



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: January 27, 2021

Report No.: MPR-9

Date Approved: TBD

Approval Agency: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Property Owner(s):

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

Location:

Location 64 (E24) just outside the eastern corner of the Rancho Carmel Substation. Located between Innovation Drive and Camino Del Norte, accessed from Innovation Drive.

Land Use/Vegetative Cover:

Bare ground and landscaped/ornamental vegetation.

Sensitive Resources:

No sensitive habitats will be impacted.

**Modification
From:**

☐ Permit

☒ Plan/Procedure

☐ Specification

☐ Drawing

☐ Mitigation
Measure

☐ Other:

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.



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

The original work at Location 64 (E24) included overhead work only on the existing wood pole. This minor project refinement includes replacement of the existing wood pole with a weatherized engineered steel pole on a pier foundation.

The specific changes are as follows:

Location:

Location 64 (E24), just outside the eastern corner of the Rancho Carmel Substation, between Innovation Drive and Camino Del Norte. Accessed from an existing dirt access road off of Innovation Drive.

Construction Equipment and Durations:

Anticipated equipment and vehicles include a drill, skidsteer, dump truck, concrete truck, line truck, bucket truck, crew trucks, a crane, and foreman pickup trucks.

The timing of the work is estimated to be in late March – early April 2021 and the construction schedule would be:

- Approximately 1.5 weeks for the foundation construction during permitted daytime hours Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 7 pm.
- Approximately 2 days for new pole installation and wire transfer at night, which will require a variance from the City of San Diego, and a nighttime noise and nuisance reduction plan to be approved by the CPUC.
- Approximately 1 day for removal of the existing pole during permitted daytime hours Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 7 pm.

Original Condition:

The photographs in Attachment A depict the proposed work area to be used for construction activities at Location 64 (E24). The original work activities at Location 64 (E24) included overhead work only, consisting of a 314 sq. ft. work area around the existing pole, plus access via an existing dirt road. The anticipated work area required is approximately 5,625 sq. ft. for the removal of the existing pole and installation of the new pole and associated pier foundation.

Justification for Change:

The original work at Location 64 (E24) only included overhead work on the existing wood pole. Guy wire and anchors for the existing pole are directly in conflict with the new underground trench package. Additionally, it was determined that a concrete foundation deadend pole would be required for reliability reasons as the overhead span crosses a major thoroughfare. Therefore, the existing pole at Location 64 (E24) needs to be replaced with a weatherized engineered steel pole on a pier foundation.

Maps & Figures:

Refer to Figure 1 in Attachment B. Figure 1 depicts the Location 64 (E24) work area. The work area will be positioned mostly towards the existing project-approved dirt access road, south of the new pole location, with an approximately 30-foot radius behind the existing and new pole locations for equipment access. The access road portion of the work area will overlap largely with the existing project work areas for underground trenching and wire stringing.



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Environmental Impact:

The requested project modifications would not result in new impacts when compared to the impacts disclosed in the Final IS/MND. The existing Project Mitigation Measures and Applicant Proposed Measures (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

Disturbance acreage:

The anticipated work area required is approximately 5,625 sq. ft. at the new pole location. The new concrete pier foundation will be approximately 7 feet wide and 19 feet deep.



