

---

**SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
TRANSMISSION LINE (TL) 649 WOOD-TO-STEEL POLE  
REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
VERIFICATION SURVEY MEMO - MAIN STREET YARD**

---

**JULY 2019**

PREPARED BY:



PREPARED FOR:





**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1 – INTRODUCTION..... 1**  
    1.0 Project Description..... 1  
    1.1 Pre-Activity Survey Report Impacts..... 2  
**2 – VERIFICATION SURVEY ..... 2**  
**3 – RESULTS ..... 3**  
    3.0 Modifications of Existing Sites..... 3  
    3.1 Sensitive Species..... 4  
**4 – CONCLUSION ..... 4**  
    4.0 Mitigation..... 4

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Pre-Activity Survey Report Impact Summary..... 2  
Table 2: Temporary Impacts to Main Street Yard Site by Habitat..... 4

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A: Main Street Yard Updated Design
- Attachment B: Site Photographs



## 1 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) proposes the Transmission Line 649 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project (Project) in an effort to fire-harden existing facilities in SDG&E's service territory. SDG&E plans to replace wood poles with steel poles along approximately seven miles of the existing 69 kilovolt single-circuit power line. The installation of steel poles will minimize damages to utilities in the event of a fire, which would increase system reliability; decrease routine maintenance needs; and increase the life span of both the poles and the entire line.

SDG&E proposes to conduct the following activities as part of the Project:

- Replace approximately 117 existing wood power line and interset distribution line poles with dull galvanized steel structures. Of the 117 replacement structures, 21 poles will require a pier foundation, seven will require a micropile foundation, and the remaining 89 will be directly buried.
- Reroute approximately 130 feet of existing underground distribution lines.
- Remove approximately 18 existing wood poles from service.
- Install two new steel poles, of which one is a direct-bury pole and one requires a pier foundation.
- Conduct overhead work on four existing poles, of which two are transmission poles and two are distribution poles.
- Transfer existing transmission conductors to the new steel poles.
- Replace the existing distribution conductors with new Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced distribution conductors.

SDG&E will utilize approximately 28 stringing sites, two temporary guard structures, and two staging yards during Project construction.

In accordance with the SDG&E Subregional Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project, verification surveys are required if surface disturbance has not commenced within 30 days of conducting a pre-activity study.

This memo addresses the results of the verification survey conducted for activities associated with the mobilization of the Main Street Staging Yard ahead of construction initiation for the remainder of the Project. The Main Street Staging Yard is located south of Main Street near the intersections of Main Street and Auto Park Avenue and Main Street and Maxwell Road. The site is located within a previously disturbed lot in the city of Chula Vista, California. The yard can be accessed directly from Main Street to the north. The Project activities proposed for the yard include storing and preparing materials and equipment for Project activities, as well as use as an Incidental Landing Area for helicopter work, if necessary.

In November 2014, Chambers Group, Inc. conducted pre-activity surveys of the impact areas associated with the previously described activities. A subsequent Pre-Activity Survey Report (PSR) was submitted to SDG&E in May 2019 and was submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on May 17, 2019.

### 1.1 PRE-ACTIVITY SURVEY REPORT IMPACTS

The PSR documented permanent and temporary impacts to habitats in the Project area, as summarized in Table 1: Pre-Activity Survey Report Impact Summary. The PSR stated that there will be 2,674 square feet of permanent impacts and 725,164 square feet of temporary impacts associated with the previously described Project activities. The Main Street Staging Yard was anticipated to undergo no permanent impacts and 261,360 square feet of temporary impacts per the PSR.

**Table 1: Pre-Activity Survey Report Impact Summary**

Impact Type		Approximate Total Impacts (square feet)
Permanent	Total permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities	1,192
	Total permanent impacts to non-vegetated communities	1,482
	Total permanent impacts	2,674
Temporary	Total temporary impacts to sensitive vegetation communities	100,443
	Total temporary impacts to non-vegetated communities	624,721
	Total temporary impacts	725,164

## 2 – VERIFICATION SURVEY

Insignia Environmental (Insignia) biologists Elise Ruiz and Jennifer Kendrick conducted a verification survey of the Main Street Yard on June 26, 2019. The biologists visited the Main Street Yard within the Project for evidence of special-status species and nesting birds, noting any changes to the habitat or proposed configuration since the pre-activity survey was conducted in November of 2014. The verification survey began at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. Conditions were clear, with winds between zero and two miles per hour, and an average temperature of 71 degrees Fahrenheit. A general nesting bird survey was also carried out as mobilization of the yard is proposed to commence within the bird breeding season.

