

4.5 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section presents the environmental setting and impact assessment for cultural and paleontological resources, and identifies mitigation measures to reduce significant effects of the proposed project. Cultural resources are defined as prehistoric and historic sites, structures, and districts, or any other physical evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason. For analysis purposes, cultural resources may be categorized into ~~three~~ two groups: archaeological resources, and historical resources, ~~and contemporary Native American resources~~. Paleontological resources, although not associated with past human activity, are also evaluated in this section.

4.5.1 Definition of Historical and Archaeological Resources

Cultural resources in the State of California are recognized as non-renewable resources that require management to assure their benefit to present and future Californians. CEQA requires analysis of a project's effect on historical and archaeological resources. CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 defines the term "historical resource" as follows:

1. A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).
2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources or identified as significant in a historical resources survey shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3. Any object, building, structure, site area, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a cultural resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR, including the following:
 - a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
 - b. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
 - d. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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The term “unique archaeological resource” has the following meaning under PRC §21083.2(g):

An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information,
2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type, or
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC §21083.2(g)).

The California Historical Resources Inventory (HRI) is maintained by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The HRI is a database of cultural resources information, including sites listed or eligible for listing on the CRHR. The HRI includes only information on historical resources that have been identified and evaluated through one of the programs that OHP administers under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or the PRC. The HRI includes data on:

- Resources evaluated in local government historical resource surveys partially funded through Certified Local Government grants or in surveys that local governments have submitted for inclusion in the statewide inventory
- Resources evaluated and determinations of eligibility made in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Resources evaluated for federal tax credit certifications
- Resources considered for listing in the National and California Registers or as California State Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest

Definition of Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources—or fossils—are the remains of ancient plants and animals that can provide scientifically significant information about the history of life on Earth. Paleontological “sensitivity” is defined as the potential for a geologic unit to produce scientifically significant fossils. This sensitivity is determined by rock type, past history of the rock unit in producing significant fossils, and fossil localities that are recorded from that unit. Paleontological sensitivity is assigned based on fossil data collected from the entire geologic unit, not just at a specific site. Paleontological sensitivity ratings are described as follows:

- **High Sensitivity:** Indicates fossils are currently observed on site, localities are recorded within the study area, and/or the unit has a history of producing numerous significant fossil remains.
- **Moderate Sensitivity:** Fossils within the unit are generally not unique or are so poorly preserved as to have only moderate scientific significance.
- **Low Sensitivity:** Indicates significant fossils are not likely to be found because of a random fossil distribution pattern, extreme youth of the rock unit and/or the method of rock formation, such as alteration by heat and pressure.

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- **No Sensitivity:** Origin of the geologic unit renders it not conducive to the existence of organisms and/or preservation of fossils, such as high-grade metamorphic rocks, intrusive igneous rocks, and most volcanic rocks.
- **Indeterminate Sensitivity:** Unknown or undetermined sensitivity indicates that the rock unit has not been sufficiently studied or lacks good exposures to warrant a definitive rating. An experienced, professional paleontologist can often determine whether the stratigraphic unit should be categorized as having high or low sensitivity after reconnaissance surveys including observations of road cuts, stream banks, and possible subsurface testing, such as augering or trenching.

Fossils are considered to be non-renewable because they are the remains of prehistoric animal and plant life. Impacts to paleontological resources are identified from high to zero depending on the resource sensitivity of impacted formations.

4.5.2 Environmental Setting

Methods

Records Search

SDG&E performed an archaeological records search through the South Coastal Information Center to identify previously recorded cultural resources within and adjacent to the project area. The record search was reviewed by the CPUC team archaeologist.

The archaeological record search included the following areas:

- Proposed substation site
- Transmission corridor between the proposed substation site and Miguel Substation
- Work areas and access roads extending outside of the transmission corridor

The transmission corridor has been surveyed by SDG&E for a previous project. The records search and previous survey reports included areas outside of the disturbance footprint for the proposed project.

