

6.0 Cumulative Impacts and Other CEQA Considerations

This chapter addresses cumulative impacts and other considerations in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including growth-inducing impacts, significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, and significant and irreversible environmental changes that may occur as a result of the Mesa 500-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project (Mesa Substation Project, or proposed project). This chapter also discusses potentially significant energy implications of the proposed project.

6.1 Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130) this environmental impact report (EIR) analyzes the cumulative impacts of the proposed project. According to CEQA, a cumulative impact refers to two or more individual effects that are considerable when considered together or that compound or increase environmental impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). CEQA Guidelines state that “[t]he cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonable foreseeable probable future projects” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Cumulative impacts can result from minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). CEQA requires the cumulative impacts discussion to reflect the likelihood that impacts would occur and their severity if they did occur. To comply with CEQA, a cumulative scenario has been developed that identifies and evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within the defined cumulative study area that would be constructed or commence operation during the timeframe of activity associated with the proposed project.

6.1.1 Methods

In discussing cumulative impacts, the CEQA Guidelines outline two approaches for characterizing the cumulative impacts that may occur in the vicinity of a proposed project:

1. **Project list:** A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, projects outside the control of the agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)).
2. **Summary of projections:** A summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional or statewide plan, or related planning document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)). This summary can be supplemented with additional information, including a regional modeling program.

This document uses both approaches, depending on which one is more appropriate for the resource area being analyzed. The approach selected depends on the resource area and the nature and character of expected impacts. The rationale for selecting an approach is provided in the cumulative impacts discussion for each resource area.

Because the area within which a cumulative effect can occur varies by resource area, for the purposes of this analysis, the geographic boundary also varies by the resource being evaluated. For example, traffic and noise impacts tend to be localized, while air quality and biological resources

1 impacts can be more widespread. Projects considered include past projects, projects under
2 construction and approved, and pending projects that are anticipated to be either under
3 construction or operational by the time of the completion of the proposed project. A list of
4 development projects within the cumulative study area were identified according to the geographic
5 extent for each resource area (discussed in Section 6.1.2, "Resource Areas"). Projects within this
6 area that could cause impacts that would combine with the impacts of the proposed project to
7 result in a cumulative impact are presented in Table 6-1. Information pertaining to past, present,
8 and reasonably foreseeable future projects was obtained from:
9

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- California Department of Transportation
- California Office of Planning and Research (CEQANet Database)
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Commerce
- City of Industry
- City of Montebello
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- City of Monterey Park
- City of Palmdale
- City of Pasadena
- City of Rosemead
- City of Santa Clarita
- City of South El Monte
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Los Angeles County
- Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority

10
11 These sources did not identify any proposed or pending projects near the Pardee or Walnut
12 Substations. Figure 6-1 depicts the location of each project. Each of the locations is labeled with a
13 number that corresponds to those presented in Table 6-1. In instances where the analysis in
14 Chapter 4, "Environmental Analysis," determines that the proposed project would result in no
15 impact, the associated significance criterion is not considered in the cumulative impacts analysis in
16 Section 6.1.2 because there is no potential for impacts of the proposed project to combine with the
17 impacts of any other project. Where construction schedules are unavailable or uncertain, the
18 cumulative impact analysis conservatively assumes that construction would overlap with the
19 proposed project.
20

21 **6.1.2 Resource Areas**

23 **6.1.2.1 Resource Areas Not Discussed**

24
25 The proposed project would not impact several resource areas. Therefore, no cumulative analysis
26 is provided for these resource areas:
27

- 28 • Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- 29 • Mineral Resources
- 30 • Land Use and Planning

31

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
1	Operating Industries, Inc. Landfill Superfund Site	The former landfill site became a Superfund site in January 1984. Cleanup began in 1989 and included installing landfill cover, a leachate treatment system, landfill gas treatment, and groundwater monitoring wells. Ongoing remediation includes sample collection and analysis from monitoring wells and operation of a leachate treatment facility, gas control and cover systems, and surface water management systems. The project area is bisected by SR 60; the area north of SR 60 is approximately 45 acres and the area south of SR 60 is approximately 145 acres.	200 feet from the proposed Substation boundary	All remedial actions have been implemented. Ongoing operation, maintenance, and monitoring are being undertaken.
2	Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan	The project would involve constructing a five-story building with retail and residential uses.	1.7 miles from Telecommunications Route 1	Project developer has submitted plan check construction drawings as of May 2015.
3	Monterey Park Market Place	The project would involve various retail uses, such as restaurants, large retail stores, small retail stores, a gas station, and at least 2,333 parking spaces. Square footage of retail would range from 515,382 to 600,000 square feet. Access to the site would be via Greenwood Avenue.	200 feet from proposed Substation Boundary	Project developer formulating utility plans as of May 2015.
4	South Garfield Village Specific Plan	The Specific Plan outlines plans and policies consistent with the General Plan but specific to the Garfield Village Area. The plan outlines neighborhood improvements (e.g., sidewalks, public spaces, and streets) and also contains design guidelines.	0.3 mile from Telecommunications Route 1	Administrative Draft Specific Plan was released in March 2015. The Draft Specific Plan and Initial Study/MND was circulated in July 2015.
5	Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan Amendment (GPA-13-02)	The project would include 80 homes on an approximately 9.15-acre parcel which is currently a plant nursery. There would also be two parks on the site.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	Specific Plan was approved in February 2014. Rough grading was being completed in May 2015.

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
6	500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)	The project would involve development of up to 140,000 square feet of self-storage space on an approximately 1.12-acre parcel.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	Specific Plan was approved in December 2013. City was reviewing plans in May 2015.
7	Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs)	The City would replace sewer pipes on roadways, including several residential street segments outside of the immediate vicinity of project components, mostly in the western part of the City. Spot repairs on Potrero Grande and Pomona Boulevard are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2017–2018. These two streets are close to the Mesa Substation.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1 and Mesa Substation	Repairs under the Capital Improvement Program would occur from 2014–19. Repairs to Potrero Grande and Pomona would occur in 2017 or 2018.
8	SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field	The project is the decommissioning of a natural gas storage field. The California Public Utilities Commission granted SoCalGas permission to decommission the field by selling remaining cushion gas.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 2	SoCalGas continues to sell gas from the Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field.
9	Montebello Hills Specific Plan	The proposed project involves developing a portion of the Montebello oil field. The development is anticipated to have 173.6 acres of residential use (maximum of 1,200 residential units), 314.5 acres of open space, 8.1 acres of pedestrian paths, 6.75 acres of parks, a 1.5-acre community center, and associated infrastructure. Current oil operations would not be changed as part of the project.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3	The project was approved in June 2015. Construction is expected to begin in 2016 or 2017 and last through 2022.
10	Jay Imperial Park	The City proposes to develop a vacant portion of Southern California Edison transmission corridor as a park that would include open space, trails, landscaping, and grass.	90 feet from Staging Yard 6; 0.6 mile from Telecommunications Route 1	A lease agreement was signed in January 2016; funding must be expended by mid-2017.
11	Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project	The project would consist of demolition of structures on the site and construction of a 5-story mixed use project with approximately 15,500 square feet of restaurant and retail uses and 60 dwelling units.	0.6 miles from Staging Yard 6	The City approved the MND in December 2014.

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
12	East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility	The project would involve installing 23,587 feet of water line to move groundwater from seven existing wells to an existing reservoir site for treatment prior to storage in the reservoir. The project would also involve improvements to the existing wells.	Adjacent to Staging Yard 4 and Goodrich Substation	Construction of the water line, modifications at wells, and disinfection facility is complete. The water line and wells are operating. Testing and startup are occurring at the disinfection facility.
13	South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements	Install 2.4 miles of bike lane and reduce vehicle lanes from 4 to 3 for 1 mile.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 1	In design phase. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2018.
14	Cal Royal Products	The project would add 38,161 square feet of warehousing and 1,029 square feet of office space to an existing building.	0.4 mile from Staging Yard 5 and structure replacement in Commerce	Construction schedule is unknown; permits have not been issued as of April 2015.
15	Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications	Modifications would be made to address structural deficiencies in the dam to prevent possible failure, overtopping, and leaking.	Adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3	Modifications anticipated to begin in late 2018 or early 2019.
16	Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project	The project would involve constructing a mixed use development with 11,860 square feet of retail and office use and 46 apartments.	0.4 mile from Staging Yard 6	An MND was prepared in May 2015.
17	New Garvey 168 Plaza Project	The project would involve demolition of structures on the site and construction of two buildings with approximately 5,600 square feet of retail, 4,800 square feet of office space, and 28 condominiums.	0.4 miles from Staging Yard 6	An MND was prepared in May 2014.
18	New Garvey Market Plaza	The project would involve 22,500 square feet of supermarket space and 18,000 square feet of retail space.	0.8 miles from Staging Yard 6	An MND is under preparation.
19	Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel	The project would involve a five-story hotel with 80 guest rooms.	0.6 mile from Telecommunications Route 1 and Staging Yard 6	Pre-application submitted February 2015

Table 6-1 Projects within Five Miles of the Proposed Project that Could Contribute to a Cumulative Impact

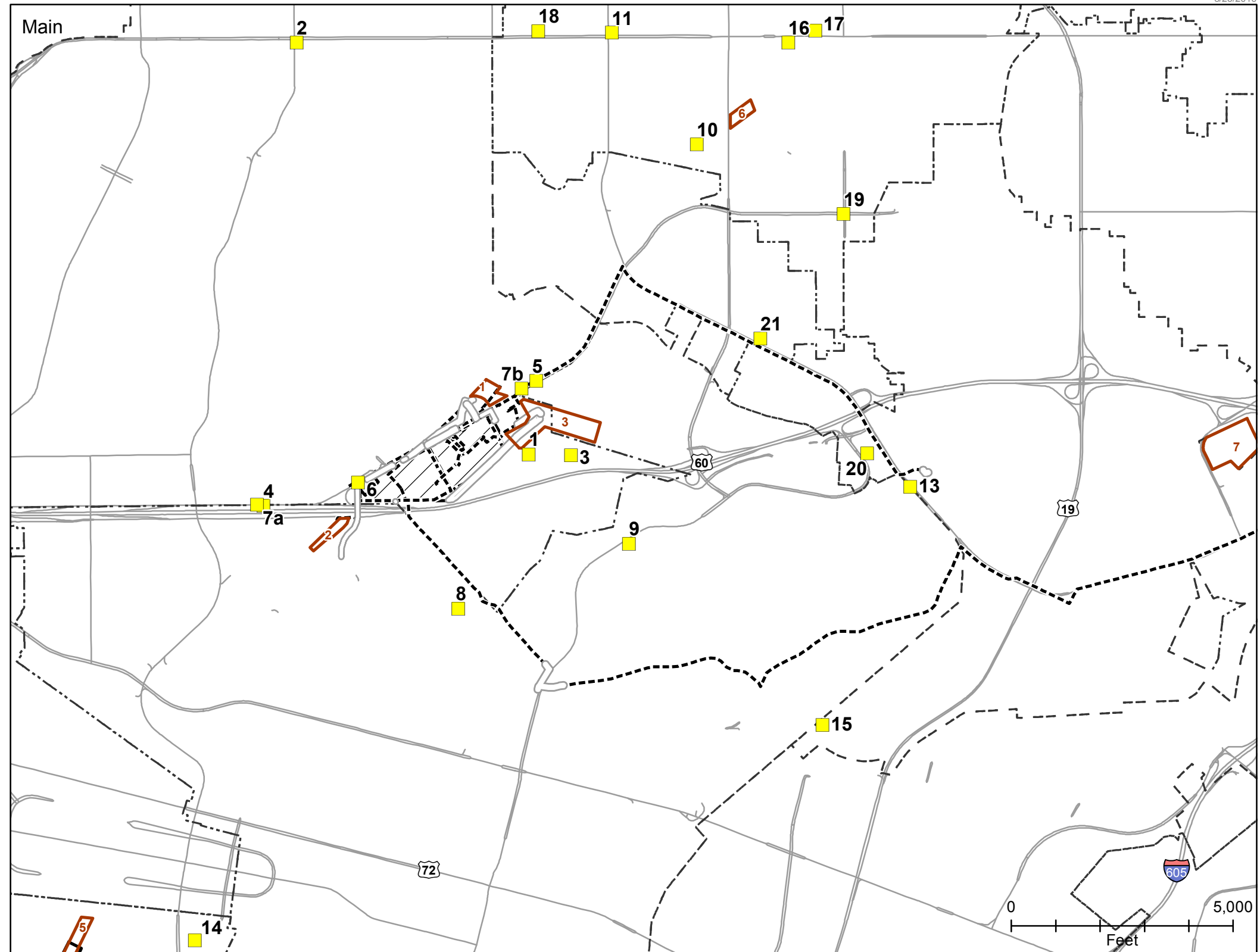
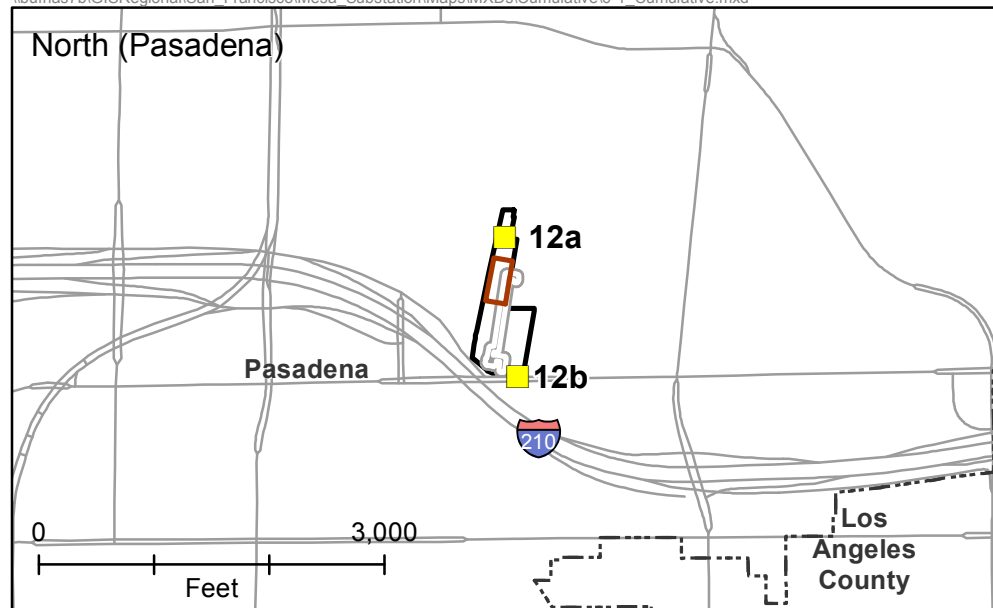
Number	Name	Description	Location	Status
20	Doubletree Hotel Expansion	The project expanded an existing hotel by adding 54 new rooms, a ballroom, and new parking.	150 feet from Telecommunications Route 1	Expansion had been constructed as of May 2015.
21	1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums	The project would be a residential development with 20 condominiums. The parcel is already developed.	80 feet from Telecommunications Route 1	Unknown

