintained such that

1 either of these systems could be used to provide electricity in place of the other during maintenance, during
2 emergency events, or to relieve other operational issues on one of the systems.

3
4 The proposed Alberhill Project is intended to allow for provision of electricity to reliably serve projected
5 load growth, which is caused by population growth. The proposed project would therefore indirectly affect
6 growth by removing a barrier to growth through avoiding overloads by allowing delivery of additional
7 power.
8

9 **7.2 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes**

10
11 CEQA Guidelines section 15126.2(c) requires that an EIR identify significant irreversible environmental
12 changes that a proposed project would cause. These changes may include use of nonrenewable resources,
13 provision of access to previously inaccessible areas, or accidents that could change the environment in the
14 long term.
15

16 **7.2.1 Valley – Ivyglen Project**

17
18 **7.2.1.1 Use of Nonrenewable Resources**

19
20 Implementation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would result in the consumption of energy and
21 materials during construction and operation. Fossil fuels would be required for construction of the proposed
22 projects, as well as operation and maintenance.
23

24 Construction of the proposed project would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would
25 not be recyclable. The raw materials and energy required for construction of the proposed project would
26 result in an irretrievable commitment of natural resources. Approximately 40 of the 31,913 tons of non-
27 hazardous waste materials generated during construction of the proposed projects would be recycled or
28 salvaged (see Section 2.4.4.8, “Waste Disposal and Recycling”). The remaining hazardous and non-
29 hazardous waste materials would be disposed of in landfills or appropriately licensed hazardous waste
30 facilities in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
31

32 Operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would result in negligible consumption of energy and
33 materials due to the intermittent, low-intensity nature of operation and maintenance activities. Given that
34 long-term use of nonrenewable resources would be minimal, the irreversible environmental changes related
35 to use of nonrenewable resources would not be substantial.
36

37 **7.2.1.2 Provision of Access to Previously Inaccessible Areas**

38
39 Much of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would be located adjacent to existing roads, but up to 14
40 miles of new access roads would be needed. Only about 0.4 miles of 115-kV Segment VIG5 west of
41 Hostettler Road would involve construction of new access roads where there currently are no roads or
42 access nearby. This segment represents about 1.5 percent of the proposed 115-kV subtransmission line.
43 There is development on either side of this portion of 115-kV Segment VIG5. The access roads in this area
44 would be private and not meant to provide public access to the area but instead to provide access for
45 maintaining the proposed project. Provision of access to previously inaccessible areas would therefore not
46 be significant.
47

48 **7.2.1.3 Irreversible Damages from Project-related Environmental Accidents**

49
50 It is possible that an accident during construction or operation of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project could
51 cause irreversible environmental harm. The highest risk for accidents would be during construction, when

1 there is high intensity use of equipment and hazardous materials. Section 4.8, “Hazards and Hazardous
2 Materials,” explains that there would be potentially significant hazard impacts as a result of accidents.
3 Impacts would remain significant after implementation of Project Commitment B. However, impacts would
4 be reduced to less than significant with Mitigation Measure (MM) HZ-1, MM HZ-2, MM HZ-3, MM HZ-4,
5 MM WQ-3, and MM BR-14.

7 7.2.2 Alberhill System Project

9 7.2.1.1 Use of Nonrenewable Resources

11 Implementation of the proposed Alberhill Project would result in the consumption of energy and materials
12 during construction and operation. Fossil fuels would be required for construction of the proposed projects,
13 as well as operation and maintenance.

15 Construction of the proposed project would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would
16 not be recyclable. The raw materials and energy required for construction of the proposed project would
17 result in an irretrievable commitment of resources. Approximately 40 of the 142,110 tons of non-hazardous
18 waste materials generated during construction of the proposed projects would be recycled or salvaged
19 (Section 2.4.4.8, “Waste Disposal and Recycling”). The remaining hazardous and non-hazardous waste
20 materials would be disposed of in landfills or appropriately licensed hazardous waste facilities in
21 compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

23 Operation of the proposed Alberhill Project subtransmission and transmission lines would result in
24 negligible consumption of energy and materials due to the intermittent, low-intensity nature of operation
25 and maintenance activities. Each transformer at the proposed Alberhill Substation would contain 33,550
26 gallons of mineral oil per transformer, and the Alberhill Substation backup generator would contain 960
27 gallons of Low-Sulfur Diesel No. 2. The transformer oil from the proposed Alberhill Substation would be
28 recycled pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 279. Given that long-term use of nonrenewable
29 resources would be minimal, the irreversible environmental changes related to use of nonrenewable
30 resources would not be substantial.

