



California Public Utilities Commission



July 7, 2021

VIA EMAIL-NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

San Diego Gas and Electric Company
Attn. Melinda Kimble
Project Manager
8315 Century Park Ct.
San Diego, CA 92123

RE Notice to Proceed No. 3 for the San Marcos to Escondido Tie Line 6975 Project (D.20-09-34)

Dear Ms. Kimble:

On June 8, 2022, San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) submitted Notice to Proceed Request No. 3 (NTPR-3) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking the authority to proceed with a portion of the construction of the San Marcos to Escondido Tie Line (TL) 6975 Project (Project) – an alternating current (AC) interference mitigation system.

CPUC evaluated the Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse Number 2019049009, January 2020). A Permit to Construct (PTC) for the Project was granted by the CPUC on October 5, 2020 (Decision 20-09-34). NTPR-3 seeks permission for SDG&E to begin the construction of certain Project activities which include installation of the AC interference mitigation system, consistent with descriptions in the IS/MND and further clarified below. All other work for the Project was previously approved by the CPUC in Notice to Proceed Nos. 1 and 2.

Implementation of work for NTPR-3 was contingent on completing archaeological data recovery fieldwork in compliance with Mitigation Measure (MM) CUL-4. As documented in the *Letter Report: eTS 28798—Post Data Recovery Summary Report at Site P-37-032160/CA-SDI-20363 for the TL 6975 Escondido to San Marcos 69kV Transmission Line Project, San Diego County, California* (McGinnis 2022), provided as attachment C of NTPR-3, SDG&E's qualified archaeologist has completed the archaeological data recovery fieldwork component of MM CUL-4. The CPUC acknowledges that the data recovery work has been completed. The CPUC looks forward to reviewing the draft data recovery report documenting analysis of the recovered materials and relevant conclusions.

NTPR-3 work activities will primarily take place within the city of San Marcos in Project Segment 1. SDG&E's stated purpose for the Project is to (1) mitigate violations of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability criteria; (2) eliminate existing congestion in the Escondido/San Marcos area; and (3) improve power service reliability by providing an additional feed to the existing San Marcos substation.

As noted above, NTPR-3 addresses proposed construction of the following components of the Project (as described in detail in the Final IS/MND, Appendix A, Chapter 2, *Project Description*) and summarized below:

- Installation of one deep well and one coupon test station in the vicinity of the intersection of West San Marcos Boulevard and Discovery Street; and,

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- The portion of Segment 1 in the vicinity of the intersection of West San Marcos Boulevard and Discovery Street. Specifically, the following elements, which were also excluded from Notice to Proceed Request Nos. 1 and 2:
 - Structure 8
 - Structure 8 guard structure
 - Structure 10
 - Structure 11
 - Structure 11 guard structure
 - Structure 11 underground distribution line
 - Structure 12.

SDG&E submitted the following items in accordance with Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) as described in the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program (MMRCP) included in the IS/MND, for actions proposed for the project, including under NTPR-3:

Applicant Proposed Measure / Mitigation Measure(s)	Implementing Actions	Status/Determination
MM BIO-1 NCCP/LEHCP Mitigation Commitment/Proof of mitigation Credits	Prior to any NTP approval, SDG&E provides a written commitment to its 1995 Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) or 2017 Low Effect Habitat Conservation Plan, as well as proof of sufficient mitigation credits under each plan to cover project-specific impacts to biological resources.	The commitment and proof of credits received on July 6, 2021.
MM CUL-3 Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP) describing the procedures for managing cultural resources discovered during construction activities.	The CRMP was submitted and determined to be complete on March 18, 2021.
MM CUL-4 Data Recovery Excavations at P-37-032160	Prior to the start of Project-related ground disturbing activities within 250 feet of site P-37-032160, SDG&E shall implement the approved archaeological research design. A data recovery report presenting the methods and results of the data recovery excavations shall be prepared and reviewed by the CPUC and SDG&E, and submitted to the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians and Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians for review and comment.	Data Recovery excavation fieldwork was completed on May 25, 2022, as documented in the letter report transmitted as Attachment C to NTPR-3. The CPUC confirms completion component as part of this letter, though expects final reporting and further coordination for the review and approval of the Data Recovery Report.
MM CUL-6 Cultural Resources Pre-construction Survey and Surface Collection	Prior to the start of Project-related ground disturbing activities, pre-construction surveys of the four	A memo documenting implementation of pre-construction survey was submitted on September