Sources: EPA n.d., Yargeau pers. comm. 2015, Tewesart pers. comm. 2015, City of Monterey Park n.d., City of Monterey Park 2011, City of Monterey Park 2015, City of Monterey Park 2014a, City of Monterey Park 2014b, City of Monterey Park 2013, SoCalGas 2015, City of Montebello 2015, Sprague 2015, City of Montebello 2014, Bermejo pers. comm. 2015, RMC 2015, City of Rosemead 2014a, City of Rosemead 2014b, City of Pasadena 2012, County of Los Angeles 2015, County of Los Angeles n.d., City of Commerce 2012, Marquez pers. comm. 2015, California High Speed Rail Authority 2015, Fullam 2014, SCE 2015, City of Rosemead 2015, City of Rosemead 2014c, KOA 2015, City of Rosemead 2009, City of Rosemead 2016, Ventura pers. comm. 2015, Los Angeles County MTA 2016~~5~~, Los Angeles County MTA 2014.

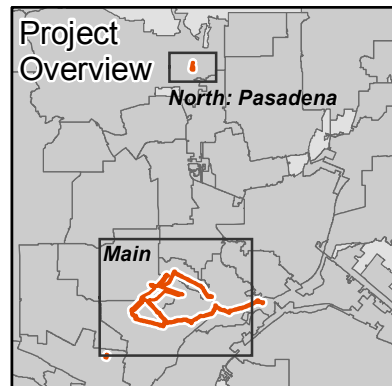
Notes: A scoping comment from Caltrans noted that the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project has a proposed route in the vicinity of the substation. That project would involve construction of a light rail transit project from an existing light rail line. Two alternatives are being considered—one would follow SR 60 and would be located in an east – west orientation between the south side of the Mesa Substation site and the north side of SR 60. The other alternative would not be located adjacent to the substation site. Construction is anticipated to occur from 2027 to 2035, with operations beginning in 2035. At this point, it is uncertain which alternative will be selected and studied in the Final EIR/EIS until technical studies are completed. Therefore, this project was determined to be speculative because the proposal has not crystallized to the point that it would be reasonable or practical to evaluate its cumulative impact. It was therefore excluded from this discussion.

Likewise, the High Speed Rail (Palmdale to Burbank section) could be located adjacent to the Vincent Substation. The EIR/EIS is being prepared, and the construction schedule is not known. This project was determined to be speculative because the proposal has not crystallized to the point that it would be reasonable or practical to evaluate its cumulative impact. It was therefore excluded from this discussion.

Key:
 MND Mitigation Negative Declaration
 SoCalGas Southern California Gas Company
 SR State Route



- 1 Operating Industries, Inc. (OII) Landfill Superfund Site
- 2 Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan
- 3 Monterey Park Market Place
- 4 South Garfield Village Specific Plan
- 5 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
- 6 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
- 7a Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Pomona Blvd Spot Repairs)
- 7b Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Dr Spot Repairs)
- 8 SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
- 9 Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 10 Jay Imperial Park
- 11 Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project
- 12a East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Foothill Blvd Pipeline)
- 12b East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well)
- 13 South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- 14 Cal Royal Products
- 15 Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 16 Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project
- 17 New Garvey 168 Plaza Project
- 18 New Garvey Market Plaza
- 19 Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel
- 20 Doubletree Hotel Expansion
- 21 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums



- Cumulative projects
- Staging yard
- Telecommunications route
- Proposed Mesa Substation
- Manholes, vaults, and underground construction
- Study Area (North and Main)
- City boundary

Figure 6-1
Cumulative Projects
 Mesa Substation
 Los Angeles County, CA

Sources: SCE 2016
 Basemap: ESRI Media Kit 2010



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1 **6.1.2.2 Aesthetics**

2
3 **Approach**

4 Aesthetic and visual resources impacts are project-specific and highly localized; therefore, the List
5 Approach [CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)] was used to evaluate potential cumulative
6 impacts. Aesthetic impacts of projects visible from the same areas where the project would be
7 visible were evaluated to determine whether there would be significant cumulative aesthetic and
8 visual impacts.

9 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

10 Other projects that would result in similar impacts as the proposed project (i.e., any project that
11 would adversely affect existing visual character or quality of the same area visually impacted by
12 the proposed project components) were evaluated for potential cumulative impacts. The
13 geographic extent for considering cumulative impacts to aesthetics includes all projects within the
14 same viewshed (i.e., area visible from a viewer's location) of the proposed project components,
15 which is a conservative estimate of the likely maximum distance from which project components
16 would be visible, particularly considering the terrain of the project area.

17
18 **Cumulative Scenario**

19 The projects evaluated for potential cumulative impacts when considered with the proposed
20 project include:

- 21
- 22 • Main Project Area
 - 23 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
 - 24 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 25 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 26 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 27 Repairs)
 - 28 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
 - 29 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 30

31 The reasons for excluding projects from the cumulative impact assessment are described below.
32 Jay Imperial Park is close to Staging Yard 6 but would have a positive effect on aesthetics. The park
33 project was therefore excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario because there
34 would be no cumulative adverse aesthetic impacts. Monterey Park Market Place is close to the
35 Mesa Substation site but is excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario. The
36 construction period of the Monterey Park Market Place and the proposed project may overlap.
37 However, there are no public vantage points that would have views of both sites at the same time.
38 State Route (SR) 60 passes both sites, but a large berm restricts views of the Market Place area
39 from SR 60. Cumulative visual impacts would not occur. The Operating Industries, Inc. (OII)
40 Landfill Superfund site has been excluded from the Main Project Area cumulative scenario because
41 the visual components (e.g., leachate treatment system) were considered part of the baseline, and
42 ongoing operation would not change in the future. Likewise, Southern California Gas Company
43 (SoCalGas) Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field would not change visually and would not
44 contribute to visual cumulative impacts. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is adjacent to
45 Telecommunications Route 3; however, this area of the Specific Plan would be preserved as open

1 space and construction would not be visible. It was therefore excluded from the cumulative
2 scenario. The 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums project is excluded because the only
3 adverse visual impact of the project would occur during construction; the construction schedule is
4 unknown and it would be speculative to determine whether construction impacts would occur at
5 the same time as the proposed project's impacts near the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
6 Condominiums project.

7
8 There is no cumulative scenario for the South Area because no cumulative projects were located in
9 the same viewshed as the proposed project. There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area.
10 Although the Twombly Well component of the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection
11 Facility is visible near the Goodrich Substation, the project has been constructed and was therefore
12 considered part of the baseline in the North Area.

13 14 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

15 ***Main Project Area***

16 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs and construction of 500 East Markland Drive Specific
17 Plan could both occur at the same time as construction at the Mesa Substation. Once the 500 East
18 Markland Drive Specific Plan is built, it would enhance the visual quality of the area and would not
19 contribute to cumulative negative visual impacts. Sewer spot repairs would only have temporary
20 visual impacts during construction but would not affect visual quality once completed. As a result,
21 the spot sewer repairs would not contribute to cumulative visual impacts.

22
23 Drivers on East Markland Drive north of SR 60 and south of Potrero Grande Drive could see
24 construction at 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and construction at the Mesa Substation site
25 at the same time. Active construction would only temporarily degrade the visual quality in the area.
26 Degradation would not be substantial because the portion of the Mesa Substation site visible in the
27 foreground would be construction of a detention basin and some grading, which mostly involves
28 soil movement. This segment of East Markland Drive is approximately 370 feet. Traveling 25 miles
29 per hour, motorists would potentially see both construction sites for about 10 seconds. The
30 cumulative impact to visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) near East Markland Drive would
31 therefore be less than significant.

32
33 Construction of Telecommunications Route 1 may be visible at the same time as construction and
34 post-construction phases for Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
35 Plan Amendment. Construction in this area would be limited to trenching and line stringing, which
36 would be a minimal visual impact. Construction of homes is also a common sight along a large
37 thoroughfare and would not substantially degrade visual quality. The post-construction phase of
38 the Encanto Walk project would enhance the visual quality of the area. Cumulative impacts to
39 visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) would therefore be less than significant

40
41 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs may be visible to motorists at the same time as
42 construction at the Mesa Substation site and in adjacent transmission line rights-of-way (ROWS).
43 Sewer spot repairs could involve trenching and pipe replacement in the street. These repairs would
44 be short-term. While they would temporarily degrade the visual quality of the area, degradation
45 would not be substantial because viewers would expect to see these types of activities in the street
46 and the activities would be short-term. Visual impacts to motorists on Potrero Grande also would
47 not be substantial, as described in Section 4.1, "Aesthetics." Together, these impacts would not
48 result in a cumulative visual character and quality impact (Impact AES-1) to motorists on Potrero
49 Grande.

