



Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project CPUC Minor Project Refinement Form

Minor project refinements are strictly limited to changes that will not trigger an additional permit requirement (except local government ministerial permits and associated requirements), do not substantially increase the severity of a previously identified significant impact based on criteria used in the IS/MND, create a new significant impact, are located within the geographic boundary of the study area of the IS/MND, and that don't conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

Date Requested: October 8, 2020

Report No.: MPR-4

Date Approved: TBD

Approval Agency: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Property Owner(s):

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) - ROW

Location/Milepost:

- Location 33 (P13): first pole east of 4S Ranch Parkway

- Stringing Site 12: west of Location 35 (E13), between 4S Ranch Parkway and Dove Canyon Road

- Stringing Site 13: between Locations 35 and 36 (E13 and P15), west of Dove Canyon Road

- Stringing Site 19: at the eastern end of the project alignment adjacent to Locations 54 and 55 (R20 and R21), north of Rancho Bernardo Road near the Bernardo Substation.

Land Use/Vegetative Cover:

Bare ground, disturbed habitat, landscaping, coastal sage scrub

Sensitive Resources:

None

**Modification
From:**

☐ Permit

☐ Plan/Procedure

☐ Specification

☐ Drawing

☐ Mitigation
Measure

☒ Other: Construction
work areas

Reference Documents

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project. Prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC A.16-08-010), dated February 2018.

Notice to Proceed (NTP) request for the Artesian 230/60 kV Substation Expansion Project. Authorized by the CPUC on September 18, 2019.



Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project (D.19-07-007)

Describe how project refinement deviates from current project. Include photos.

The requested change is to make minor revisions to four temporary work areas associated with construction of the 69kV power line reconductor (see Photographs 1 through 4 and Figures 1 through 3). The work areas are being revised to provide safe working area for construction of the 69kV power line reconductor and pole replacement phase of the Project. Site photographs are included in Attachment A and the MPR-4 Figures are including in Attachment B.

The specific changes are as follows:

Location 33 (P13): Add approximately 3,279 square feet of additional temporary work space in order to complete pole replacement activities. Workspace contouring is required within a sloped section of landscape/ornamental cover that will result in approximately 645 square feet of temporary impacts (refer to Photograph No. 1 in Attachment A). Figure 1 depicts the original and proposed new work areas at Location 33 (P13).

Stringing Site 12: The temporary work area of Stringing Site (SS) 12 requires the site to be shifted and slightly expanded northwards in order to allow access and stringing equipment (refer to Photograph No. 2 and Figure 2). The revised SS 12 that will result in approximately 3,500 square feet of temporary impacts (increase of approximately 1,500 sq ft from what was originally contemplated). Vegetation trimming is required within the approximately 1,900 square feet of landscape/ornamental cover (refer to Photograph No. 2).

Stringing Site 13: The temporary work area of SS 13 requires the site to be shifted approximately 190 feet southeast of the originally contemplated location (refer to Photograph 3 and Figure 2). The site will occur within an existing, overgrown spur road to Location 36 (P15) and within a temporary area adjacent to the Location 36 pole location (refer to Photograph 3). The original and new proposed SS 13 are approximately 2,000 square feet in size.

Stringing Sites 18 & 19: SS 19 requires the site to be relocated approximately 100 feet west and expanded northwards. It will be adjacent to the existing temporary work areas associated with Locations 54 (R20), 55 (R21), and SS 18. The temporary work areas for these 4 features will now effectively create one combined temporary work area totaling approximately 6,931 square feet (refer to Figure 3 and Photograph 4). This represents an additional 3,040 sq ft of temporary workspace above what was anticipated for these four work spaces.

Construction Equipment and Durations

Adjustment of the work areas described in MPR-4 would not change the duration or nature of construction when compared to the approved Project. As described above, MPR-4 only includes minor adjustments to previously identified work areas along the 69kV power line alignment.

Original Condition:

The photographs in Attachment A depict the original and proposed work area to be used for temporary construction activities. Stringing sites 12, 13, 18, and 19 are shown on Figure 2-5 in the Final IS/MND.

Justification for Change:

The listed work areas need to be revised as described herein to allow for safe access and completion of construction activities along the 69kV power line alignment. SDG&E performed a site walk with the construction contractor and the changes in MPR-4 were identified by the contractor as required to complete construction activities.

Maps & Figures:

Refer to Figures 1 through 3 in Attachment B. Figures 1 through 3 depict the original work areas and the proposed modified MPR-4 work areas.



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Environmental Impact:

The request work area modifications would not result in new impacts when compared to the impacts disclosed in the Final IS/MND. The existing Project Mitigation Measures and APMs would ensure that all impacts are less than significant. Additional detail is provided below for key resources.

Concurrence (if appropriate):

Concurrence for the modified work areas is not required. All work is within the IS/MND study area and does not trigger permits from any other agencies.