32 7.2.1.2 Provision of Access to Previously Inaccessible Areas

34 Much of the proposed project would be located adjacent to existing roads. Up to 6.1 miles of new road
35 would be constructed to access new 500-kV towers if conventional construction is used on the 500-kV
36 transmission line. No new access roads would be constructed if helicopter construction is used to construct
37 the 500-kV transmission line. Regardless of the method used for 500-kV transmission line construction,
38 about 325 feet of access roads would be built on 115-kV Segment ASP5. There are existing access roads in
39 the vicinity of 115-kV Segment ASP5. The access road in this area would therefore not provide access to
40 previously inaccessible areas. The access roads for the 500-kV transmission line would be private and not
41 meant to provide public access to the area but instead to provide access for maintaining the proposed
42 project. Provision of access to previously inaccessible areas would therefore not be significant.

44 7.2.1.3 Irreversible Damages from Project-related Accidents

46 It is possible that an accident during construction or operation of the proposed Alberhill Project could cause
47 irreversible environmental harm. The highest risk for accidents would be during construction, when there is
48 high intensity use of equipment and hazardous materials. Section 4.8, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials,”
49 explains that there would be potentially significant hazard impacts as a result of accidents. Impacts would
50 remain significant after implementation of Project Commitment B. However, impacts would be reduced to
51 less than significant with MM HZ-1, MM HZ-2, MM HZ-3, MM HZ-4, MM WQ-3, and MM BR-14.

7.3 Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts

CEQA Guidelines section 15126.2(b) requires that an EIR describe significant impacts that cannot be reduced to insignificant. It further states:

[w]here there are impacts that cannot be alleviated without imposing an alternative design, their implications and the reasons why the project is being proposed, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.

7.3.1 Valley-Ivyglen Project

The EIR has identified the following significant impacts of the Valley-Ivyglen Project that cannot be avoided:

- **Impact AQ-2 (VIG): Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.** Emissions of particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) during construction would result in a significant air quality impact after mitigation.
- **Impact AQ-3 (VIG): Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).** Emissions of PM₁₀ during construction would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM₁₀, for which the project region is in nonattainment. Impacts would remain significant after implementing mitigation.
- **Impact NV-4 (VIG): Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.** Construction of the proposed project would result in a substantial increase in noise levels that could not be mitigated to less than significant.
- **Cumulative Impacts.** Construction of the proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project would considerably contribute to cumulatively significant impacts on air quality as a result of criteria pollutants emissions and transportation and traffic as a result of impacts on level of service standards.

7.3.2 Alberhill Project

The EIR has identified the following significant impacts of the proposed Alberhill Project that cannot be avoided:

- **Impact AES-2 (ASP): Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway.** Construction activities at the Substation site would cause a significant visual impact to motorists on Interstate 15 (I-15), which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. Operation of the Alberhill Substation and adjacent transmission lines would also cause a significant visual impact to motorists on I-15.
- **Impact AQ-2 (ASP): Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.** Emissions of PM₁₀ and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) during construction would result in a significant air quality impact after mitigation.

- 1 • **Impact AQ-3 (ASP): Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria**
2 **pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state**
3 **ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative**
4 **thresholds for ozone precursors).** Emissions of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} during construction would result
5 in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, for which the project region is in
6 nonattainment. Impacts would remain significant after implementing mitigation.
- 7 • **Impact AQ-4 (ASP): Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.**
8 Construction of the 500-kV transmission lines using the conventional method of construction would
9 result in significant exposure impacts for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and PM_{2.5} even after
10 implementation of mitigation. Construction of the 500-kV transmission lines using helicopters
11 would result in significant exposure impacts for PM₁₀ even after implementation of mitigation.
- 12 • **Impact NV-4 (ASP): Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the**
13 **project vicinity above levels existing without the project.** Construction of the project would
14 result in a substantial increase in noise levels that could not be mitigated to less than significant.
15
- 16 • **Cumulative Impacts.** Construction of the proposed Alberhill Project would considerably
17 contribute to cumulatively significant impacts on air quality as a result of criteria pollutants
18 emissions and transportation and traffic as a result of impacts on level of service standards.
19

20 7.4 Impacts of Mitigation Measures

21
22 CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4(a)(1)(D) requires that an EIR discuss any significant impacts that would
23 be caused by mitigation measures. The discussion must contain less detail than the discussion of the
24 proposed project's significant effects.
25

26 MM AES-10 would require that 115-kV Segment ASP6 be placed underground on Murrieta Road between
27 Craig Avenue and Beth Drive. This portion would be about 0.2 miles long. MM AES-2 would require
28 placing 115-kV Segment VIG2 underground along State Route 74. This segment would be about 4.2 miles
29 long. The mitigation measures would not create any new significant impacts but would contribute to
30 significant impacts of the proposed projects:
31