1
2 Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications may be visible to motorists on East Lincoln Avenue,
3 where stringing of Telecommunications Route 3 would take place. Part of the dam is visible to east-
4 bound travelers for about 24 seconds; activities visible could include earth moving and other heavy
5 equipment. Work on Telecommunications Route 3 would be limited to line stringing, which
6 involves a crew truck with stringing equipment. Construction would be temporary and use limited
7 equipment and crews; therefore, cumulative aesthetic impacts to visual character and quality
8 (Impact AES-1) would be less than significant.
9

10 South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements may be visible at the same time as work on
11 Telecommunications Route 1. Bikeway Access Improvements would involve installation of bike
12 lanes, which would be temporary and consistent with typical road work. Work on
13 Telecommunications Route 1 visible in the same viewshed as the Bikeway Access Improvements
14 would be limited to line stringing, which involves a crew truck with stringing equipment.
15 Construction would be temporary and use limited equipment and crews; therefore, cumulative
16 impacts to visual character and quality (Impact AES-1) would be less than significant.
17

18 During operation of the Mesa Substation, lighting would be visible from the Mesa Substation, as
19 well as from the homes and exterior lighting for Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific
20 Plan and the storage facility and external lighting for the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan.
21 The Mesa Substation on its own would introduce a new source of light due to its large size, which
22 means there would be a cumulative significant impact in combination with the lighting from the
23 other two projects. Mitigation Measure (MM) AES-6 would be implemented to reduce the Mesa
24 Substation's lighting impacts to less than significant. The cumulative impact related to nighttime
25 lighting (Impact AES-2) would be less than significant after this mitigation. There are no nearby
26 projects that would introduce a new source of glare to the area; therefore, there would be no
27 cumulative glare impact (Impact AES-2).
28

29 **6.1.2.3 Air Quality**

30 **Approach**

31
32 The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). Because the SCAB
33 (including Los Angeles County) is currently classified as a federal nonattainment area for lead,
34 ozone and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), and a state
35 nonattainment area for ozone, particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter
36 (PM₁₀) and PM_{2.5}, cumulative development in the SCAB as a whole could violate an air quality
37 standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. However, based on the
38 South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) cumulative air quality impact
39 methodology, SCAQMD recommends that if an individual project results in air emissions of criteria
40 pollutants (reactive organic gases, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), SO_x, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})
41 that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts, then it
42 would also result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants for which
43 the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality
44 standard (SCAQMD 2015).
45

46 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

47 The geographic scope for cumulative air quality impacts is the air basin in which the proposed
48 project is located—the SCAB—given that air basins are defined for air quality management based
49 on their “similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout” the basin (CARB 2014).

1 The geographic extent for odor impacts is 36 feet, given that is the maximum distance at which
2 perception of diesel exhaust emissions can be perceived (Colucci and Barnes 1970). The
3 geographic scope for toxic air contaminant (TAC) exposure is projects where sensitive receptors
4 are within 280 meters of the cumulative project and the substation site and where receptors are
5 within 30 meters of the cumulative project and transmission and subtransmission lines, consistent
6 with the analysis in Section 4.2, "Air Quality."

8 **Cumulative Scenario**

9 The cumulative scenario for criteria pollutant emissions involves projects and emissions sources in
10 the SCAB since conditions are assessed in the context of the entire air basin.

11
12 There is no cumulative scenario for odors. The only receptor subject to odors is the Best Western
13 Markland Hotel. None of the cumulative projects are located within 36 feet of this receptor.

14
15 The cumulative scenario for TAC exposure includes the following projects that are within 280
16 meters of the project site:

- 17 • Mesa Substation Site
 - Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs
 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
- Transmission and Subtransmission Lines
 - Encanto Walk/500 Potrero Grande
 - Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs

18 19 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

20 The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to a conflict or
21 obstruction of implementation of the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (Impact AQ-1).

22
23 The SCAB, where the proposed project would be located, is in nonattainment for the following
24 criteria pollutants, meaning that if the proposed project would exceed SCAQMD's project-specific
25 thresholds for any of these pollutants, it would be a significant cumulative impact:

- 26 • National Ambient Air Quality Standards
 - Lead
 - Ozone
 - PM_{2.5}
- California Ambient Air Quality Standards
 - Ozone
 - PM₁₀
 - PM_{2.5}

27
28 As discussed in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," Impact AQ-2, the proposed project would exceed daily
29 thresholds for NO_x and ROG (ozone precursors), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions that cause
30 nonattainment. Therefore, the proposed project's contribution to the basin-wide impact would be
31 cumulatively considerable. As described in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," an applicant proposed
32 measure (APM) (APM-AIR-01) would reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions to less than significant such
33 that their contribution would not be cumulatively considerable. APM-AIR-02 would be
34 implemented, but NO_x emissions would still be cumulatively considerable. MM AQ-1, MM AQ-3,
35 and MM AQ-4 would be implemented to reduce NO_x emissions to below the significance threshold.
36 Likewise, implementation of APM-AIR-02 could reduce ROG emissions to less than significant; if
37 the APM is insufficient to reduce impacts, MM AQ-2 would be implemented. As discussed in greater

1 detail for Impact AQ-2 in Section 4.2, "Air Quality," the proposed project's contribution to ozone
2 nonattainment would not be cumulatively considerable (Impacts AQ-2 and AQ-3) after
3 implementation of MM AQ-1, MM AQ-2, MM AQ-3, and MM AQ-4.

4
5 Diesel particulate matter emissions from the Mesa Substation site construction activities would
6 combine with the same kind of emissions from the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and
7 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the
8 transmission and subtransmission line construction would combine with emissions from the
9 Encanto Walk/500 Potrero Grande and Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs project. Sensitive
10 receptors include residences and guests at the Best Western Markland Hotel. Construction of all
11 three projects would be limited in time in this geographic area and would be far below the 8-year
12 (96-month) threshold for chronic exposure. The cumulative TAC impact (Impact AQ-4) in these
13 areas would therefore be less than significant.

14
15 The proposed project would exceed Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) for NO_x at the Mesa
16 Substation site. These emissions would combine with NO_x emissions from Potrero Grande Drive
17 Sewer Spot Repairs and the construction of 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan to result in a
18 cumulative significant impact to local air quality. Given that the Mesa Substation Project exceeds
19 the LSTs on its own, the cumulative impact would be significant. MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-3 would
20 reduce impacts, but not to less than significant. The project's contribution to a local exceedance of
21 air quality standards (Impact AQ-4) would be cumulatively considerable.

22
23 There is no cumulative scenario related to exposure to odor and the project would not contribute
24 to a cumulative odor exposure impact (Impact AQ-5).

25 26 **6.1.2.4 Biological Resources**

27 28 **Approach**

29 The approach for the biological resources cumulative analysis is the List Approach (CEQA
30 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). The Western Los Angeles Basin is highly urbanized, such that
31 habitat is discontinuous and fragmented. Species in general are not expected to travel large
32 distances and pockets of local habitat are locally important, given they may be the last remaining
33 habitat in a given geographic area.

34 35 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

36 The geographic extent for considering project-related, cumulative impacts on biological resources
37 includes projects within 1 mile of the proposed project, since the immediate area is urbanized and
38 provides limited suitable habitat for plants and animals impacted by the proposed project. Species
39 in general are not expected to travel long distances and pockets of local habitat are locally
40 important, given they may be the last remaining habitat in a given geographic area.

41 42 **Cumulative Scenario**

43 Analysis in this section evaluates cumulative impacts to biological resources that would be affected
44 by the proposed project. Not all of the projects listed in Table 6-1 are located within a 1-mile radius
45 of the proposed project or would result in impacts to biological resources. The project considered
46 in this cumulative impacts analysis is the Montebello Hills Specific Plan.

1 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

2 This analysis focuses on biological resources that the Montebello Hills Specific Plan and the
3 proposed project would both impact. Biological resources that would not be impacted by both the
4 proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan are not discussed in this cumulative
5 analysis.

6
7 The proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would impact coastal sage scrub. The
8 proposed project would impact 0.16 acre of coastal sage scrub; MM BR-3 would require
9 restoration. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in the removal of approximately 96.0
10 acres of coastal sage scrub; 56.1 acres would be replanted on site and additional coastal sage scrub
11 would be created or enhanced in a reserve on the site, such that there would be no net impact to
12 coastal sage scrub (City of Montebello 2014). As a result of no net impact to coastal sage scrub for
13 the Montebello Hills Specific Plan, there would be no cumulative impacts (Impacts BR-1 and BR-2).

14
15 The proposed project would impact California gnatcatcher habitat and potentially result in
16 mortality of individual birds. Mitigation is identified that would reduce impacts to habitat and
17 avoid mortality to birds. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan Biological Opinion resulted in a no
18 jeopardy decision for the California gnatcatcher due to implementation of certain mitigation
19 measures. The cumulative impact to California gnatcatcher (Impact BR-1) would therefore be less
20 than significant.

21
22 The proposed project and the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in impacts to habitat for
23 least Bell's vireo. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan includes mitigation for the least Bell's vireo to
24 offset impacts caused by projects in the Plan; mitigation measures include clearing vegetation
25 outside of the majority of nesting season and confirmation that least Bell's vireo are absent prior to
26 clearing. SCE would implement APMs and MM BR-2, MM BR-3, MM BR-5, MM BR-9, MM BR-11, and
27 MM BR-13 as part of the Mesa Substation Project; impacts to least Bell's vireo would be reduced to
28 less than significant. Therefore, there would be a less than significant cumulative impact (Impact
29 BR-1).

30
31 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would result in the permanent fill of 0.47 acre of Waters of the
32 U.S. and 3.6 acres of Waters of the State, concluding 3.3 acres of vegetated riparian habitat. These
33 waters contain some sensitive riparian vegetation; the impact was deemed significant in the EIR
34 (City of Montebello 2014). The proposed Mesa Substation Project would result in permanent fill of
35 ~~3.7~~ 3.37 acres of ~~potentially jurisdictional waters of the US (USACE/RWQCB) and 2.66 acres of~~
36 jurisdictional streambed and associated riparian habitat (CDFW). Short extents of the potentially
37 jurisdictional waters on the substation site are associated with riparian vegetation, including
38 mulefat scrub and riparian woodland (which is atypical for its type due to high levels of
39 disturbance). These impacts would be significant but mitigatable. The Mesa Substation Project
40 would contribute to a cumulative impact due to filling of jurisdictional waters. Given the significant
41 impact of the Montebello Hills Specific Plan alone, the cumulative impact would also be significant.
42 The Mesa Substation Project's contribution to the significant cumulative impact would be minimal.
43 Only 0.34 acre of riparian vegetation (0.20 acre of mulefat scrub and 0.14 acre of riparian
44 woodland) would be permanently impacted by the proposed project once temporarily disturbed
45 areas are revegetated per MM BR-3. The total of 0.34 acre of riparian habitat associated with
46 potentially jurisdictional drainages would not be a cumulatively considerable contribution to the
47 significant cumulative impact (Impacts BR-2 and BR-3).

48

1 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan EIR concluded that connectivity for terrestrial species would not
2 be impacted due to fences and roadways that separate it from other areas of habitat. That EIR also
3 concluded that the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would potentially increase avian connectivity due
4 to creation of a long-term reserve area (City of Montebello 2014). The Mesa Substation Project also
5 would not adversely impact connectivity or migration. There would be no cumulative impact
6 (Impact BR-4).

7
8 The proposed Montebello Hills Reserve (part of the Montebello Hills Specific Plan area) would
9 meet the Montebello General Plan Conservation Element pertaining to vegetation preservation for
10 habitat (City of Montebello 2014). The Mesa Substation Project would result in vegetation removal
11 and trimming in Montebello along Telecommunications Routes 1, 2, and 3. Temporarily impacted
12 areas would be restored per MM BR-3, leaving minimal areas with permanent vegetation impacts.
13 These areas would not noticeably impact habitat availability and would not conflict with the
14 Montebello General Plan Conservation Element. As a result, there would be no cumulative impact
15 (Impact BR-5) when considering conflict of the proposed project and the Montebello General Plan
16 Conservation Element.

18 **6.1.2.5 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

20 **Approach**

21 Cultural and paleontological resources impacts are highly localized in that they impact resources in
22 discreet areas; therefore, the cumulative cultural resources analysis used the List Approach (CEQA
23 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). The cultural resources impacts of nearby projects, set forth
24 below, were evaluated to determine whether, in combination with the proposed project, there
25 would be significant cumulative cultural resources impacts.

27 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

28 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts to cultural resources includes ground-disturbing
29 projects within 100 feet of elements of ground-disturbing elements of the proposed project that
30 could impact known or undiscovered cultural resources because cultural resources impacts are
31 highly localized in that they impact resources in discreet and usually small areas.

33 **Cumulative Scenario**

34 Projects within 100 feet of the proposed project that would also have ground disturbance include
35 the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan, which is located across East Markland Drive to the west
36 of the substation site; Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan
37 Amendment, which is located adjacent to an undergrounded portion of Telecommunications Route
38 1; and Sewer Spot Repairs on Potrero Grande Drive, which are located adjacent to the Mesa
39 Substation and the undergrounded portion of Telecommunications Route 1.

40
41 While the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well) is within 100
42 feet of Goodrich Substation, the project would have no impact on cultural resources as the well
43 work was mainly aboveground, and the water line was installed in areas of previously disturbed
44 soils (City of Pasadena 2012).

1 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

2 The proposed project would not affect any known cultural or paleontological resources that could
3 also be affected by cumulative scenario projects. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact
4 CR-1 and CR-3).