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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-9 scope of work would not affect CEQA impacts relating to geologic hazards, including seismicity. MPR-9 would occur at the existing work area analyzed and included in the IS/MND as a Project feature and work area. Implementation of MPR-9 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-9.
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-9.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-9 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-9.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-9 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 and Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Use of the MPR-9 work area would not affect impacts related to hydrology and water quality. The MPR-9 work area was designed to avoid all aquatic resources in the area. All construction activities at the MPR-9 work area would be subject to the Project SWPPP and all applicable BMPs. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-9.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Use of MPR-9 Area will not affect or change the Project SWPPP in a way of 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-9, and therefore MPR-9 would not affect the Water Reclamation and Recycling (WRR) permit. No additional agency consultation or new permits would be required.
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<p>Implementation of MPR-9 would not affect cultural resources. Location 64 (E24) does not fall within 100 feet of any previously documented cultural resource.</p> <p>Proposed ground disturbance associated with drilling for the foundation of Location 64 (E24) will require paleontological monitoring, consistent with mitigation measures within the MMRCP.</p>
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	The MPR-9 work area would not affect any cultural or paleontological 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-9 would not change estimated trips in and out of the project area by workers or vehicles. There would be no change in the level of service on streets surrounding the project area compared to analysis in the IS/MND. There would be no effect on public transportation. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-9.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Agency Consultation is not required for implementation of MPR-9. There would be no new encroachment permits or changes to traffic control plan requirements.
Noise and Vibration	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	MPR-9 proposes the use of a drill, skidsteer, dump truck, concrete truck, line truck, bucket truck, crew trucks, a crane, and foreman pickup trucks. Construction noise from use of this equipment would not differ from noise impacts disclosed in the IS/MND. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-9.
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-9 work scope would not require consultation with the City, as work would conform to City's noise ordinance, including allowable hours for construction activities.



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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.
Aesthetics/ Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Work performed under MPR-9 would not result in any additional impacts to the visual character or surrounding viewshed in the project area. The new steel pole that will replace the existing wood pole will be located directly adjacent to the existing pole. The new pole will visually match the other steel poles that are being installed as part of the project. Although the new pole will be approximately 23 feet taller than the existing pole, the pole is in an industrial setting surrounded by existing powerlines, commercial development, and the Rancho Carmel Substation. The pole will have a matte brown coating to blend in with the surrounding vegetation, which consists of a row of ornamental pine (<i>Pinus</i> sp.) and eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.) trees. The pole is located over 250 feet south of the nearest residential development, which is situated on the opposite side of a high-traffic, 6-lane section of Camino Del Norte from the pole location. Therefore, no change to CEQA impacts would occur as a result of MPR-9.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Agency Consultation is not required for use of the MPR-9 Area. The CPUC has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting, design, and construction of the Project.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	The MPR-9 area but does not change the nature or intensity of construction activities. Therefore, MPR-9 is not anticipated to result in any changes relating to emission of criteria pollutants or diesel particulate matter (DPM).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Additional agency consultation or approval would not be required for implementation of MPR-9.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	<p>The proposed pole replacement will result in approximately 19 sq. ft. of permanent impacts to landscape/ornamental vegetation and 19 sq. ft. of permanent impacts to bare ground. The proposed work will result in up to 5,625 sq. ft. of temporary impacts to a combination of landscape/ornamental vegetation (approximately 900 sq. ft.) and bare ground (approximately 4,725 sq. ft. – within a project-approved access road, and overlapping largely with existing project work areas for trenching and wire stringing). Removal of the 2 existing anchors embedded in the ground will temporarily impact 18 sq. ft. of bare ground; removal of the 2 existing anchors connected to a concrete block will not result in impacts. Ornamental trees and shrubs surrounding the site provide potential habitat for nesting birds.</p> <p>No sensitive habitats will be impacted. Therefore, no mitigation is required for permanent or temporary impacts that occur at this site.</p> <p>Due to the presence of vegetation suitable to support nesting birds within and adjacent to the work area, 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). Biological monitoring would be required during construction in compliance with APM BIO-7. With implementation of existing mitigation measures, MPR-9 would not result in additional impacts to those identified in the IS/MND.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> N	
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Recommendations for the MPR-9 work area include habitats similar to those analyzed and mitigated for in the IS/MND. No new or additional agency 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 Petersen		<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	2/9/2021	Patricia Kelly	<i>Patricia Kelly</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" 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:

1. SDG&E or designated qualified contractor to conduct nesting bird survey and CPUC to monitor day 1 of work to survey for nests prior to construction.
2. SDG&E to inform CPUC of specific BMPs or other measures to be implemented during ground disturbing activities to protect stormwater infrastructure and limit runoff.

