

### 3.0 Description of Alternatives

This chapter introduces and describes alternatives to the proposed project. The discussion in Chapter 5, “Comparison of Alternatives,” compares the environmental advantages and disadvantages of the proposed project with those of the alternatives retained for consideration in this EIR. The environmentally superior alternative is selected in Chapter 5. Project modifications or “options” are discussed in Chapter 7, “Environmental Impacts of the Past Work along Segment 3A.”

Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15126.6) addressing project alternatives in an EIR include the following:

- The range of alternatives required in an EIR is governed by a “rule of reason.” Therefore, the EIR must evaluate only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasonable choice. The alternatives shall be limited to those that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the proposed project.
- The No Project Alternative shall be evaluated, along with its impacts. The No Project Alternative analysis shall discuss the existing conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation was published, as well as what would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the proposed project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services. The purpose of describing and analyzing a No Project Alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the effects of approving the proposed project with the effects of not approving the proposed project.
- An EIR does not need to consider an alternative whose effects cannot reasonably be ascertained and whose implementation is remote and speculative.

### 3.1 Alternatives Development and Screening Process

The alternatives screening analysis that was conducted to determine the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIR is detailed in the Screening Report (Appendix H). The alternatives reviewed included reduced scope of work, alternative construction method, and an alternative subtransmission route. The Screening Report details the methodology used to evaluate and select alternatives for further analysis, including their feasibility, the extent to which they would meet most of the basic objectives of the proposed project, and their potential to avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the proposed project. The Screening Report provides a complete description of each alternative considered in the Screening Report, including figures, and a discussion to support why each alternative was eliminated or retained for consideration in this EIR.

### 3.2 Alternatives Evaluated in this EIR

Alternatives retained for consideration in this EIR are described in this section and are shown in Figure 3-1. The screening process determined that these alternatives would meet most of the objectives of the proposed project, be feasible, and reduce a significant environmental effect.

1 **3.2.1 Alternative A – Reduce the Scope of Work Along Segments 1, 2, and 3A.**  
2

3 This alternative was identified by the CPUC. Under this alternative, the existing 30 foundations and  
4 17 topped subtransmission wood poles that remain along Segments 1, 2, and 3A as a result of the  
5 past work that occurred between 1999 and 2004 would not be removed. This alternative would  
6 reduce the need for and use of construction equipment, workers, and vehicles. All remaining  
7 segments and substations upgrades would be constructed as described in the proposed project.  
8

9 **3.2.2 Alternative B – Install Some Structures along Segment 4 via Helicopter**  
10

11 This alternative was identified by the CPUC. Under this alternative, equipment, materials, and  
12 workers would be delivered to construction sites 116 through 125 via helicopter. Subtransmission  
13 structures and conductors would be installed with helicopter assistance. This alternative would  
14 avoid the need to perform road improvements within NMFS-designated critical habitat for  
15 steelhead trout or within streams that drain into NMFS-designated critical habitat. All remaining  
16 segments and substations upgrades would be constructed as described in the proposed project.  
17

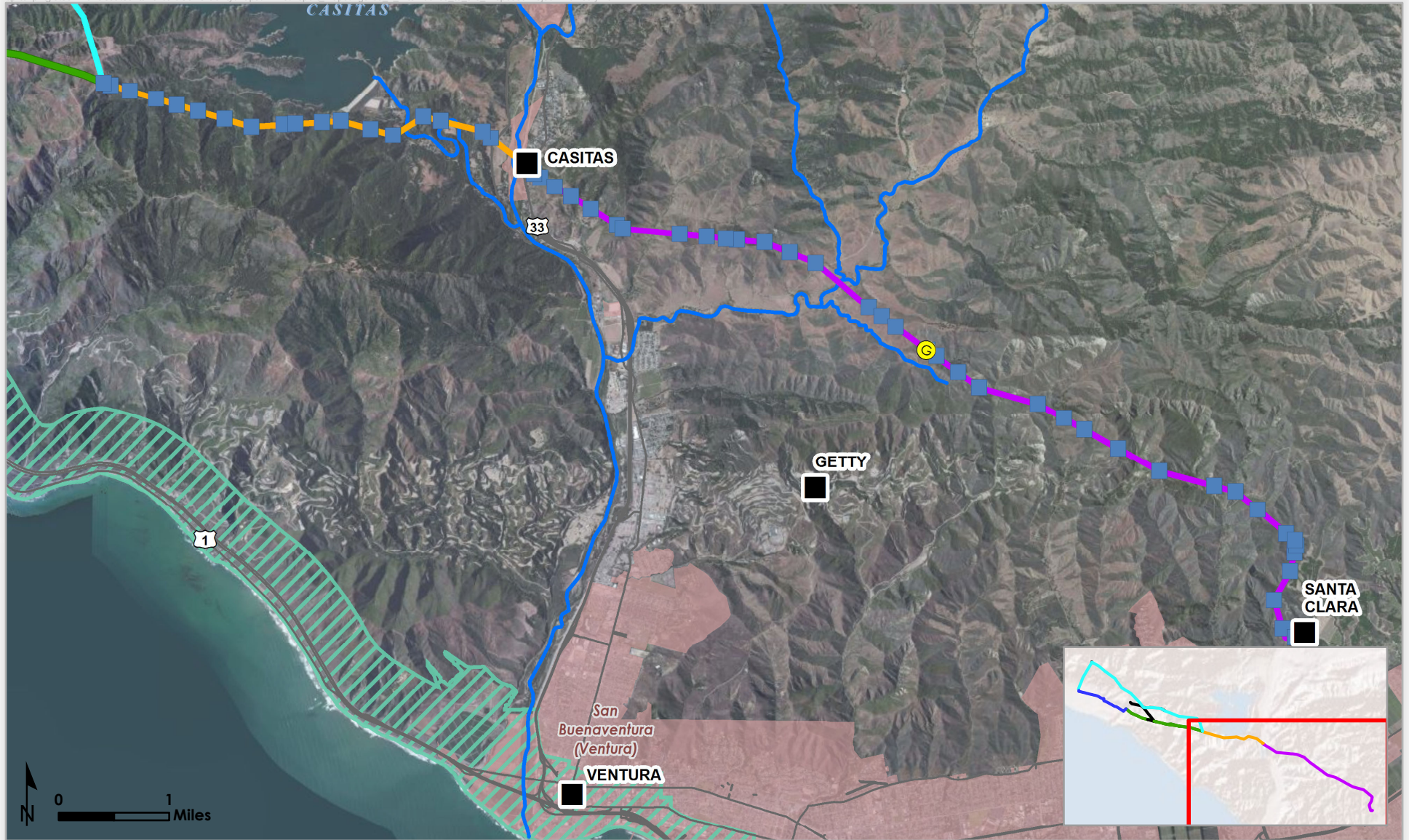
18 **3.2.3 No Project Alternative**  
19