5
6 The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan includes construction of a storage facility and parking
7 lot. Grading would be necessary for the storage facility basement. Construction of the storage
8 facility would not affect any known historic, archaeological, or paleontological resources but may
9 affect previously undisturbed resources during excavation for the basement (City of Monterey Park
10 2013). The project involves mitigation to reduce impacts to any discovered resources. Further, the
11 proposed project and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan are at least 65 feet apart, so only a
12 very large resource could be affected by both projects. Uncovering a large resource at depth would
13 be unlikely given the existing disturbance in the area that occurred for construction of the nearby
14 off-ramp. The proposed project would also involve limited excavation in the western area of the
15 site and would mostly involve fill. As a result, cumulative impacts to previously unknown historical,
16 archaeological, and paleontological resources and burials (Impacts CR-2, CR-3, and CR-4) would be
17 less than significant.

18
19 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment would not
20 impact a paleontological, historic, or archaeological resource (City of Monterey Park 2014a). It
21 would therefore not contribute to a cumulative impact (Impacts CR-2 and CR-3) with the Mesa
22 Substation Project. For two projects to affect the same human remains, the projects must be
23 directly adjacent to each other. Human remains are not known in the area and it is not foreseeable
24 that the cumulative projects would affect the same undiscovered human burial as the proposed
25 project because of the distance between the two projects. Therefore, there would be no cumulative
26 impact (Impact CR-4).

27
28 Sewer Spot Repairs on Potrero Grande Drive could be located in the same area as
29 Telecommunications Route 1 undergrounding and the relocation of the Metropolitan Water
30 District of Southern California pipeline across Potrero Grande Road. However, the repairs would
31 take place on existing infrastructure and would not impact undisturbed soils. Therefore, the sewer
32 spot repairs would not impact cultural or paleontological resources or affect human burials
33 (Impacts CR-2, CR-3, and CR-4) and would not contribute to a cumulative impact.

34
35 **6.1.2.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources**

36
37 **Approach**

38 Geology, soils, and mineral resources impacts are project-specific and highly localized; therefore,
39 the cumulative geology, soils, and mineral resources analysis used the List Approach (CEQA
40 Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). Geology, soil, and mineral resources impacts of nearby
41 projects were evaluated to determine whether there would be significant cumulative geology, soils,
42 and mineral resources impacts. The proposed project would not contribute to mineral resources
43 impacts (Impacts MR-1 and MR-2). Therefore, mineral resources impacts are not analyzed.

44
45 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

46 The geographic extent for considering cumulative impacts to geology, soils, and minerals was a
47 0.1-mile radius from the footprint of the proposed project components because geologic hazards
48 are generally dependent on localized geologic and soil conditions. Projects must also result in

1 impacts to geology and soils resources such that they would contribute to a cumulative impact with
2 the proposed project.

3 4 **Cumulative Scenario**

5 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:

- 6
7 • North Area
 - 8 - East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well and Foothill
 - 9 Boulevard Pipeline)
- 10 • Main Project Area
 - 11 - Monterey Park Market Place
 - 12 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment
 - 13 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 14 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 15 Repairs)
 - 16 - Jay Imperial Park
 - 17 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements

18
19 The OII Landfill Superfund site and SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field project would
20 not undergo ground disturbance or additional construction. Therefore, these projects would not
21 contribute to a cumulative impact and were excluded from the cumulative scenario. Whittier
22 Narrows Dam is located in an area where Telecommunications Route 2 work would require
23 stringing on existing poles; the proposed project would not contribute to seismic, erosion, geologic
24 hazards, erosion, or land stability impacts (Impacts GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-6,
25 GEO-7) in this area. The Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications project was therefore
26 excluded from the cumulative scenario.

27
28 The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is adjacent to Telecommunications Route 3; however, this area
29 of the Specific Plan would be preserved as open space and construction would not occur in this
30 area. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan is therefore excluded from the scenario because it would
31 not contribute to a cumulative impact. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion is about 150 feet from an
32 overhead segment of Telecommunications Route 1, while the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
33 condominiums project is about 80 feet from an overhead portion of Telecommunications Route 1.
34 Overhead construction work on Telecommunications Route 1 would not result in geology, soils, or
35 minerals impacts. The projects are therefore excluded from this discussion.

36 37 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

38 ***North Area***

39 East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility (Twombly Well and Foothill Boulevard
40 Pipeline) are close to the Goodrich Substation. Permanent structures associated with Twombly
41 Well and Foothill Boulevard Pipeline caused minimal ground disturbance. Sediment erosion
42 control measures were also implemented (City of Pasadena 2012). Soils in the area are considered
43 stable. The proposed project and the East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility
44 project would not appreciably increase seismic risk in this area because both would be built to

1 applicable seismic standards, which would ensure impacts are less than significant. Cumulative
2 impacts (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, and GEO-5) in the North Area would be less than
3 significant. The North Area is not located on a fault and would not experience fault rupture impacts
4 (Impact GEO-1). The North Area is located in a flat area, would not be subject to extensive grading,
5 and is in an area mapped for low landslide susceptibility. There would be no cumulative soil
6 stability impact (Impact GEO-6). Soil in the North Area has a low shrink-swell potential and
7 therefore there would be no cumulative impact related to expansive soil (Impact GEO-7).

8
9 **Main Project Area**

10 The Mesa Substation Project would be located in a seismically hazardous area, as would all of the
11 projects considered in the analysis. The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and Monterey Park
12 Market Place are required to comply with the California Building Code seismic design criteria to
13 determine any special measures needed to address seismic risk (City of Monterey Park 2013; City
14 of Monterey Park 2010). The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
15 Plan Amendment project is being implemented according to the California Building Code and a
16 geotechnical report would be prepared to address seismic impacts (City of Monterey Park 2014a).
17 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs would be constructed in accordance with any applicable
18 seismic guidelines for sewer lines. The proposed project would be subject to seismic risk, but
19 would not exacerbate existing conditions and mitigation recommended in the geotechnical study
20 will be incorporated into project design. As a result, the cumulative impacts related to seismic
21 hazards (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4) would be less than significant.

22
23 The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan, Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
24 and General Plan Amendment, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs, and Monterey Park
25 Market Place would all require ground disturbance. The 500 East Markland Specific Plan and The
26 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive project is being implemented with best management
27 practices that would prevent erosion (City of Monterey Park 2013; Monterey Park 2014a). The
28 Monterey Park Market Place involves implementation of a long-term plan for controlling soil
29 erosion as well as recommendations from the project geotechnical report (City of Monterey Park
30 2010). The proposed project would involve a substantial amount of grading, which poses a large
31 risk of erosion and topsoil loss. Given the large areas subject to grading at the Mesa Substation site
32 (about 72 acres) there could be a significant cumulative impact related to erosion and topsoil loss.
33 The Mesa Substation's contribution may be cumulatively considerable due to the grading at the
34 site. This would be a significant impact. The project applicant would be required to prepare a
35 SWPPP per MM HY-1, which will require erosion control devices. These measures would be scaled
36 as appropriate to the project site to prevent wind and water erosion on the site. The proposed
37 project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact (Impact GEO-5) would not be cumulatively
38 considerable after implementation of mitigation.

39
40 The 500 East Markland Specific Plan and Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan
41 and General Plan Amendment sites are not located in areas with landslide risk or liquefaction risk
42 (City of Monterey Park 2013, City of Monterey Park 2014a). The Monterey Park Marketplace would
43 be designed in accordance with the geotechnical report that made recommendations to reduce
44 landslide risk on adjacent permanent slopes; this area is not susceptible to liquefaction (City of
45 Monterey Park 2010). The proposed project would be located on graded land and would be
46 constructed in accordance with the recommendations in the geotechnical report. As a result, the
47 landslide related cumulative impact (Impact GEO-6) would be less than significant.

1 The 500 East Markland Specific Plan site is not located in an area with expansive soils (City of
2 Monterey Park 2013). The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General
3 Plan Amendment project and Monterey Park Market Place were to be designed in accordance with
4 the project geotechnical report if it is determined that there are expansive soils on site (City of
5 Monterey Park 2014a; City of Monterey Park 2011). The proposed project would be partially
6 located on areas with expansive soil. The proposed project would not exacerbate existing
7 conditions related to expansive soils and would be designed in accordance with the
8 recommendations in the geotechnical report. As a result, the cumulative impact related to
9 expansive soil (Impact GEO-7) would be less than significant.

10
11 The South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements project would be close to the undergrounded
12 portion of Telecommunications Route 1. The bikeway project would involve minimal ground
13 disturbance in the vicinity of the undergrounded segment of Telecommunications Route 1;
14 disturbed areas would be covered with asphalt for new bike lanes. The undergrounded portion of
15 Telecommunications Route 1 is about 150 feet long and would require very minimal ground
16 disturbance. Cumulative erosion impacts (Impact GEO-5) in this area would be minimal and the
17 cumulative impact would be less than significant. Construction of elements such as extra pavement
18 and telecommunications lines on existing poles would not pose a substantial risk related to
19 landslides or seismic activities or unstable land (Impacts GEO-2, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-6, and GEO-7).
20 As a result, the cumulative impact would be less than significant.

21
22 Jay Imperial Park is located in the East Montebello Fault proximate to Staging Yard 6. Permanent
23 structures at Jay Imperial Park would be limited to tables, fitness stations, and benches that would
24 not pose a great risk in the case of fault rupture or seismic activity. Staging Area 6 would not have
25 permanent structures that could cause damage in the case of fault rupture, seismic activity, or
26 unstable soils. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant (Impacts GEO-1, GEO-2, and GEO-
27 3). The area around Jay Imperial Park and Staging Yard 6 is relatively flat and not subject to
28 landslides, substantial erosion, or soil instability. Cumulative impacts (Impacts GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-
29 6, and GEO-7) would therefore be less than significant in this area.

30 31 **6.1.2.7 Greenhouse Gases**

32 33 **Approach**

34 The CEQA Guidelines address how a lead agency can assess cumulative impacts of projects that
35 emit greenhouse gases (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h)(3)):

36
37 A lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative
38 effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project will comply with the requirements in a
39 previously approved plan or mitigation program (including, but not limited to . . .
40 regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions) that provides specific
41 requirements that will avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem within the
42 geographic area in which the project is located.

43
44 For this analysis, compliance with state-level policies is used to assess cumulative impacts, given
45 that a substantial amount of greenhouse gas reduction programs and policies are undertaken or
46 spearheaded at the state level.

47

1 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

2 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts from greenhouse gases (GHGs) is global; however,
3 state-level projections were used given that a substantial amount of greenhouse gas reduction
4 programs are undertaken at the state level.

5
6 **Cumulative Scenario**

7 The cumulative scenario includes all greenhouse gas emissions sources in California, which
8 includes sources such as transportation, manufacturing, energy production, and agriculture.

9
10 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

11 Regional and global development patterns continue to rely on methods and practices that
12 contribute large volumes of GHGs to the atmosphere, and impacts related to GHGs have widespread
13 and potentially harmful consequences. The increase in GHGs in the atmosphere, caused in large
14 part by human activity, is now considered one of the key causes of global climate change. Current
15 scientific research indicates that potential effects of climate change include variations in
16 temperature and precipitation, sea-level rise, impacts on biodiversity and habitat, impacts on
17 agriculture and forestry, and human health and social impacts. As described in the state's Climate
18 Change Scoping Plan of 2008 (CARB 2008), GHG sources in the state collectively result in emissions
19 that are higher than the targets established by Assembly Bill 32, which indicates that GHG
20 emissions in the state continue to contribute to a total significant, state-wide cumulative impact.

21
22 The Mesa Substation Project would contribute to the significant cumulative greenhouse gas impact
23 because the project would result in emissions of greenhouse gases. During construction, emissions
24 would be generated by equipment/vehicle usage. During operation, emissions would be generated
25 by equipment/vehicle usage and through SF₆ leakage from ~~transformers~~ circuit breakers.

26
27 The proposed project would comply with regulations related to reduction of GHG emissions from
28 heavy-duty trucks during construction, including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and, if applicable
29 by the start of the proposed project, "Phase 2" heavy-duty truck GHG standards and other
30 standards and regulations adopted over time. Compliance with these standards is discussed in
31 greater detail in Section 4.6, "Greenhouse Gases." The project's contribution to the cumulative
32 significant impact would therefore not be cumulatively considerable.