Resources:

Biological ☐ No Resources Present ☒ Resources Present ☐ N/A, Change would not affect resources

Previous Biological Survey Report Reference:

Chambers Group, Inc. 2016. *Biological Technical Report for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company Artesian Substation Expansion Project*, San Diego County, California. July 2016.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA). *San Diego Gas and Electric Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. Prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). March 2019.

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) 1995. *San Diego Gas and Electric Company Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan*.

SDG&E 2016. *SDG&E Proponents Environmental Assessment for the Artesian 230 kV Substation Expansion Project* (A.16-08-010) Volumes I and II.

Cultural ☐ No Resources Present ☐ Resources Present
☒ N/A, changes would not affect resources

Previous Cultural Survey Report Reference:

Foglia, S.E. and J. Hennessey. 2014. *Archaeological Survey for Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion, San Diego, San Diego County, California*.

SDG&E 2016. *SDG&E Proponents Environmental Assessment for the Artesian 230 kV Substation Expansion Project* (A.16-08-010) Volumes I and II.

San Diego Natural History Museum 2015. *Paleontological Records Search – Transmission Line 6961 Sycamore to Bernardo*

Williams, Brian and Isabel Cordova. 2012. *Inventory of the Cultural Resources along SDG&E's Tie Line 6961, San Diego County, California*.

Disturbance Acreage Changes: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Original disturbance acreage:

The original work area for the MPR-4 work areas is 8,205 square feet. The revised work area will be approximately 16,024 square feet. Therefore, the proposed work area expansion will result in an additional approximately 7,819 square feet of workspace.



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CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The MPR-4 scope of work would not affect CEQA impacts relating to geologic hazards, including seismicity. MPR-4 would occur along the existing 69kV alignment, which was included in the IS/MND as a Project feature and work area. Implementation of MPR-4 would not expose the Project, work areas, or workers to any new or increased risk from geologic hazards. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Agency approval (i.e., grading permit or similar process) is not required for implementation of MPR-4.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-4 will not change the use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-4 would not require additional agency consultation or approval related to hazardous materials or wastes. There would be no significant increase of threat or risk derived from the use of hazardous substances, which would not change from what was analyzed in the IS/MND.
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Use of the MPR-4 Area would not affect impacts related to hydrology and water quality. The MPR-4 work area was designed to avoid all aquatic resources in the area. All construction activities at the MPR-4 work areas would be subject to the Project SWPPP and all applicable BMPs. BMPs such as silt fencing and straw waddles will be installed around work areas to prevent the degradation of water quality. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Use of MPR-4 Area will not affect or change the Project SWPPP in a manner that would require a change in Project coverage under the Construction General Permit. Recycled Water would not be used as part of MPR-4, and therefore MPR-4 would not affect the Water Reclamation and Recycling (WRR) permit. No additional agency consultation or new permits would be required.
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<p>Implementation of MPR-4 would not affect cultural resources. Location 33 (P13) is located within 100 feet of a known cultural resource, and work occurring at this location would require a cultural resource monitor. However, this is not different from what was required by the IS/MND.</p> <p>New disturbance of native soils is proposed as part of MPR-4. However, paleontological resources monitoring will be implemented during any ground disturbance of either Friars or Mission Valley formations, consistent with Mitigation Measures CUL-8. The addition of the work covered by MPR-4 would not change the potential impacts to paleontological resources.</p> <p>Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.</p>
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The MPR-4 work areas would not affect any cultural resources not previously disclosed in the IS/MND, and additional consultation would not be required.
Traffic and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Implementation of MPR-4 would not change estimated trips in and out of the project area by workers or delivery vehicles. There would be no change in the level of service on streets surrounding the project area. There would be no effect on public transportation, as all work will occur along the power line alignment and away from public roads. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Agency Consultation is not required for implementation of MPR-4. There would be no new encroachment permits or changes to traffic control plan requirements.



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CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Noise and Vibration	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Construction equipment used for implementation of MPR-4 would be similar to the equipment analyzed in the IS/MND. MPR-4 work would be physically located adjacent to the original work areas and impacts from construction noise would not differ from those disclosed in the IS/MND. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The Project must comply with the City of San Diego's noise ordinance. The addition of the MPR-4 work scope would not require consultation with the City, as work would conform to City's noise ordinance, including allowable hours for construction activities.
Aesthetics/ Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Work performed under MPR-4 would not result in any additional impacts to the visual character in the project area. The physical changes that would result from MPR-4 would be temporary, located adjacent to the originally analyzed work areas. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-4.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Agency Consultation is not required for use of the MPR-4 Area. The CPUC has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting, design, and construction of the Project.
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-4 changes the location and shape of temporary construction work areas but does not change the nature or intensity of construction activities. Therefore, MPR-4 is not anticipated to result in any changes relating to emission of criteria pollutants or diesel particulate matter (DPM).
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Additional agency consultation or approval would not be required for implementation of MPR-4.