- 32 • **Air Quality:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would increase heavy equipment use due to increased
33 excavation, which would slightly increase exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants, including NO_x,
34 PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds.
- 35 • **Cultural Resources:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would increase ground disturbance and
36 excavation, increasing the potential for discovery and damage of previously unknown cultural
37 resources.
- 38 • **Geology and Soils:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would increase ground disturbance and
39 excavation, increasing the potential for erosion and loss of topsoil.
- 40 • **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would increase the use of
41 heavy equipment, which would increase the risk for a hazardous materials spill.
- 42 • **Hydrology and Water Quality:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would increase ground disturbance
43 and excavation, increasing the potential for sedimentation. MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would
44 increase the use of heavy equipment, which would increase the risk for a hazardous materials spill
45 that could result in polluted runoff.

- **Noise:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would involve trenching, which in general produces more noise than installation of poles. Trenching would occur near homes, which are sensitive receptors. MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would therefore increase noise at sensitive receptors.
- **Transportation and Traffic:** MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would require trenching on Murrieta Road, which would require more interruption of traffic than pole installation. MM AES-10 and MM AES-2 would therefore increase impacts to traffic flow.

7.5 Energy Conservation

Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines requires consideration of potentially significant energy implications of a project “to the extent relevant and applicable to the project.”

7.5.1 Construction

The proposed projects would directly consume energy during construction and through the use of equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Intensity of direct energy consumption would be greater during construction than in operation. Vehicle trips are discussed in Section 4.15, “Traffic and Transportation.” Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality calculations presented in Appendix B. SCE has proposed Project Commitment H to reduce wasteful energy use during construction. Project Commitment H requires minimizing idling and turning off engines when not in use; this would reduce the proposed projects’ overall fuel consumption.

7.5.2 Operation

The proposed projects would directly consume energy during operation and through the use of equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Vehicle trips are discussed in Section 4.15, “Traffic and Transportation.” Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality calculations presented in Appendix B. Vehicle trips and equipment use during operation would be minimal and have a negligible impact on energy consumption.

Both projects would facilitate increased consumption of energy by meeting increased electricity demand, as explained in Section 1.1.1.4, “Projected Valley South 115-kV System Demand,” and Section 1.2.1, “Objectives of the Proposed Valley-Ivyglen Project.” However, increases in per capita energy use are not expected to result from implementation of either proposed project.

7.6 Effects Found not to be Significant

CEQA Guidelines section 15128 requires that an EIR

Contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR.

Each resource analysis in Section 4.0, “Environmental Analysis,” contains a statement supporting the conclusion of less than significant or no impact. The EIR dismisses the following CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist items under Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Population and Housing, Utilities and Service Systems, and Recreation from further discussion in this EIR:

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; or

- Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104[g]); or
- Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

As further discussed in Section 4.2, “Agriculture and Forestry,” the proposed projects would not traverse any lands zoned for agricultural use or under a Williamson Act contract, and no components of the proposed projects would be constructed or operated on land zoned for or defined as forest land or timberland or within a Timberland Production Zone. Therefore, this EIR does not address these CEQA checklist items in detail.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map.

As further discussed in Section 4.9, “Hydrology and Water Quality,” no housing construction would occur as part of the proposed projects. Therefore, this EIR does not address this CEQA checklist item in detail.

Population and Housing

- Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

As further discussed in Section 4.12, “Population and Housing,” the proposed projects would not displace any persons, and replacement housing would not be required. Therefore, this EIR does not address this CEQA checklist item in detail.

Utilities and Service Systems

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments; and
- Require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

As further discussed in Section 4.13, “Public Services,” the proposed projects would have no impact on regional or municipal sanitary wastewater treatment facilities. The permanent restroom to be constructed at the proposed Alberhill Substation would discharge to an on-site septic system. Portable toilets would be available to workers during construction of the proposed projects. Therefore, this EIR does not address these CEQA checklist items in detail.

Recreation

- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

1 As further discussed in Section 4.14, “Recreation,” the proposed projects would not include or require the
2 construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, this EIR does not address this CEQA
3 checklist item in detail.

4
5 **7.7 References**

6
7 SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments). 2014. Draft 2016 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast by
8 Jurisdictions. <http://www.scag.ca.gov/DataAndTools/Pages/GrowthForecasting.aspx>. November
9 17. Accessed May 29, 2015.

10
11 SCE (Southern California Edison). 2011. Amended Proponent’s Environmental Assessment: Alberhill
12 System Project (April), as amended by responses from SCE to CPUC requests for additional
13 information.

14
15 _____ . 2014. Project Modification Report Southern California Edison Company Amended Petition for
16 Modification of Decision 10-08-009 (April), as amended by responses from SCE to CPUC requests
17 for additional information.
18

This page intentionally left blank.