33
34 **6.1.2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

35
36 **Approach**

37 The cumulative hazards and hazardous materials analysis uses the List Approach (CEQA Guidelines
38 Section 15130(b)(1)(A)) for hazardous materials and fire impacts. Hazardous materials impacts
39 are project-specific and highly localized. Fires in urban areas also tend to be contained to small
40 areas. Hazardous materials impacts of nearby projects were evaluated to determine whether there
41 would be significant cumulative hazards and fire impacts.

42
43 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

44 The geographic scope of hazardous material cumulative impacts would be the area within 100 feet
45 of the proposed project disturbance areas. The limited geographic scope is due to the fact that
46 there is low risk for a geographically large and dispersed hazardous material spill or release as a
47 result of the proposed project. The greatest risk includes spillage of gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and

1 lubricants during construction. In the event of an accident, none of the aforementioned substances
2 would be expected to be released in large quantities or to travel long distances.
3

4 **Cumulative Scenario**

5 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:

- 6
- 7 • Main Project Area
- 8 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
- 9 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
- 10 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
- 11 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Spot Repairs)
- 12 - SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
- 13 - Jay Imperial Park
- 14 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- 15 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- 16

17 The main components of the Montebello Hills Specific Plan was excluded from the Main Project
18 Area cumulative scenario because the area closest to Telecommunications Route 3 would be left as
19 open space and Telecommunications 3 work would be limited to stringing telecommunications
20 cable on existing poles. Neither project and would not contribute to a cumulative impact. However,
21 the recycled water pipeline associated with the Montebello Hills Specific Plan would be located on
22 Montebello Boulevard and adjacent to a propose underground portion of Telecommunications
23 Route 2 and is therefore included in the cumulative scenario.
24

25 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area because the East Well Collector and Centralized
26 Disinfection Facility components near Goodrich Substation have been constructed. The pipeline in
27 Foothill Boulevard is underground in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Twombly Well
28 modification involves installation of a surge tank, which protects wells by dissipating velocity and
29 pressure. The project therefore would not contribute to a cumulaive hazards impact.
30

31 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

32 All of the projects in the cumulative scenario would involve the use of hazardous materials in some
33 form and to some degree. There is an intrinsic risk of spill of materials used during construction.
34 The risk would be greatest at the Mesa Substation, given that most construction activities would
35 occur at the substation site. The cumulative projects in the cumulative scenario near the Mesa
36 Substation site are the Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan
37 Amendment, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs, and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific
38 Plan, which would utilize typical hazardous materials during construction, such as oils, lubricants,
39 and fuels. The potential for a hazard spill to occur at the Mesa Substation site near the 500 East
40 Markland Drive Specific Plan site or on Telecommunications Route 1 near the 2015 Potrero Grande
41 Drive Specific Plan site and Potrero Grande Sewer Repairs is low given that only grading and
42 trenching would occur in the area. All projects would adhere to all applicable regulations if a spill
43 were to occur. The risk of a fire occurring at either site is low; a fire at 500 East Markland Drive or
44 at 2015 Potrero Grande Drive would be contained given that they are located in an area

1 surrounded by roadways that would act as fuelbreaks. As a result, cumulative hazards impacts
2 (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) around the Mesa Substation site would be less than significant.
3

4 SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field project is located adjacent to Telecommunications
5 Route 2. In this location, Telecommunications Route 2 would involve stringing on existing poles,
6 which poses an extremely low and temporary risk of spills or fires. The SoCalGas Montebello Gas
7 Storage Project would be subject to regulations regarding hazardous materials and natural gas
8 operations. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed project, coupled
9 with the regulated conditions at the SoCalGas Montebello Gas Storage Project, cumulative impacts
10 (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) in this area related to fire and hazardous materials would be less
11 than significant.
12

13 Telecommunications Route 3 would be located close to the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety
14 Modifications project. In this area, Telecommunications Route 3 would involve stringing on
15 existing poles, which poses an extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work at the dam would be
16 subject to hazardous materials regulations, and there is limited natural vegetation that would act
17 as fuel in the case of a fire. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed
18 project, coupled with the regulated conditions at the dam, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2,
19 and HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.
20

21 Telecommunications Route 1 would be located adjacent to the South San Gabriel Bikeway Access
22 Improvements project. Telecommunications Route 1 work within 100 feet of the South San Gabriel
23 Bikeway Access Improvements project would involve stringing on existing poles, which poses an
24 extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work on the bikeway project would be subject to hazardous
25 materials regulations, and there is limited vegetation that could fuel a fire. Given the extremely low
26 potential for spills or fires from the proposed project, coupled with the regulated conditions of the
27 bike project and the limited vegetation in the area, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and
28 HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.
29

30 Telecommunications Route 1 would be located adjacent to the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard
31 Condominiums project. Telecommunications Route 1 work in this location would involve stringing
32 on existing poles, which poses an extremely low risk of spills or fires. Work on the condominiums
33 project would be subject to hazardous materials regulations, and there is limited vegetation that
34 could fuel a fire. Given the extremely low potential for spills or fires from the proposed project,
35 coupled with the regulated conditions of the condominiums project and the limited vegetation in
36 the area, cumulative impacts (Impacts HZ-1, HZ-2, and HZ-6) would therefore be less than
37 significant in this area.
38

39 Staging Area 6 and Jay Imperial Park are separated by San Gabriel Boulevard, which would act as a
40 physical barrier to the combination of spills between the two areas, making it highly unlikely that a
41 spill would extend beyond the roadway and into the area on either side of the road. Furthermore,
42 Jay Imperial Park construction would involve only minimal use of common hazardous materials
43 such as fuels and oils. The cumulative hazardous materials impacts (Impacts HZ-1 and HZ-2) would
44 be less than significant. Because the staging area and park would be located in an existing
45 transmission ROW, and because vegetation in the ROW is managed to reduce the risk of fire,
46 cumulative impacts (Impact HZ-6) would be less than significant in this area.
47

48 Several cumulative projects are located within 0.25 mile of the same schools as the proposed
49 project:
50

- 1 • *Schurr High School and Schurr Community Adult Center*: 500 East Markland Drive, Mesa
2 Main Project Area, Mesa Staging Yard 2
- 3 • *La Merced Middle School*: Telecommunications Route 3 and Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 4 • *Don Bosco Technical Institute*: 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard project, Telecommunications
5 Route 1

6
7 The 500 East Markland Drive project is on the opposite side of SR 60 and Via Campo Drive. The
8 project would involve equipment for excavation and construction. It is highly unlikely that a spill of
9 a substance such as fuel would be large and uncontrolled enough so that it would travel under
10 SR 60 to combine with a spill from the work on the proposed project and then impact Schurr High
11 School and Schurr Community Adult Center, which are south of both projects. Cumulative impacts
12 (Impact HZ-3) would be less than significant. Work along Telecommunications Route 3 would
13 involve stringing telecommunications line on existing poles. The area of the Montebello Hills
14 Specific Plan within 0.25 mile of La Merced Middle School would not be subject to construction
15 activities. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact HZ-3) to La Merced Middle School.
16 Telecommunications Route 1 work in the vicinity of Don Bosco Technical Institute would be
17 limited to line stringing on existing poles. The work at 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard would be
18 limited to building construction. Telecommunications Route 1 work would take place for a very
19 limited time in the vicinity of 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard such that a cumulative impact would be
20 highly unlikely. Cumulative impacts to Don Bosco Technical Institute (Impact HZ-3) would be less
21 than significant.

22
23 The Mesa Substation project is the only project located on or near the OII Superfund site with
24 extensive, deep excavation that could potentially unearth contaminated soils from the Superfund
25 site. Thus, there would be no cumulative impact (Impact HZ-4).

26
27 The proposed project would not interfere with or impair implementation of an adopted emergency
28 response plan. Cumulative impacts (Impact HZ-5) are therefore not assessed.

29 30 **6.1.2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality**

31 32 **Approach**

33 The cumulative hydrology and water quality analysis uses the List Approach and the Projection
34 Approach, depending on the impact. Certain hydrology and water quality impacts were project-
35 specific and highly localized, including water quality, drainage impacts, and runoff. In these cases,
36 the project List Approach was used to assess the hydrology and water quality resources impacts of
37 nearby projects to determine whether there would be significant cumulative hydrology and water
38 quality impacts. Some impacts; however, were basin- or County-wide, such as groundwater supply,
39 making the Projection approach most appropriate to evaluate cumulative impacts.

40 41 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

42 The scope for considering cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality using the List
43 Approach is any project that could:

- 44 • Violate water quality standards,
- 46 • Impact groundwater supplies,

- Alter existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation or result in flooding, and/or
- Impede or redirect flood flows or otherwise contribute to a risk of loss, injury, or death involving water-related hazards.

The geographic extent for considering project-related cumulative impacts on hydrology and water quality includes projects within 0.5 miles of proposed project components because this distance encompasses the majority of the areas of the sub-watersheds that the project crosses.

Cumulative Scenario

The cumulative scenario for water quality and drainage, and exposure of people to flooding is 0.5 miles from the project area, since that is an area in which pollutants from different projects may combine in an urbanized area. Projects in the cumulative scenario were those that would have an impact on water quality, and drainages. Projects in this scenario include:

- Monterey Park Market Place
- Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan Amendment (GPA-13-02)
- 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
- Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Spot Repairs)
- Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
- Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
- Doubletree Hotel Expansion
- 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums

OII Landfill Superfund site was excluded because the project has a beneficial impact on groundwater quality and has no impact to drainages. South Garfield Village Specific Plan is excluded from the scenario because it pertains to neighborhood improvements that would not impact water quality or drainages. SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field was excluded from the cumulative scenario because the project is operating and is part of baseline. East Well Collector and Centralized Disinfection Facility was excluded from the cumulative scenario because it has a beneficial impact on groundwater quality and did not affect drags. Cal Royal Products was excluded from the cumulative scenario because it involves expanding an existing building and would not affect water quality or drainages. Likewise, Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project and New Garvey 168 Plaza Project are not included in the cumulative scenario because they involve construction on already developed parcels.

Jay Imperial Park is excluded from the cumulative scenario because it is on the other side of San Gabriel Boulevard from Staging Yard 6. The road acts as a physical barrier to water flow between the Staging Yard 6 area and the park area, preventing any combination of impacts of the proposed project and the Jay Imperial Park project.

1 Water used during operation would be supplied by the City of Monterey Park Water System, which
2 receives all of their water supply from the San Gabriel Valley groundwater basin. Projections for
3 the San Gabriel Valley groundwater basin were therefore used for the cumulative scenario for
4 groundwater use.

5
6 There was no cumulative scenario for exposure to risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding
7 because only two 220-kV towers and one telecommunications pole are located in flood zones in the
8 Main Project Area. Other projects would not have components in this same area such that there
9 would be a cumulative increase in risk of flood exposure. The South Project area is located in a dam
10 inundation zone, but there are no projects in within 0.5 miles of Mesa Substation Project
11 components.

12 13 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

14 All projects evaluated for cumulative impacts would be required to comply with applicable state
15 and federal water quality requirements, including those related to siltation. This would include
16 coverage under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Water Quality Certification) and/or Waste
17 Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan and Encanto
18 Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment projects were
19 required to demonstrate NPDES compliance (City of Monterey Park 2014a; City of Monterey Park
20 2013). The Montebello Hills Specific Plan, Monterey Park Market Place, and Whittier Narrows Dam
21 Safety Modifications projects would also be required to comply with NPDES permit requirements.
22 The San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements project, 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard, and Sewer
23 System Capital Improvement Program project are small and would not generate substantial
24 siltation. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion project was built on an existing parking lot, limiting
25 ground disturbance and siltation. The Mesa Substation Project would have a SWPPP with siltation
26 and water quality best management practices to prevent adverse water quality impacts.
27 Cumulative water quality impacts (Impacts HY-1 and HY-5) would therefore be less than
28 significant.

29
30 The Mesa Substation Project would use water from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The
31 Main San Gabriel Basin is in overdraft conditions and has experienced historic lowering of the
32 groundwater table. The preliminary Operating Safe Yield recommendation for the Main San Gabriel
33 Basin for fiscal year 2015–2016 is 150,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), and for subsequent years
34 through 2020 is approximately 130,000 AFY. About 195,000 acre-feet were pumped in 2014–2015.
35 Groundwater levels at one well have also decreased from 294 feet in 1983 to 175 feet in 2015
36 (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster 2015). The Mesa Substation Project's water use, in
37 combination with existing and reasonably foreseeable future use of groundwater from other
38 projects in the Main San Gabriel Basin would result in a significant cumulative impact. However,
39 even though the basin is in overdraft and groundwater levels are below the 200-foot goal, the
40 proposed project's water use would not be a substantial use of groundwater that would result in a
41 net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. One hundred-forty
42 (140) AFY equates to about 0.3 percent of the 2014–2015 overdraft. Spread across the basin, this
43 would not cause a noticeable decrease in groundwater volume or groundwater level. This pumping
44 level would also last only one year, with consecutive construction years using less and less water.
45 Therefore, the proposed project's contribution to the significant cumulative impact (Impact HY-2)
46 would not be cumulatively considerable.