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CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Biological and Aquatic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	<p>MPR-4 will require minor revisions to previously identified work areas, as described above. The new work areas will not impact any biological resources (i.e., habitats) that were not identified and mitigated for in the IS/MND. The revised work area for the Location 33 work area will result in an additional 3,279 sq. ft. of workspace. The additional work space at Location 33 includes approximately 2,514 square feet of bare ground, 120 square feet of disturbed habitat, and 645 square feet of landscaping (refer to Photograph 1 in Attachment A).</p> <p>The revised work area for SS 12 is will be approximately 3,500 square feet, with an increase in of approximately 1,500 square feet. The proposed new SS 12 includes impacts to bare ground (1,200 square feet), disturbed habitat (400 square feet), and landscaping (1,900 square feet).</p> <p>The revised work area for SS 13 will include approximately 2,000 square feet, which is equal to the amount of work space included for the original SS 13 work space. The new SS 13 work area would within and adjacent to the existing spur road, which includes non-native grassland dominated by false brome (<i>Brachypodium distachyon</i>) and rattail sixweeks grass (<i>Festuca myuros</i>). Portions of the access spur road also contain patches of salt grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>) and isolated occurrences of prickly lettuce <i>Lactuca serriola</i> and crete weed (<i>Hedynois cretica</i>). A patch of lemonadeberry (<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>) is present along the south side of the access road; a small area within these shrubs may need to be crushed by equipment and outriggers during staging of the stringing equipment in order to make the equipment level for safe operation. The revised work area is located within the floodplain of a jurisdictional aquatic feature that runs east to west, south of the project alignment.</p> <p>The revised work area for SS 18, SS 19 and Locations 54 and 55 is approximately 6,931 square feet, which represents an increase of approximately 3,040 square feet. The proposed new work area for these four project features includes approximately 4,381 square feet of bare ground and 2,550 square feet of coastal sage scrub. The coastal sage scrub is dominated by black sage (<i>Salvia mellifera</i>), California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>), California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>), laurel sumac (<i>Malosma laurina</i>), with tree tobacco (<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>) intermixed.</p> <p>Due to the presence of habitat suitable to support nesting birds, a pre-construction nesting bird survey is required in compliance with APM BIO-3 if work is to occur within the bird breeding season (February 1 - August 31). In addition, for vegetation trimming of coastal sage scrub habitat at the proposed work area for SS 18, SS19, and Locations 54 and 55, vegetation clearing must occur outside of the nesting bird breeding season, consistent with APM BIO-3. Finally, biological monitoring would be required during construction in compliance with APM BIO-7.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> N	
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Because the MPR-4 work areas include sensitive and non-sensitive habitats similar to those analyzed and mitigated for in the IS/MND, no new or additional consultation, reporting, or permitting is required with the Wildlife Agencies.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	



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Approvals	Date	Name (print)	Signature	
San Diego Gas and Electric Project Manager		Irina Peterson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed
San Diego Gas and Electric Environmental Project Manager		Eden Nguyen Kilburg		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed
San Diego Gas & Electric Compliance Manager		Keri Cuppage		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed
CPUC Project Manager		Patricia Kelly		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved with conditions (see below) <input type="checkbox"/> Denied

For CPUC Compliance Manager Use Only

☐ Refinement Approved ☐ Refinement Denied ☐ Beyond Authority

Conditions of Approval or Reason for Denial:

Prepared by:

Date:

ATTACHMENT A
Site Photographs



Photograph 1: The yellow line indicates revised work area for Location 33 (P13). Grading will occur within the landscape/ornamental vegetation to create a level work area.



Photograph 2: The yellow line indicates revised location of Stringing Site 12.



Photograph 3: The yellow line indicates revised location of Stringing Site 13. Red dotted line indicates existing access spur road. Location 36 is visible in the foreground. Water resource main channel is south (left of) the eucalyptus trees, out of view.





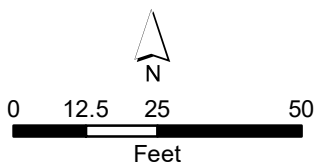
Photograph 4: The yellow line indicates revised location of work area for Stringing Site 19, encompassing Locations 54 and 55, and Stringing Site 18.

ATTACHMENT B

Figures



-  Proposed Work Area
-  Original Work Area





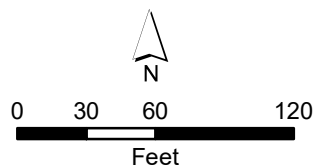
Artesian Substation

Work Areas Comparison

Location 33



-  Proposed Work Area
-  Original Work Area



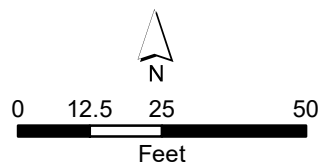
Artesian Substation

Work Areas Comparison

Stringing Site 12 & 13



- Proposed Work Area
- Original Work Area



Artesian Substation

Work Areas Comparison

Stringing Site 19