Prepared by: M. Hensel

Date: February 9, 2021

ATTACHMENT A
Site Photographs

Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project

Minor Project Refinement (MPR) 09: Photo Log



Photo 1. Overview of access road and Location 64 (E24). View northeast.

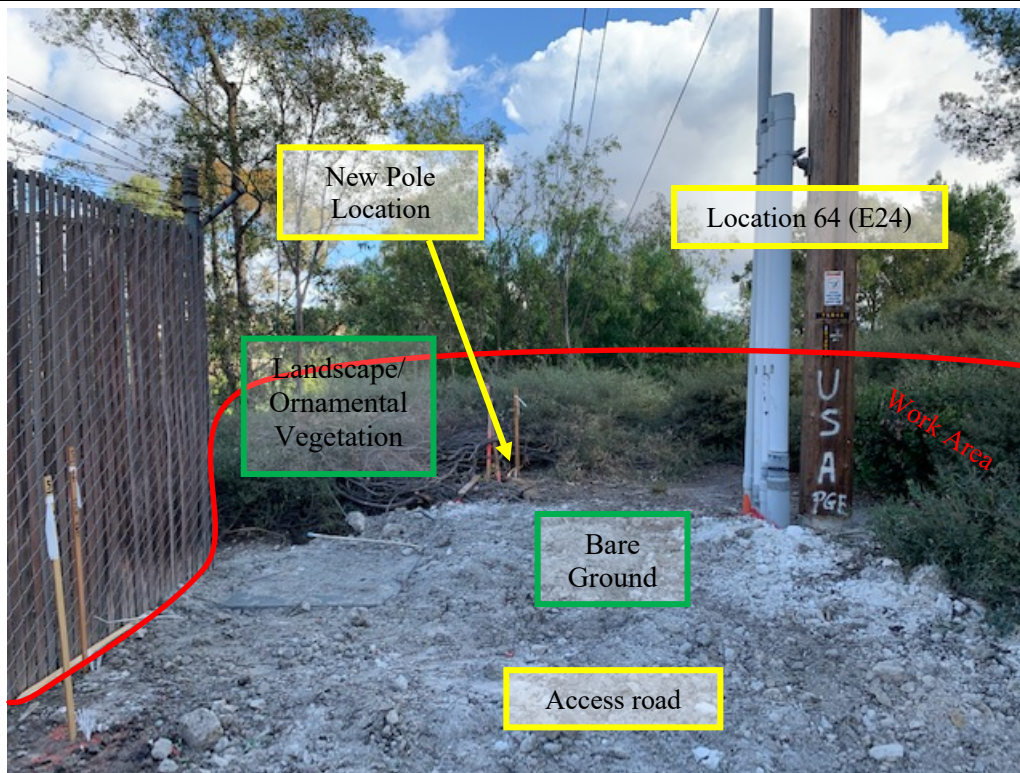


Photo 2. Closer view of Location 64 (E24) work area, within bare ground and landscape/ornamental vegetation. View north.

Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project Minor Project Refinement (MPR) 09: Photo Log



Photo 3. View of storm drain location west of Location 64 (E24). Best Management Practices (BMPs) are recommended to avoid construction debris and sediment entering the storm drain. View northwest.



Photo 4. Closer view of storm drain and V-ditch that runs along the northern side of the Rancho Carmel Substation, west of Location 64 (E24). View northwest.

Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project

Minor Project Refinement (MPR) 09: Photo Log

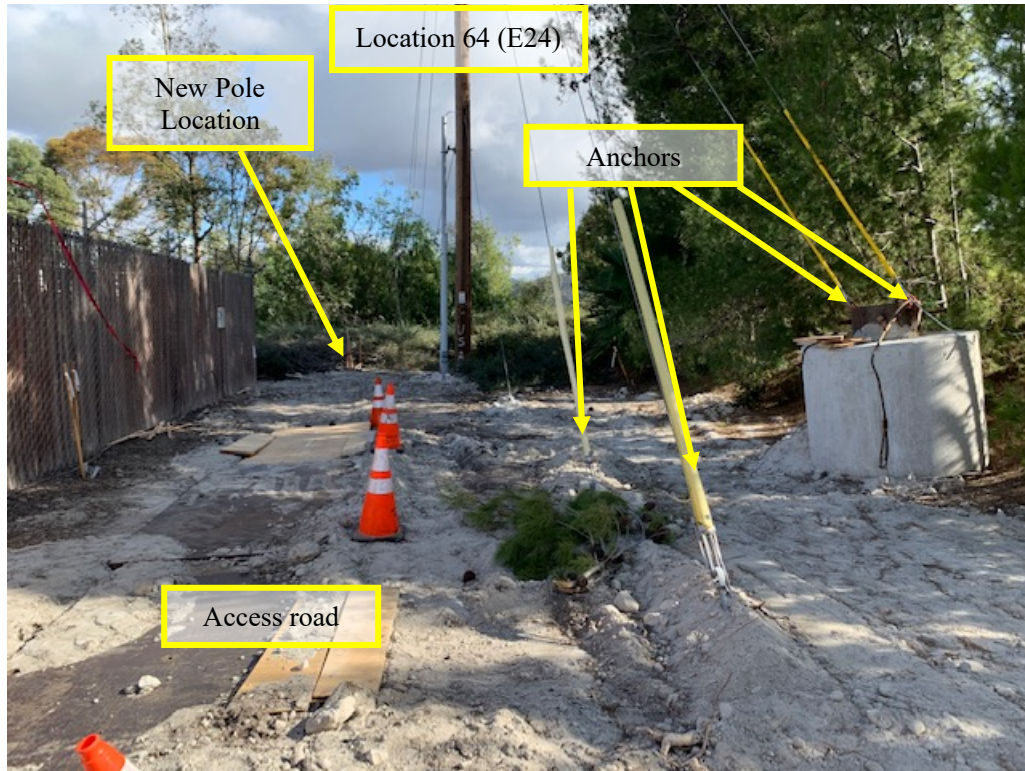


Photo 5. View of storm drain location west of Location 64 (E24). Best Management Practices (BMPs) are recommended to avoid construction debris and sediment entering the storm drain. View northwest.



Photo 6. View of existing Location 64 (E24) pole from the north side of Camino Del Norte. The new pier foundation pole to replace the existing pole will be approximately 23 feet taller above ground. View south.

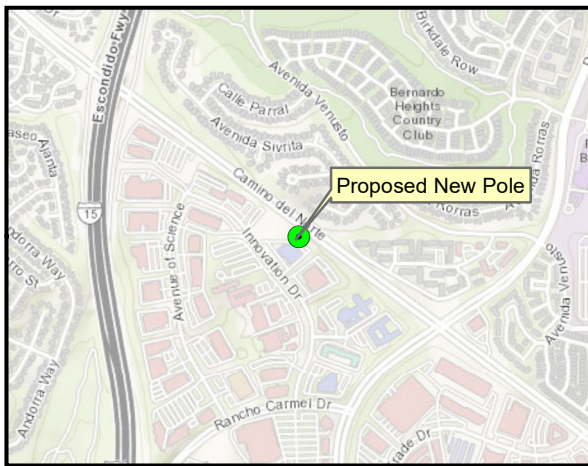
Artesian 230kV Substation Expansion Project Minor Project Refinement (MPR) 09: Photo Log



Photo 7. View of existing Location 64 (E24) pole from the top of the slope north of Camino Del Norte, adjacent to the edge of the nearest residence to the pole. View south.

ATTACHMENT B

Figure



- Proposed New Pole (to replace existing pole)
- Existing Wood Pole (to be removed)
- Power Line Underground Route
- Existing Access
- Stringing Site
- Proposed Work Area
- Permitted Pole Work Area

Figure 1
Location 64 (E24)