47
48 The Mesa Substation Project would alter drainages on the substation site, which would be a
49 significant impact before mitigation. Of the cumulative projects, only the Monterey Park

1 Marketplace may be located in areas with drainages that are connected to the drainages on the
2 substation site. It was found that the Monterey Park Marketplace would not significantly impact
3 drainages (City of Monterey Park 2011). The cumulative impact would be significant given that the
4 Mesa Substation impacts alone would be significant. Mitigation measures would be implemented
5 for the proposed project (MM HY-3 and MM HY-4) to require adequate design of drainage on the
6 substation site. The cumulative impact to drainages (Impacts HY-3, HY-4, and HY-5) would be less
7 than significant after mitigation.
8

9 The proposed project would use herbicides in quantities small enough that they would not create
10 runoff that would substantially degrade water quality. There would not be runoff that would
11 combine with runoff from other projects; therefore, the project would not contribute to any
12 cumulative impacts (Impact HY-6). The proposed project would not have impacts related to a
13 100-year flood zone and therefore would not contribute to any cumulative impacts (Impact HY-7).
14

15 **6.1.2.10 Noise and Vibration**

16 **Approach**

17
18 Noise and vibration impacts are highly localized; therefore, the cumulative noise and vibration
19 analysis uses the project List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). Noise and
20 vibration impacts of nearby projects, set forth below, were evaluated to determine whether there
21 would be significant cumulative noise and vibration impacts.
22

23 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

24 The scope for considering cumulative noise impacts included any project that would result in an
25 increase in ambient daytime noise levels. The geographic extent for considering cumulative noise
26 impacts was any project within 1,000 feet of the project component areas, because any project
27 operating within the noise standards established by the applicable local jurisdictions at this
28 distance would not contribute to increases in ambient noise levels at the nearest sensitive
29 receptors to the proposed project component areas.
30

31 **Cumulative Scenario**

32 Projects considered in this cumulative analysis include:
33

- 34 • Main Project Area
 - 35 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
 - 36 - Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 37 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
 - 38 - Sewer System Capital Improvement Program (Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot
 - 39 - Repairs)
 - 40 - Jay Imperial Park
 - 41 - South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements
 - 42 - Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications
 - 43 - 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums
- 44

1 The OII Landfill Superfund site, Doubletree Hotel Expansion, and SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas
2 Storage Field project were excluded from the Main Project Area scenario because all work has been
3 completed; noise from these projects was taken into account as the environmental baseline for the
4 project-level analysis. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan project was excluded from the cumulative
5 scenario because the area nearest Telecommunications Route 3 would be maintained as open
6 space and no construction would be completed in the area. The Doubletree Hotel Expansion project
7 was excluded from the noise cumulative scenario because construction has been completed.

8
9 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Area because the East Well Collector and Centralized
10 Disinfection Facility components near Goodrich Substation have been constructed and do not
11 generate substantial noise during operation.

12
13 There is no cumulative scenario for the Existing Substations because modifications at existing
14 substations would not generate perceptible noise.

15 16 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

17 The cumulative impact analysis focuses on the construction period of the Mesa Substation Project
18 and other projects, since those may overlap and because the operation of the cumulative projects
19 would not generate appreciable amounts of noise or contribute to a cumulative noise impact. Noise
20 during operation of the Mesa Substation would not contribute to a cumulative impact (Impact
21 NV-3) and is therefore not discussed.

22
23 To the north of the Mesa Substation site, Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs would generate
24 noise from asphalt cutting, trenching, and road paving. Construction noise from the Monterey Park
25 Market Place may also combine with this noise. This sound would combine with construction noise
26 at the Mesa Substation should the two projects be constructed at the same time, resulting in a
27 significant increase in noise at sensitive receptors in Monterey Park, including the lodgers at the
28 Best Western Plus Markland Hotel, residents on Holly Oak Drive, or residents on Potrero Grande
29 Drive near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel.

30
31 The Potrero Grande Sewer Spot Repairs project, the Mesa Substation Project, and Monterey Park
32 Market Place would generate cumulative noise impacts from construction but they would only
33 occur for a short duration. Mesa Substation Project construction would take place near Potrero
34 Grande Drive between the second quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2021, while Potrero
35 Grande Drive sewer spot repairs would take place in fiscal year 2017/2018. The construction
36 schedule for the Monterey Park Market Place is unknown but to be conservative it is assumed it
37 would overlap with the construction activities of the Mesa Substation Project. There may be about
38 3 months of overlap between the two projects. Given that the sewer project would involve only
39 spot repairs, noise would be short-term, transient, and during the day along Potrero Grande Drive
40 and would not appreciably add to the ambient noise environment. Monterey Park Market Place
41 Noise would be less than substation construction noise because less grading would be involved.
42 Mesa Substation Project activities are subject to mitigation to reduce noise at sensitive receptors
43 per MM NV-1, but would still result in significant impacts at several sensitive receptors near the
44 east portion of the project site. As a result, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be significant.
45 Given that the Mesa Substation Project on its own would result in significant noise impacts, its
46 contribution to the significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable. The impact
47 could not be mitigated to less than significant for the same reasons provided in Section 4.10, "Noise
48 and Vibration," that the project-level impact cannot be mitigated to below the level of significance.
49 The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of

1 Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the
2 noise ordinance.

3
4 Phase I activities at Mesa Substation would take place near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel
5 and near the residential receptors on Potrero Grande Drive. Phase I would take place between the
6 second quarter of 2016 and the fourth quarter of 2018. Phase I would therefore overlap with
7 Potrero Grande sewer spot repairs and the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan construction in
8 this area. Given that the sewer project would involve only spot repairs, noise would be short-term,
9 transient, and during the day along Potrero Grande Drive and would not appreciably add to the
10 ambient noise environment. Construction of the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan project
11 would result in noise that could affect the same sensitive receptors as the Mesa Substation Project.
12 Noise mitigation will be required during construction of the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan
13 project (City of Monterey Park 2013). Mesa Substation construction will also require noise control
14 measures as shown in MM NV-1, but would still result in significant impacts at several sensitive
15 receptors. As a result, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be significant. Given that the Mesa
16 Substation Project on its own would result in significant noise impacts, its contribution to the
17 significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable. Impacts cannot be mitigated to
18 less than significant for the same reasons provided in Section 4.10 that the project-level impact
19 cannot be mitigated to below the level of significance. The proposed project would not contribute
20 to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact
21 NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance.

22
23 Activities associated with the Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot Repairs may generate vibration
24 that could combine with the Mesa Substation project generated vibration. The vibration from the
25 Potrero Grande Drive Sewer Spot repairs would be transient and would be similar to those
26 generated for the proposed project (about 0.210 peak particle velocity (PPV) at 25 feet for use of a
27 vibratory roller). Given the significance threshold is 0.9 PPV, cumulative impacts (Impact NV-2)
28 would be less than significant.

29
30 Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment construction
31 could overlap with Phase I of the Mesa Substation Project. Phase I activities at Mesa Substation
32 would take place near the Best Western Plus Markland Hotel and near the residential receptors on
33 Potrero Grande Drive on the western portion of the project site. This would be about 0.7 mile from
34 the Encanto Walk site and cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) would be less than significant. The
35 proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of
36 Monterey Park's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the
37 noise ordinance.

38
39 Construction of the South San Gabriel Bikeway Access Improvements and Telecommunications
40 Route 2 would occur close to San Gabriel Boulevard in Rosemead and unincorporated Los Angeles
41 County. Construction noise and vibration from both projects would combine if both projects would
42 undergo construction at the same time. Noise and vibration from construction of a bike lane would
43 be transient and would be close to Telecommunications Route 2 for a very minimal amount of time,
44 considering that telecommunications stringing takes a period of only up to a matter of hours in any
45 one location. Vibration generated would be minimal due to the nature of work of both projects.
46 Trenching for the short undergrounded segment of Telecommunications Route 2 would be near the
47 bike lane work for a minimal amount of time (i.e., less than a day) if the work overlaps. Cumulative
48 impacts (Impacts NV-2 and NV-4) in this area would therefore be less than significant. The
49 proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of
50 Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area because the project is exempt from the

1 noise ordinance. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, the Mesa Substation project would not
2 violate the Los Angeles County noise ordinance at the closest sensitive receptor, which is 125 feet
3 from Telecommunications Route 1 trenching. The bike project is almost 500 feet away from the
4 closest sensitive receptor to the Mesa Project telecommunications trenching. Cumulative impacts
5 related to the Los Angeles County noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) would therefore be less than
6 significant.

7
8 Construction of the 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums and Telecommunications Route 2
9 would occur close to San Gabriel Boulevard. Construction noise from both projects would combine
10 if both projects would undergo construction at the same time. Noise from construction of the
11 condominiums would be transient and would be close to Telecommunications Route 2 for a very
12 minimal amount of time, considering that telecommunications stringing takes a period of only up
13 to a matter of hours in any one location. Cumulative impacts (Impact NV-4) in this area would
14 therefore be less than significant. The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative
15 impact related to violation of the City of Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-1) in this area
16 because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance. The trenching for Telecommunications
17 Route 1 is located about 400 feet from the bike project, with no sensitive receptors in between.
18 There would be no cumulative vibration impact (Impact NV-2).

19
20 The Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modifications work would be located near Telecommunications
21 Route 3. Whittier Narrows Dam project work could generate a substantial amount of noise near
22 sensitive receptors—loud earth moving may be required and there are houses adjacent to the dam.
23 Due to the volume of earthmoving and the proximity of sensitive receptors, this would result in a
24 significant cumulative noise impact. Telecommunications Route 3 construction in this area would
25 involve only stringing on existing poles, which would generate some noise from vehicle use. The
26 proposed project's contribution to a cumulative noise impact (Impacts NV-1 and NV-4) would not
27 be cumulatively considerable. Line stringing would generate an imperceptible amount of vibration
28 that would dissipate before combining with any vibration from the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety
29 Modifications project work. The proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative vibration
30 impact (Impact NV-2) in this area.

31
32 Jay Imperial Park construction may take place during SCE's use of Staging Yard 6. Construction
33 noise at Jay Imperial Park would be low because improvements planned would include installing
34 walkways, benches, and exercise structures and planting grass or other vegetation. Staging yard
35 use would generate minimal noise, as activities would generally be limited to vehicles and
36 equipment entering and exiting the staging area. Cumulative noise impacts (Impact NV-4) would
37 therefore be less than significant. Vibration would likewise be minimal at both sites due to the
38 limited ground disturbance. Furthermore, there are no receptors between Staging Yard 6 and the
39 Jay Imperial Park site that would be subject to vibration from both sites. Cumulative vibration
40 impacts (Impact NV-2) would be less than significant. The proposed project would not contribute
41 to a cumulative impact related to violation of the City of Rosemead's noise ordinance (Impact NV-
42 1) in this area because the project is exempt from the noise ordinance.

43 44 **6.1.2.11 Population and Housing**

45 46 **Approach**

47 The Projection Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)) was used for analyzing the
48 proposed project's cumulative impact on population and housing. Because population growth
49 occurs at a city, county, and regional level, a project List Approach would not adequately represent

1 the cumulative scenario. Therefore, a summary of projections was used to evaluate potentially
2 cumulative impacts.

3 4 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

5 As discussed further in Section 4.11, "Population and Housing," many residents in Los Angeles
6 work in different cities than where they live. Based on travel commutes, population, and data on
7 County level housing projections, the cumulative scenario was examined at the level of Los Angeles
8 County. The geographic scope of cumulative impacts therefore includes Los Angeles County, based
9 on the assumption that projected population growth across the County would take into account the
10 average growth of cities to which workers may relocate if they are working on the proposed project
11 or on any of the cumulative projects.

12 13 **Cumulative Scenario**

14 The projections used to identify the cumulative scenario for the Mesa Substation Project were from
15 2014 California Department of Finance Data.