20 CEQA requires that a No Project Alternative be considered in EIRs (CEQA Guidelines Section  
21 15126.6(e)). The purpose of describing and analyzing a No Project Alternative is to allow decision-  
22 makers to compare the effects of approving the proposed project with the effects of not approving  
23 the proposed project. Because full consideration of a No Project Alternative is required by CEQA,  
24 the No Project Alternative will be evaluated in the EIR and is not evaluated in this chapter.  
25

26 The No Project Alternative is the circumstance under which the proposed project does not proceed.  
27 According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e), the No Project Alternative must include (a) the  
28 assumption that conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation of an EIR was circulated for public  
29 review would not be changed because the proposed project would not be constructed; and (b) the  
30 events or actions that would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the  
31 proposed project were not approved.  
32

33 **3.2.3.1 No Project Alternative and Objectives of the Proposed Projects**

34 Under the No Project Alternative, no action would be taken. Construction and operation of the  
35 proposed would not occur to provide long term reliability and continuity of service to the ENA;  
36 enhance operational flexibility by providing the ability to transfer the electric load between local  
37 substations and remove existing 220-kV or 66-kV lines from service when needed for maintenance  
38 purposes; or increase energy efficiency of the 66-kV subtransmission line. Therefore, none of the  
39 project objectives would be achieved under this alternative.  
40  
41



Existing Electrical Subtransmission Lines

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3A
- Segment 3B
- Segment 4
- Segment 5