Surveys

Multiple Class III pedestrian surveys of the project area were conducted for the proposed project and other nearby projects. The majority of the current project area was previously surveyed during studies performed for the adjacent, parallel TL 6910 wood-to-steel project (HDR 2012). The cultural resources survey for the proposed project covered the proposed substation site, all pole locations, access roads, work pads, stringing sites, guard structure locations, and staging yards; these areas are collectively referred to as the project area. Pole locations were surveyed with a 90-foot radial buffer that included all pole work pads. Stringing sites were surveyed with a 50-foot buffer around all stringing site boundaries. Access roads included 30-foot buffers on both sides.

SDG&E conducted a pedestrian survey of the project area on June 8, 2012, September 13, 2012, October 22, 2012, and May 2, 2014 (AECOM 2012a, AECOM 2012b, AECOM 2013, and AECOM

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2014a). The proposed substation site (previously the Otay Substation site) and a potential staging yard on the north side of Hunte Parkway within the transmission corridor were surveyed for cultural resources in 2011 (HDR 2011).

SDG&E surveyed the locations of proposed project components within the transmission corridor in parallel 10- to 12-meter intervals. The surveyed areas included the buffers described above. All proposed project components that would be located within previously recorded site boundaries were surveyed to identify any cultural material that could be impacted within these components (AECOM 2012a, AECOM 2012b, AECOM 2013, and AECOM 2014a). Only the areas associated with proposed project components were surveyed (i.e., project area) because these would be the areas that could potentially be impacted by project activities. The portions of previously recorded sites located outside of the project area were not inspected. Cultural resources monitoring was conducted within previously recorded sites during geotechnical potholing and boring work performed for this project (Geosyntec 2012; AECOM 2012b). Survey areas are shown on figures included in Appendix F.

The CPUC cultural resources specialist conducted reconnaissance surveys of the project area and reviewed the following survey reports to describe and identify potential impacts to cultural resources within the project area:

- *eTS# 3845, Cultural Resources Results for Constraints Study for the Proposed Otay Ranch Substation, Chula Vista, San Diego County, California (HDR#143298-001) (HDR 2011)*
- *eTS #8360; TL 6910 Wood-to-Steel, Miguel to Pole 139635, Cultural Resources Inventory Report (HDR #137257) (HDR 2012)*
- *Cultural Resources Survey for a Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Salt Creek Substation and Transmission Line Improvement Project in the Otay Mesa Area of Southwestern San Diego County, California (AECOM 2012a)*
- *Revised Cultural Resources Survey for a Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Salt Creek Substation and Transmission Line Improvement Project in the Otay Mesa Area of Southwestern San Diego County, California (AECOM 2012b)*
- *Final Cultural Resources Survey for Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Salt Creek Substation and Transmission Line Improvement Project in the Otay Mesa Area of Southwestern San Diego County, California (AECOM 2013)*
- *Cultural Resources Supplemental Survey in Support of the Salt Creek Substation and Transmission Line Improvement Project Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), Otay Mesa Area, Southwestern San Diego County, California (AECOM 2014a)*

Testing

Previous testing programs and site evaluations were conducted to evaluate the eligibility of six cultural resource sites in the project area. SDG&E conducted additional testing and evaluation in 2014 at two previously unevaluated sites located within the project work areas (AECOM 2014b). The CPUC reviewed the testing report.

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Native American Coordination

SDG&E requested a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search with the NAHC in Sacramento on March 23, 2012, to identify any resources considered significant by the local Native American community. On April 4, 2012, SDG&E mailed letters to local Native American tribal groups and/or individuals listed by NAHC, seeking information and concerns they may have about resources in the proposed project area or vicinity. The CPUC also contacted a representative of a Native American tribe (Mr. Clint Linton of the Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel) on March 26, 2014, as discussed in more detail below.

Paleontological Resource Assessment Methods

Relevant published and unpublished geologic reports, published and unpublished paleontological reports, and museum paleontological locality data were reviewed to identify paleontological resources within and adjacent to the project area. Geology and associated fossil productivity allows for prediction of where fossils could or could not be encountered within the project area. The San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) prepared a Paleontological Resource Assessment in October 2012 (SDNHM 2012) based on the paleontological records search. The assessment was revised in January 2013 (SDNHM 2013) and this report was reviewed by the CPUC and used to describe and assess impacts to paleontological resources.