16 17 **Cumulative Impacts Analysis**

18 The population in Los Angeles County, which includes Montebello, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and
19 El Monte, is predicted to grow by approximately 3 percent by the year 2020 and housing growth is
20 projected to be around the same amount (2.9 percent) (TableS 4.11-1 and 4.11-2). Construction of
21 2.9 percent more housing could result in a significant cumulative environmental impact depending
22 on the location and timing of construction, which would likely occur in different areas and years as
23 the planning timeframe was until 2035. However, the proposed project's contribution to this
24 significant cumulative impact would not be significant because, while unlikely, even if the 435
25 construction workers relocated to the project area, vacancy rates near 6 percent for the County of
26 Los Angeles (California Department of Finance 2015) indicate that existing housing could
27 accommodate any temporary population growth. The contribution to a cumulative significant
28 impact (Impact POP-1) would not be cumulatively considerable.

29
30 Over time it is not anticipated that there will be significant impacts related to displacement of
31 housing in Los Angeles County (County of Los Angeles 2014). The cumulative impact (Impact
32 POP-2) would be less than significant.

33 34 **6.1.2.12 Public Services and Utilities**

35 36 **Approach**

37 The Projection Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(B)) was used to analyze the
38 proposed project's cumulative impact to public services and utilities. Public services and utilities
39 are provided at the city and county levels, and effects to public services and utilities are measured
40 and planned for by service providers at the city and county levels. The proposed project covers a
41 geographic range across multiple jurisdictions. Accordingly, a summary of projections was used to
42 evaluate potentially cumulative impacts for most impact areas (Impacts PSU-1, PSU-2, PSU-3, PSU-
43 5, PSU-6, PSU-7, and PSU-8). However, for stormwater drainage capacity (Impact PSU-4) and
44 interruption of utilities (Impact PSU-9), a project List Approach was used because interruption of
45 utilities is a more local impact and depends on the type of project being considered.

1 **Geographic Scope**

2 The geographic scope of cumulative impacts for public services and utilities include Los Angeles
3 County and the jurisdictions within it that provide these services and utilities. The only exceptions
4 are interruption of utilities and stormwater drainage capacity. Interruption of utilities considered
5 only those projects that could cause interruption of utilities in the same service area(s) as the
6 proposed project (i.e., areas served by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and
7 areas served through the Mesa Substation). The scope of the cumulative scenario for stormwater
8 drainage capacity included those projects that could contribute stormwater to the same drainages
9 as the proposed project.

10
11 **Cumulative Scenario**

12 As discussed in Section 4.12, “Public Services and Utilities,” the demand for public services and
13 utilities is largely affected by an area’s population. There is a direct correlation between population
14 size and demand for public services such as fire and police protection, schools, parks, hospitals, and
15 libraries. The cumulative scenario within which the Mesa Substation Project’s contribution to
16 impacts was evaluated was based on the *Los Angeles County General Plan Update—Draft*
17 *Environmental Impact Report* (County of Los Angeles 2014). This ~~Draft~~ Final EIR examined public
18 services across the entire County and is a recent document that evaluated cumulative impacts.

19
20 For interruption of utilities, a project List Approach was used because interruption of utilities is a
21 more local impact and depends on the type of project being considered. No projects were identified
22 in the vicinity of the proposed project that would require electrical or water service outages in the
23 same area as the Mesa Substation during line stringing. There would be no cumulative scenario and
24 therefore no cumulative impacts on utility interruption (Impact PSU-9).

25
26 Similarly, stormwater drainage capacity is managed on a local level. Projects in the cumulative
27 stormwater drainage scenario would include those that would generate stormwater released to the
28 same stormwater drains as the proposed project; stormwater on the Mesa Substation site flows
29 from northeast to southwest. Projects in the cumulative scenario for stormwater drainage impacts
30 include:

- 31
32
- Monterey Park Market Place
 - Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan
34 Amendment (GPA-13-02)
 - 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan (SP-13-01)
- 35
36

37 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

38 As Los Angeles County grows in population, there would be additional need for fire and police
39 protection services. This would require construction and/or expansion of police and fire protection
40 facilities (County of Los Angeles 2014). The construction could potentially result in a significant
41 cumulative impact depending on the location and timing of construction, which would likely occur
42 in different areas and years as the planning timeframe was until 2035. The proposed project would
43 result in only a temporary increase in fire risk and potential need for police services due to
44 construction and would not require increased fire or police services in any jurisdiction. As a result,
45 the proposed project’s contribution to any significant cumulative impact (Impact PSU-1) related to
46 fire or police protection would not be cumulatively considerable.

47

1 Wastewater treatment capacity in Los Angeles County would be sufficient to treat all projects
2 anticipated in Los Angeles County through 2035 (County of Los Angeles 2014). Cumulative impacts
3 related to wastewater treatment capacity (Impact PSU-6), waste discharge requirements (Impact
4 PSU-2), and construction of new wastewater treatment plants (Impact PSU-3) would be less than
5 significant.

6
7 The proposed project is located in the West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area. In this area, there is
8 sufficient water (Impact PSU-5) and sufficient water treatment capacity (Impact PSU-3) through
9 2035 to serve the project area at the City and County levels, as well as all anticipated growth in the
10 area (County of Los Angeles 2014). Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

11
12 Landfill capacity in Los Angeles County is adequate to support projected growth through 2035 and
13 would be within countywide landfill capacity (County of Los Angeles 2014). Individual projects
14 would have to comply with applicable regulations. Cumulative landfill capacity and solid waste
15 regulation impacts (Impacts PSU-7 and PSU-8) would be less than significant.

16
17 The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Drive Specific Plan and General Plan Amendment
18 stormwater drainage would consist of private drain lines and infiltration drywells on the site.
19 Other runoff would flow into on-site catch basins. Basins would not exceed capacity, but in major
20 storm events, runoff would overflow onto Potrero Grande Drive (City of Monterey Park 2014a).
21 The Monterey Park Market Place plan includes on-site detention basins to collect water so as to not
22 exceed capacity of the stormwater drainage system that exists on the site (City of Monterey Park
23 2010). The 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan would utilize an on-site drainage facility that
24 existed prior to project implementation (City of Monterey Park 2013). The Mesa Substation Project
25 would have a detention basin designed to maintain or lessen the amount of stormwater runoff from
26 current conditions. As demonstrated, each project would effectively manage stormwater runoff on
27 site. Cumulative impacts (Impact PSU-4) would therefore be less than significant.

28 29 **6.1.2.13 Recreation**

30 31 **Approach**

32 The proposed project's geographic range is relatively small, and most of the construction impacts
33 would occur at the Mesa Substation. The List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A))
34 was therefore used for analyzing the proposed projects cumulative impact to recreation.

35 36 **Geographic Scope**

37 The geographic scope for considering cumulative impacts related to recreation includes any project
38 that would increase the use of the same recreational facilities that would be impacted by the Mesa
39 Substation Project. The geographic scope for recreation cumulative impacts is within 1.0 mile of
40 the Mesa Substation site because it is a distance people could be expected to travel for recreational
41 activities in an urban area with several parks.

42 43 **Cumulative Scenario**

44 Projects that form the cumulative scenario for the recreation impacts are:

- 45 • Monterey Park Market Place
- 46 • Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Specific Plan (SP-13-02) and General Plan Amendment
47 (GPA-13-02)
- 48

- 1 • Montebello Hills Specific Plan
- 2 • 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums

3
4 Several projects are within the 1.0-mile buffer from the Mesa Substation but were excluded from
5 the cumulative scenario. The Pomona Boulevard Sewer Spot Repairs and Potrero Grande Drive
6 Sewer Spot Repairs Projects (part of the Sewer System Capital Improvement Program) would most
7 likely be completed by local staff, since they are relatively small jobs and would therefore not
8 increase use of local recreational facilities. The SoCalGas Montebello Natural Gas Storage Field
9 project and OII Landfill Superfund site are ongoing projects and do not require relocation of people
10 to the area. The South Garfield Village Specific Plan involves improvements to an existing
11 neighborhood that would not increase population or use of recreational facilities. Local
12 construction workers would be expected to be used for the 500 East Markland Drive Specific Plan,
13 since it is small, and would not result in increased use of recreational facilities. The South Garfield
14 Village Specific Plan does not propose new residential uses and would not increase use of
15 recreational facilities.

16 17 **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

18 The Monterey Park Market Place and Montebello Hills Specific Plan would potentially be under
19 construction at the same time as the proposed project. Construction workers may be brought in
20 from elsewhere for these projects because of their size. The Montebello Hills Specific Plan would
21 require up to 645 people (City of Montebello 2014). It is unclear how many construction workers
22 would be needed to construct the Monterey Park Market Place, but the project is large and
23 presumably could require hundreds of workers. The Encanto Walk/2015 Potrero Grande Specific
24 Plan and General Plan Amendment project may be fully constructed and occupied by the time that
25 the Mesa Substation Project is constructed. There could be up to 243 residents at the Specific Plan
26 area, and it would have only a small private-access park area (City of Monterey Park 2014a). The
27 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard condominiums project would have 20 units, which could mean that up
28 to 60 people may live there. Mesa Substation Project construction would require up to 435
29 employees. In the worst-case scenario, up to about 1,800 people may be temporarily relocated in
30 the Mesa Substation vicinity, with 303 new permanent residents located in the vicinity at the same
31 time. All construction workers would be unlikely to relocate. There are several parks within 1 mile
32 of the Mesa Substation, including La Loma Park, Garvey Ranch Park, Potrero Heights Park, and
33 Acuna Park. The Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, a large recreational facility, is only 2 miles
34 from the Mesa Substation site. Not all 1,800 construction workers and permanent residents would
35 be expected to use recreational facilities because they would only be temporarily located in the
36 area. Further, the population of the area is urbanized (e.g., the population density of Monterey Park
37 is 7,856 people per square mile), such that parks are maintained to handle high use levels and the
38 temporary addition of 1,800 people to the vicinity of the Mesa Substation and surrounding
39 communities would not be appreciable. The temporary increase in population would not result in
40 heightened physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Cumulative impacts (Impact RE-1)
41 would be less than significant.

42 43 **6.1.2.14 Traffic and Transportation**

44 45 **Approach**

46 The impacts to traffic from the proposed project would be most concentrated near the Mesa
47 Substation site; therefore, the List Approach (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)) coupled
48 with growth projections was used for analyzing cumulative impact to traffic and transportation.

1 This best accounts for traffic generated from individual projects as well as anticipated population
2 growth that causes increased traffic in the area over time.

4 **Scope and Geographic Extent**

5 Traffic and transportation cumulative impacts evaluated projects that would increase background
6 traffic on the same intersections and roadway segments studied in the EIR.

8 **Cumulative Scenario**

9 Projects considered for the cumulative scenario for the traffic and transportation impacts were:

- 11 • Main Project Area
 - 12 - Monterey Park Towne Center Precise Plan
 - 13 - Monterey Park Market Place
 - 14 - Montebello Hills Specific Plan
 - 15 - Garvey Del Mar Mixed Use Project
 - 16 - Garvey Garden Plaza Mixed Use Project
 - 17 - New Garvey 168 Plaza Project
 - 18 - New Garvey Market Plaza
 - 19 - Walnut Grove and Rush Street Hotel
 - 20 - Doubletree Hotel Expansion
 - 21 - 1264 San Gabriel Boulevard Condominiums
- 22 • South Project Area
 - 23 - Cal Royal Products

24
25 There is no cumulative scenario for the North Project Area because the East Well Collector and
26 Centralized Disinfection Facility is already constructed and operation of the well and pipeline in the
27 vicinity of the Goodrich Substation would have no impact on traffic performance or safety.

29 **Cumulative Impacts Analysis**

30 ***Main Project Area***

31 The cumulative impacts analysis for the main project area is the same as the project level analysis
32 because the project level analysis takes into account future projects in determining the
33 environmental baseline, as described in Section 4.14.3.1, "Methodology and Significance Criteria."
34 As demonstrated in Section 4.14, "Traffic and Transportation," several intersections would exceed
35 significance thresholds when taking into account the proposed project and the projects in the
36 cumulative scenario. There would be a significant cumulative impact (Impact TT-1) to traffic at
37 several intersections at all three construction phases of the proposed project. The project could
38 result in delays along Potrero Grande Drive, which alone could cause a significant impact. Other
39 projects in the area would also contribute traffic to Potrero Grande Drive, causing a significant
40 cumulative impact to roadway segment performance (Impact TT-1). The proposed project would
41 be implemented with MM TT-1 to reduce impacts to peak traffic and with MM TT-2 to reduce

1 project impacts from road and lane closure. MM TT-1 and MM TT-2 would take into account the
2 cumulative traffic from other projects, reducing the cumulative impact to less than significant.