The following wildlife species were observed during the nesting bird survey at Main Street Yard:

- Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*),
- California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*),
- coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) (Listed as Federally Threatened),
- common raven (*Corvus corax*),

- common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*),
- Costa's humming bird (*Calypte costae*),
- house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*),
- house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*),
- lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*),
- mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*),
- northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*),
- Pacific-slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*),
- red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*),
- scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*),
- spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*),
- western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and
- wrenit (*Chamaea fasciata*).

During the nesting bird survey conducted on June 26, 2019, a pair of coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) were observed approximately 150 feet south of the Main Street Yard. The pair were observed exhibiting foraging behavior. A second nesting bird survey was conducted by a Project-approved and USFWS-permitted CAGN biologist (Ian Hirschler; Avian Biologist, Rocks Biological Consulting. Authorized under TE-063230-5.3) on June 28, 2019 at the Main Street Yard, and it was confirmed there were no CAGN nesting within 500 feet of the Main Street Yard.

## 3 – RESULTS

### 3.0 MODIFICATIONS OF EXISTING SITES

During the verification survey, an Insignia biologist observed that the proposed configuration and the existing conditions at the Main Street Staging Yard had been altered. The proposed new site configuration includes a reduction in the size of the originally proposed staging yard from 261,360 square feet of temporary impacts to approximately 120,000 square feet of temporary impacts. Changes to the yard configuration were required as the original footprint contains areas which are being used for activities which are unaffiliated with the Project, including the parking and storage of vehicles for nearby vehicle dealerships and the staging of construction equipment for a separate, unrelated construction project. As the new yard footprint is located entirely within the area analyzed as part of the Project's Final IS/MND, there will be no new temporary or permanent impacts which were not previously analyzed in the Final IS/MND, and a Minor Project Refinement request is not required for these changes. The survey also identified a change in the composition of habitat types since the previous pre-activity survey was conducted. This includes a change from 124,544 to 84,000 square feet of temporary impacts to bare ground; a change from 124,544 to 36,000 square feet of temporary impacts to disturbed habitat; and elimination of 12,272 square feet of temporary impacts to low-quality riparian scrub habitat.

No modifications to permanent impacts were observed during the verification survey.

The summary of temporary impacts by habitat type and their changes from the initial design captured by the PSR can be found in Table 2: Temporary Impacts to Main Street Yard Site by Habitat.

**Table 2: Temporary Impacts to Main Street Yard Site by Habitat**

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Final Project Design (PSR) Impacts (square feet)</b>	<b>Updated Design (Verification Survey) Impacts (square feet)</b>	<b>Difference from PSR Estimate (square feet)</b>
Bare Ground	124,544	84,000	-40,544
Disturbed Habitat	124,544	36,000	-88,544
Low-Quality Riparian Scrub	12,272	0	-12,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,360</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>-141,360</b>

### 3.1 SENSITIVE SPECIES

As described above, a pair of CAGN were observed approximately 150 feet south of the Main Street Yard during a nesting survey on June 26, 2019. The pair were observed to be exhibiting foraging behavior, however nesting status could not be confirmed. A follow-up nesting bird survey conducted on June 28, 2019 confirmed that there are no CAGN nests within 500 feet of the Main Street Yard.

No additional sensitive species were identified within the Main Street Yard during the verification survey. No additional federally or state-listed species or sensitive species covered under SDG&E’s Subregional NCCP were identified within the Main Street Yard since the pre-activity survey was conducted.

## 4 – CONCLUSION

As required by the Project’s Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program, all pre-construction measures regarding biological resources will be completed prior to construction. Modifications to impacts associated with the final design of the Main Street Yard occur within the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). No modifications or additional impacts to the Project will occur within the Quino checkerspot butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan (QCB HCP) mapped area. After accounting for alterations to the Main Street Yard design and following the verification survey, the site’s total permanent impacts will not change and temporary impacts will be reduced by 141,360 square feet.