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	archaeological sites bisected by existing access roads shall be conducted to map and collect all artifacts located within the roadbeds. Artifact mapping shall be conducted using a handheld GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy, and the final disposition of the artifacts shall be determined by SDG&E in coordination with the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians.	8, 2021, as an attachment to the Revised NTPR-1. CPUC confirms completion of the fieldwork component as part of this letter, though expects final reporting and further coordination to determine the final disposition of the artifacts.
MM GEO-1 Supplemental Geotechnical Engineering Plan/Report	Prepare and incorporate recommendations of the supplemental geotechnical report, along with those presented in the Geotechnical Investigation Report by GEOCON, Inc/, and the AC Interference Analysis & Mitigation System Design by ARK Engineering & Technical Services, in the design and construction of the project components subject to the California Building Code.	The supplemental geotechnical report was submitted and determined to be complete on May 18, 2021.
MM PALEO-3 Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) complying with the recommendations of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP).	The PRMMP was submitted and determined to be complete on July 15, 2021.
APM HAZ-1 Health and Safety Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) in accordance with applicable federal and state occupational standards.	The HASP was submitted on December 6, 2020. No approval was required from the CPUC.
MM HAZ-1 Soil and Dewatering Management Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Soil and Dewatering Management Plan (SDMP) describing the procedures for managing excavated soil and groundwater generated from dewatering activities.	The SDMP was submitted and determined to be complete on February 18, 2021.
MM NOI-1 Construction Noise Reduction and Mitigation Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Construction Noise Reduction and Mitigation Plan (CNRMP) describing the procedures for managing construction-related noise in accordance with MM NOI-1 and applicable noise ordinances, including mailed notification to residents within 100-feet of construction.	The CNRMP was submitted and determined to be complete on September 1, 2021. Notification to affected residents is pending.
MM US-1 Preliminary Construction and Demolition Debris Register	Prepare and submit Construction and Demolition Debris Register (CDDR) to CPUC for review. The preliminary	The CDDR was submitted and determined to be adequate on March 3, 2021.

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	CDDR documents how the project will achieve waste diversion percentages.	
MM WIL-1 Construction Fire Prevention Plan	Prepare and implement a project-specific Construction Fire Prevention Plan (CFPP) in consultation with appropriate fire departments, as described in MM WIL-1.	The CFPP and supplemental information including documentation of fire department consultation was submitted to CPUC and determined to be complete on February 18, 2021.

SDG&E is authorized to proceed with Project construction for the elements requested in NTPR-3 provided that:

- All construction activities are carried out in accordance with the methods and conditions described in NTPR-3, and all APMs, mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions described in the MMRCP and IS/MND are implemented. Some measures are on-going and/or have time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction, as applicable. Updates on implementation of the measures shall be provided to the CPUC throughout construction. A copy of the MMRCP and the NTPR-3 approval shall be maintained on site for the duration of construction at the Project site;
- Updates (e.g., reports, mapping) demonstrating that all preconstruction biological resource surveys (plant and wildlife) have been conducted, sensitive resource populations identified and flagged/fenced, and jurisdictional areas identified and flagged for the NTPR-3 work locations, as required in APM BIO-5, APM BIO-6, and MM BIO-3, shall be provided to the CPUC prior to commencing NTPR-3 construction activities; and,
- The following implementing actions continue to be undertaken and, as applicable, completed by SDG&E prior to the start of NTPR-3 activities:
 - Maintain copies of all permits, compliance plans (e.g., Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, Construction Fire Prevention Plan, Water Reclamation and Recycling Permit etc.) on-site for the duration of the construction activities.
 - Continue to provide Worker Environmental Awareness Training to all Project personnel, including construction and monitoring personnel. SDG&E will maintain training logs at the construction site and make those available to the CPUC or designated compliance monitor upon request in addition to including updates of trainings conducted with weekly reports. Although not specified as part of MM CUL-2, PALEO-1, PALEO-2, and MM WIL-1.
 - In accordance with APM NOI-1, provide confirmation if whether a variance from the Cities of Carlsbad, Escondido, San Marcos, or Vista, or the County of San Diego will be required to construct any portion of the Project. If a variance request has been submitted, provide a copy/copies to the CPUC.
 - In accordance with APM NOI-2 and MM NOI-1, provide proof of notification that SDG&E has informed residences (and other noise-sensitive receptors) within 300 feet of construction areas, (or 100 feet from noise-sensitive receptors pursuant to MM NOI-1) prior to the start of construction, consistent with the timings in the approved CNRMP. The CPUC requests documentation/notification include the noise complaint hotline

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(telephone number), the schedule for activities potentially affecting receptors, and a basic outline of potential nuisance issues.

- In accordance with MM NOI-2 and MM NOI-3, confirm if blasting is anticipated to be required for the Project's construction. If so, provide documentation of efforts to notify of impacted property owners.

Sincerely,

Trevor Pratt

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

cc: D. Davis, ESA
Christine Root, CPUC