3
4 As discussed in Section 4.14, "Traffic and Transportation," the cumulative impact (Impact TT-2) to
5 Congestion Management Program (CMP) roadways for most components would be less than
6 significant. Construction of Telecommunications Route 2A may require temporary closure of SR 60
7 and may result in a cumulative significant impact if done during peak or daytime hours. The
8 significant impact would be mitigated to less than significant with MM TT-3.

9
10 None of the cumulative projects have components expected to interfere with air traffic; therefore,
11 there would be no cumulative impact to air traffic patterns (Impact TT-3).

12
13 The driveway to the project site from East Markland Drive may be directly across from the
14 driveway for the 500 East Markland Drive project. Given the low volume of vehicles exiting from
15 the substation site, particularly the driveway on East Markland that is reserved generally for
16 emergency access, cumulative impacts from driveway use (Impact TT-4) would be less than
17 significant. All potential construction projects may result in road damage due to heavy truck traffic,
18 which could cause a significant cumulative safety impact. The proposed project would adhere to
19 MM TT-7, which would require repair of damaged roads caused by the proposed project. The
20 proposed project's contribution to the significant safety impact (Impact TT-4) would therefore not
21 be cumulatively considerable. Potential circulation hazards from the Monterey Park Market Place
22 were identified for customers and employees of the Market Place and employees working at the
23 leachate treatment plant accessed via Greenwood Avenue. Stringing activities for the proposed
24 project would take place in this area, which could add to the hazards. The Monterey Park Market
25 Place would involve measures to reduce circulation hazards. Stringing from the Mesa project would
26 be done using guard structures or other similar measures to prevent conductors from falling on the
27 roadway. Cumulative traffic hazards impacts (Impact TT-4) would be less than significant.

28
29 The Monterey Park Market Place would have a less than significant impact on emergency access
30 because of project review by the Monterey Park Fire Department that would ensure emergency
31 access remains adequate. The proposed project could cause roadway closure that would
32 significantly impact emergency access, including to the Monterey Park Market Place area during
33 line stringing. This would be a cumulative significant impact. The proposed project would require
34 implementation of MM TT-8 to require emergency access coordination. Cumulative impacts
35 (Impact TT-5) would be less than significant with mitigation.

36
37 The proposed project would affect pedestrian and bicycle facilities temporarily during construction
38 in the vicinity of the project components. Cumulative projects would not cause an adverse impact
39 to pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the same areas as the proposed project. There would be no
40 cumulative impact (Impact TT-6).

41
42 The cumulative projects and the proposed project would not impact the same parking areas. There
43 would be no cumulative impact to parking that would result in an environmental impact (Impact
44 TT-7).

45 ***South Project Area***

46
47 The Cal Royal Products project would involve expansion of an existing building; construction may
48 take place during construction in the South Project Area. The Cal Royal Products project would
49 generate minimal traffic during construction given the small size of the project. Proposed project

1 work in the South Project Area would require one to two additional truck trips. Traffic generation
2 related to cumulative impacts (Impact TT-1) in the South Project Area would be less than
3 significant. The Cal Royal Products project would not conflict with a CMP, would not affect air
4 traffic, and would not affect emergency access; there would be no related cumulative impacts
5 (Impacts TT-2, TT-3, and TT-5). The Cal Royal driveway to Garfield Avenue may result in safety
6 impacts due to traffic entering Garfield Avenue from the Cal Royal parking lot and traffic traveling
7 northbound on Garfield Avenue from Flotilla Street (City of Commerce 2012), but the proposed
8 project would not involve circulation-related safety impacts in this location and there would be no
9 cumulative impact (Impact TT-4). Although the Cal Royal project's additional employment may
10 result in increased use of certain bus lines (City of Commerce 2012), the proposed project is not
11 expected to have this effect. There would be no cumulative impact (Impact TT-6). No on-street
12 parking would be required for the proposed project in Commerce, and there would be no
13 cumulative impact (Impact TT-7).
14

15 **6.2 Growth-Inducing Impacts**

16
17 A project could induce growth if it results in additional development, such as an increase in
18 population, employment and/or housing above and beyond what is already assumed will occur in
19 local and regional land use plans or in projections made by regional planning authorities,
20 irrespective of the proposed project. Under CEQA (Section 15126.2(d)), a project would be growth
21 inducing if it:
22

- 23 • Directly or indirectly fosters economic or population growth or the construction of
24 additional housing;
- 25 • Taxes community facilities to the extent that the construction of new facilities would be
26 necessary;
- 27 • Removes obstacles to population growth; or
- 28 • Encourages or facilitates other activities that cause significant environmental effects.
29

30 Typical growth-inducing factors might include the extension of urban services or transportation
31 infrastructure to a previously unserved or under-served area or the removal of major barriers to
32 development. This section evaluates the potential for the proposed project to create such growth
33 inducements. Growth inducement can be positive or negative depending on the resulting effects
34 and the development objectives of the planning authorities in the proposed project area. Negative
35 impacts associated with growth inducement would occur only where growth associated with the
36 proposed project would result in significant/adverse environmental impacts.
37

38 The proposed project would not result in population growth through direct or indirect
39 employment of workers needed to construct and operate the facilities. Construction labor demands
40 would be met by the applicant's existing employees or by hiring a small number of specialized
41 electrical transmission contractors; most of the construction workers are expected to be local
42 workers who would not relocate to the area. The small number of positions required during the
43 construction phase, given the high population of the area, would not directly or indirectly induce
44 any population growth in the area, even if they temporarily relocated to the area (refer to
45 discussion in Section 4.11, "Population and Housing").
46

47 The local communities in the vicinity of the proposed project have adequate infrastructure and
48 services to meet the needs of temporary workers. Los Angeles County has a vacancy rate of 5.8

1 percent for permanent housing or approximately 167,129 homes. As shown in Section 4.11.1.2,
2 hotel properties have an average vacancy rate of 21.1 percent or approximately 20,655 rooms. The
3 amount of available long-term housing and hotel/motel rooms would be sufficient for the peak
4 construction workers. In addition, the proposed project would not result in or require construction
5 of any new or upgraded community facilities, would not build public roads that would provide new
6 access to undeveloped or underdeveloped areas, and would not extend public services to new
7 areas. Operation and maintenance activities would be carried out by existing employees and would
8 have no impact on infrastructure and services in the area (refer to discussion in Section 4.12,
9 “Public Services and Utilities”). Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed Project
10 would not tax community facilities to the extent that the construction of new facilities would be
11 necessary.

12
13 The purpose of the proposed project is to ensure the availability of safe and reliable electric service
14 to meet customer demand in the Electrical Needs Area during emergency conditions. The proposed
15 project would not provide new electrical service that might induce economic or population growth
16 and has not been designed to provide new electrical service to areas that are currently unserved or
17 under-served. Electrical demand would not be anticipated to exceed the current capacity under
18 normal operating conditions in the Electrical Needs Area within the current 10-year planning
19 period. Growth in Los Angeles County and local communities is planned and regulated by
20 applicable local general plans and zoning ordinances. The provision of electricity is generally not
21 considered an obstacle to growth, and the availability of electrical capacity by itself does not
22 normally encourage growth. Other factors such as economic conditions, land and water supply
23 availability, and local planning policies have a more direct effect on growth. Therefore, the
24 proposed project would not remove obstacles to population growth.

25
26 The proposed project would reinforce the existing electrical system and allow for greater flexibility
27 in siting renewable resources to meet expected electrical load growth. It would not encourage
28 population growth or new residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural construction.
29 Therefore, the proposed project would not encourage or facilitate other activities that could
30 significantly affect the environment.

31
32 The proposed project would not result in increases in employment, housing, or demands for
33 community facilities and services or result in the removal of existing constraints to growth or the
34 creation of factors that encourage or facilitate development that would not otherwise have
35 occurred. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in any growth-
36 inducing impacts.

37 38 **6.3 Significant and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

39
40 CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(b) requires that an EIR identify significant impacts that cannot
41 be avoided by implementing the proposed project, including those which cannot be mitigated to
42 less than significant. The proposed project would result in the following significant, unavoidable
43 impacts:

- 44
45 • **Impact AE-1: Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site**
46 **and its surroundings.** Under Landscape Option 1, aesthetic impacts at the substation site
47 would be significant and unavoidable with mitigation until landscaping trees mature. Under
48 Landscape Option 2, aesthetic impacts at the substation site would be significant even after

1 implementation of mitigation. The view of the substation from North Vail Avenue would
2 result in significant impacts to aesthetics after mitigation.

- 3 • **Impact AQ-2: Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an**
4 **existing or projected air quality violation.** The project would result in significant
5 unavoidable impacts after mitigation related to construction emissions of carbon
6 monoxide.
- 7 • **Impact AQ-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.** The
8 project would result in significant unavoidable impacts after mitigation related to
9 construction emissions of nitrogen oxides.
- 10 • **Impact NV-1: Noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan**
11 **or noise ordinance.** Construction of the project would result in significant noise impacts as
12 a result of conflicting with noise ordinances of Montebello, South El Monte, Commerce, and
13 Pasadena.
- 14 • **Impact NV-4: Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in**
15 **the project vicinity.** Construction of the substation and telecommunications routes,
16 conversion of the street light source line, and modifications at Walnut Substation would
17 result in significant temporary increases in ambient noise levels that cannot be reduced to
18 less than significant after mitigation.
19

20 **6.4 Significant and Irreversible Environmental Changes**

21
22 CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c) requires that an EIR identify significant irreversible
23 environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project. These changes may include,
24 for example, uses of nonrenewable resources, provision of access to previously inaccessible areas,
25 or accidents that could change the environment in the long term. Significant irreversible changes to
26 and irretrievable commitments of resources could occur from construction and operation of the
27 proposed project as a result of energy and materials consumption, land disturbance (and
28 associated habitat loss for sensitive biological resources), and damage to or the loss of cultural or
29 paleontological resources.
30

31 Construction of the proposed project would require a permanent commitment of natural resources
32 from the direct consumption of fossil fuels, construction materials, and energy required for the
33 production of materials as well as the manufacture of new components that largely cannot be
34 recycled at the end of the project's useful lifetime (see Chapter 2, "Project Description"). During
35 construction and operation there would also be the risk of impacts on undiscovered cultural
36 and/or paleontological resources. The proposed project would also result in irreversible impacts
37 on air quality due to emissions of NO_x, reactive organic gases, and other pollutants and greenhouse
38 gases during construction.
39

40 Accidents, such as the release of hazardous materials, can trigger irreversible environmental
41 damage. As discussed in Section 4.7, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials," construction and
42 operation of the proposed project would involve the use of small quantities of hazardous materials
43 and other potentially dangerous materials such as gasoline, diesel fuel, transmission fluid, brake
44 fluid, hydraulic fluid, and solvents, and oil and grease such as motor oils and lubricating grease. An
45 accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water quality and biological resources, and
46 could pose a hazard to people if a large spill were to occur. However, given the small volumes of
47 these materials and mandatory compliance with applicable regulations (as described in Section

1 4.7) aimed at preventing spills, or reducing the severity of a spill should it occur, accidents
2 resulting in significant environmental or health effects would be unlikely.

3 **6.5 Energy Conservation**

4
5 Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines requires consideration of potentially significant energy
6 implications of a project “to the extent relevant and applicable to the project.”

7 8 **6.5.1 Construction**

9
10 The proposed project would directly consume energy during construction and through the use of
11 equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Intensity of direct energy
12 consumption would be greater during construction than in operation. Vehicle trips are discussed in
13 Section 4.14, “Traffic and Transportation.” Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality
14 calculations presented in Appendix C.

15 16 **6.5.2 Operation**

17
18 The proposed project would directly consume energy during operation and through the use of
19 equipment and vehicles that consume gasoline and diesel fuel. Vehicle trips are discussed in
20 Section 4.15, “Traffic and Transportation.” Consumption of energy is considered in the air quality
21 calculations presented in Appendix C. Vehicle trips and equipment use during operation would be
22 negligible over current activities and would have a negligible impact on energy consumption.

23
24 The project is not intended to facilitate increased consumption of energy or require additional local
25 or regional capacity, but is instead meant to address reliability concerns resulting from retirement
26 of certain generating units as explained in Section 1.2, “Project Objectives.” No energy impacts are
27 expected to occur as a result of operation of the proposed project.

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