Existing Substation Locations

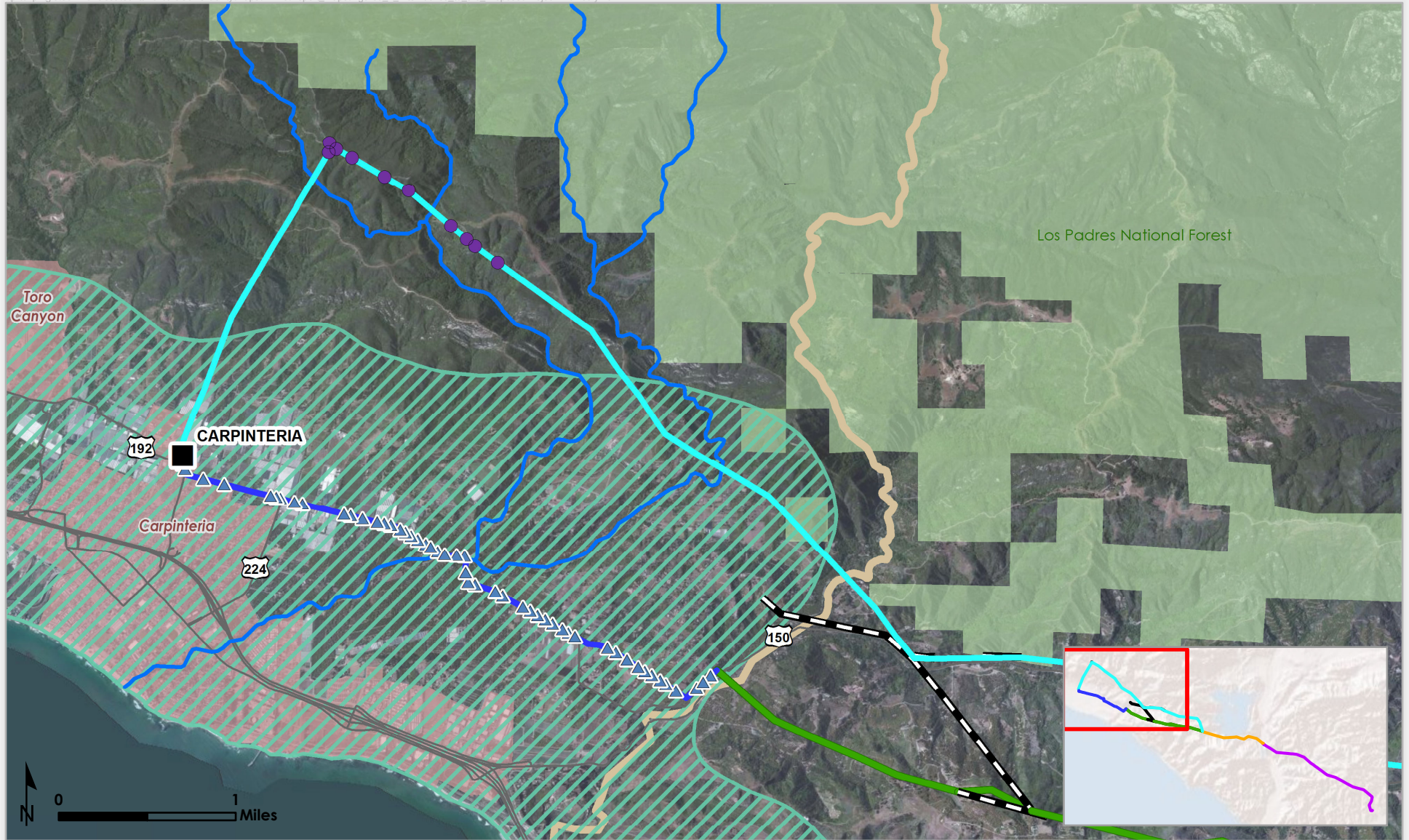
- Existing Substation Locations
- Getty Tap
- Alternative A**
- Foundations Left in Place From the Past Work in the Project Area
- Topped Poles Left in Place From the Past Work in the Project Area
- Alternative B**
- Structures to be Installed via Helicopter

Steelhead Critical Habitat

- Los Padres National Forest (USFS)
- Bio Preserve Areas Coastal Commission Zone
- Major Roads
- Local road
- County Boundary
- City Limits

**Figure 3-1a**  
**Alternatives to the Proposed Project**  
 Santa Barbara County Reliability Project  
 Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties California





Existing Electrical Subtransmission Lines

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3A
- Segment 3B
- Segment 4
- Segment 5

Existing Substation Locations

- Existing Substation Locations
- Getty Tap

Alternative A

- Foundations Left in Place From the Past Work in the Project Area
- ▲ Topped Poles Left in Place From the Past Work in the Project Area

Alternative B

- Structures to be Installed via Helicopter

Steelhead Critical Habitat

- Los Padres National Forest (USFS)
- Bio Preserve Areas
- Coastal Commission Zone
- Major Roads
- Local road
- County Boundary
- City Limits

**Figure 3-1b**  
**Alternatives to the**  
**Proposed Project**  
 Santa Barbara County  
 Reliability Project  
 Santa Barbara and  
 Ventura Counties  
 California

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

**3.2.3.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Events or Actions if the Proposed Project Is Not Approved**

If the No Project Alternative is approved, then it is assumed that conditions at the time of the Notice of Preparation of the Draft EIR would not be changed because the proposed project would not be constructed. Under this scenario, it is anticipated that the following events would occur:

- The ENA would continue to receive its electric service through SCE’s existing Goleta 220/66 kV System, served via the Goleta-Santa Clara No. 1 220 kV Transmission Line and Goleta-Santa Clara No. 2 220 kV Transmission Line.
- Foundations and topped poles left from previous work in the project area would remain in place.
- Structures between Segments 3B and 4 would continue to be located within a landslide prone area.
- Telecommunication equipment would not be upgraded at Casitas, Carpinteria, Goleta, Ortega, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Ventura Substations. Telecommunication cable would not be installed along Segments 1, 2, and 4 or within Santa Clara, Casitas, or Carpinteria Substations.
- The three existing back-up 66 kV subtransmission tie lines would continue to collectively have a maximum operating limit of 124 MVA under normal operating conditions.
- Customers would experience prolonged outages in the event that the Goleta-Santa Clara 220 kV transmission lines are damaged.

The No Project Alternative is discussed with respect to the environmental impacts of the proposed project in Chapter 5, “Comparison of Alternatives.”

*This page intentionally left blank.*