### 4.0 MITIGATION

#### 4.0.0 Preserve

SDG&E will mitigate for temporary impacts to sensitive habitat types located within a Preserve in accordance with the ratios described in Table 7.4 of SDG&E’s Subregional NCCP for impacts



occurring within a Preserve for the maintenance of existing facilities. Per Table 7.4 of SDG&E's Subregional NCCP, temporary impacts to bare ground, disturbed habitat, and low-quality habitats within the San Diego County MSCP do not require mitigation for operations and maintenance. Additionally, impacts to natural vegetation communities located within a Preserve or San Diego County MSCP areas of less than 500 square feet do not require mitigation. Project temporary impacts within a Preserve and the San Diego County MSCP do not meet the requirements for mitigation or enhancement. Temporary impacts to 84,000 square feet of bare ground and 36,000 square feet of disturbed habitat associated with the new yard configuration do not require mitigation. Additionally, the lack of low-quality riparian scrub recorded during the verification survey on the new yard design would result in a reduction in enhancement previously proposed in the PSR of 12,272 square feet. Therefore, an alteration of -12,272 square feet in mitigation is proposed for temporary impacts within a Preserve or the East County MSCP.

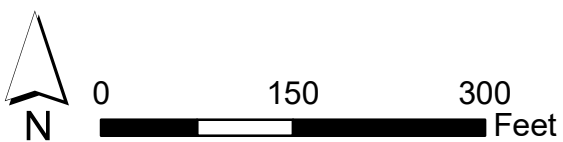
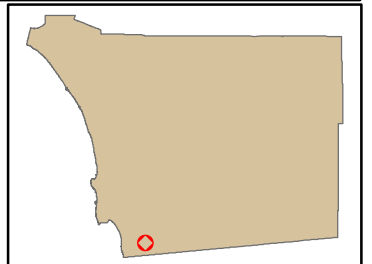


**ATTACHMENT A: MAIN STREET YARD UPDATED DESIGN**






# Main Street Yard



## Legend

-  Fence
-  Potential Yard



**ATTACHMENT B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

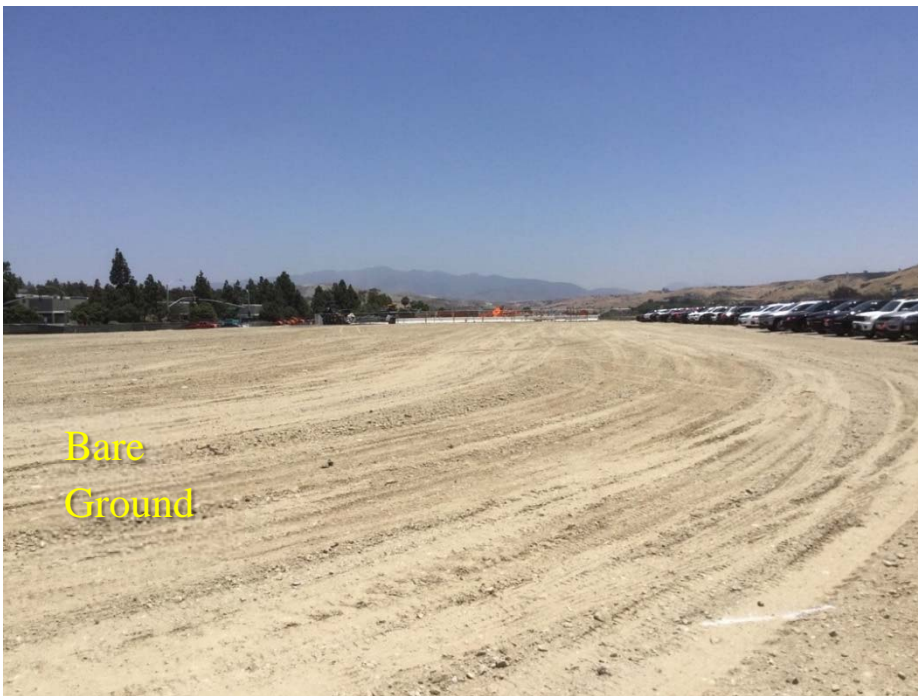




**ATTACHMENT B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photograph 1:**  
Northwest-facing view of the Main Street Yard within disturbed habitat and bare ground.



**Photograph 2:**  
East-facing view of the Main Street Yard within bare ground.

