November 8, 2021 VIA EMAIL-NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

San Diego Gas and Electric Company
ATTN: William Yee
Environmental Project Manager
8315 Century Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Review and Approval of Minor Project Refinement Request #1 for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) San Marcos to Escondido TL6975 69kV Project

Dear Mr. Yee,

The CPUC Energy Division has conducted a review and approves of SDG&E's Minor Project Refinement Request #1 (MPR-1) for the San Marcos to Escondido TL6975 69kV Project (Project) submitted on October 22, 2021, as revised on November 4, 2021. The request would allow for the use of an additional temporary work area located between the existing work areas for existing transmission tower (Location 85) and existing transmission tower (Location 86) to create adequate workspace for a snub loading site (snub site). The requested additional work area would be approximately 11,250 square feet, or 0.26 acres. The requested MPR-1 work area would be located entirely within the SDG&E right-of-way (ROW) south of Quest Haven Road in San Marcos, California.

The MPR-1 proposed work areas would be located entirely within the geographic boundary of the study area and has been previously analyzed and considered within the Project's Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) completed on January 10, 2020.

SDG&E states in MPR-1 that vegetation would be trimmed within the work area as necessary and is located within coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat. No trees are present within the MPR-1 work area. Following the use of the MPR-1 temporary work area, the area will be stabilized with a native seed mix in accordance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and any impacts to CSS habitat would be restored according to the SDG&E Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) Enhancement and Monitoring Program.

Following a thorough review of MPR-1, the CPUC and Environmental Science Associates (ESA) Project team, which includes ESA biologists and technical staff concur with the requirements and conditions stated in MPR-1.

Vegetation trimming would be no less than 4 inches above the ground and would remain consistent with Section 7.1 of the Operational Protocol No. 36 of the SDG&E NCCP. Additional impacts associated with noise and vibration due to an increase in size of the temporary work area would result in approximately 30 feet closer to sensitive receptors to the north of the MPR-1 temporary work area, which would be reduced from 180 feet to 150 feet.

The increase in proximity (30 feet) to sensitive receptors would result in an increase of 1.6 decibels (dBA) L_{eq}[1] to surrounding residences, resulting in a total of 72.5 dBA L_{eq} estimated for the closest sensitive receptors. However, the increase in dBA L_{eq} would be negligible and would remain below the 75 dBA L_{eq} threshold and 100 feet requirement described in Mitigation Measure NOI-1 of the Construction Noise Reduction and Mitigation Plan (CNRMP) of the MMRCP. Nonetheless, this does not absolve SDG&E's mitigation responsibilities; all construction activities associated with this MPR must be compliant with the CNRMP.

Following the review of the MPR-1, the CPUC concludes that the work described in MPR-1 would remain consistent with impact conclusions provided in the Final IS/MND with the implementation of relevant APMs and mitigation measures listed in the MMRCP. Additionally, no changes would occur as a result of the MPR-1 that would trigger additional permitting requirements, create a new significant impact, or increase the severity of a previously identified impact. Therefore, I approve implementation of MPR-1.

Sincerely,

Trevor Pratt

Trevor Pratt
Senior Project Manager
California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division – Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA Section

cc: Melinda Kimble, SDG&E
Dave Davis, ESA
Emily Critchfield, KP Environmental

[1] The equivalent sound level is used to describe noise over a specified period of time, in terms of a single numerical value. The L_{eq} is the constant sound level which would contain the same acoustic energy as the varying sound level, during the same time period (i.e., the average noise exposure level for the given time period).