Prehistoric and Historic Overview

Prehistoric Setting

Prehistory in the San Diego area can be divided into three general time periods (SDG&E 2013):

- **San Dieguito Complex (earlier than 9,000 years before present [BP]):** The earliest well-documented sites belong to the San Dieguito complex (Warren 1967). Diagnostic artifact types and categories include scraper planes; choppers; scraping tools; crescentics; elongated bifacial knives; and Silver Lake, Lake Mojave, and leaf-shaped projectile points (Rogers 1939; Warren 1967). In areas near the coast, many Paleoamerican sites were likely covered by rising seas since the end of the Pleistocene. In more inland regions, alluvial sedimentation in valley areas may cover these materials.
- **Archaic Period (7,000 to 1,500 years BP):** A shift to a more generalized economy and an increased emphasis on seed resources, small game, and shellfish marks the Archaic period. This era is represented by the La Jollan complex along the coast and the Pauma complex inland. Pauma complex sites lack the shell that dominates many La Jollan complex site assemblages. The La Jollan tool assemblage is dominated by rough, cobble-based choppers and scrapers, as well as slab and basin metates and large side or corner-notched projectile points.
- **Late Prehistoric Period (1,500 to 200 BP):** Higher population densities and elaborations in social, political, and technological systems occurred during the Late Prehistoric period. Economic systems diversified and intensified with continued elaboration of trade networks, use of shell-bead currency, and appearance of more labor-intensive but effective technological innovations. Subsistence is thought to have focused on acorns and grass seeds, with small game serving as a primary

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protein resource and big game as a secondary resource. Fish and shellfish were also secondary resources, except near the coast where they assumed primary importance (Luomala 1978). The settlement system is characterized by seasonal villages where people used a central-based collecting subsistence strategy. Artifactual material is characterized by the presence of arrow shaft straighteners, pendants, comales (heating stones), Tizon Brownware pottery, ceramic figurines reminiscent of Hohokam styles, ceramic “Yuman bow pipes,” ceramic rattles, miniature pottery, various cobble-based tools (e.g., scrapers, choppers, and hammerstones), bone awls, manos and metates, and mortars and pestles. The arrow point assemblage is dominated by the Desert Side-notched series, but the Cottonwood series and the Dos Cabazas Serrated type also occur.

Ethnographic Overview

The proposed project area is in the traditional territory of the Kumeyaay, also known as Kamia, Ipai, Tipai, and Diegueño, who occupied the southern two-thirds of present-day San Diego County. The Kumeyaay spoke a language belonging to the Hokan language family, which includes the lower Colorado River tribes and Arizona groups to whom they are closely related. The Kumeyaay lived in semi-sedentary, politically autonomous villages or rancherías. Most rancherías were the seat of a clan, although it is thought that, aboriginally, some clans had more than one ranchería and some rancherías contained more than one clan (Luomala 1978).

Historical Background

The major historical periods in San Diego County are:

- **Spanish period (1769 to 1821):** Characterized by European exploration and settlement. Dual military and religious contingents established the San Diego Presidio and the San Diego Mission. Mission system used Native American labor to build infrastructure needed for European settlement. The mission system introduced horses, cattle, and other agricultural goods and implements to the area.
- **Mexican period (1821 to 1848):** Many of the Spanish institutions and laws were retained. Mission system secularized in 1834, allowing for increased Mexican settlement, but also dispossession of Native Americans; cattle ranching was the primary agricultural activity, and hide and tallow trade increased. The Pueblo of San Diego was established, and Native American influence declined. Mexico ceded California to the United States after the Mexican-American War (1846–1848).
- **American period (1848 to present):** Railroad development and the homestead system opened much of the country to settlement. Many land speculators and health seekers moved to San Diego after the California Southern Railroad connected San Diego with the eastern United States in 1885. Entry of the U.S. into World War I and World War II helped to establish San Diego as a major military port. Tourism, agriculture, education, and the military are major influences on the social fabric and economy of the region today.

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Records Search and Survey Results

Literature Review Results

The records search identified 12 recorded archaeological sites within the project area including the proposed substation, transmission corridor, Miguel Substation, access roads, and staging yards. Two new sites were identified during surveys for the proposed project (AECOM 2012a, AECOM 2012b, and AECOM 2013). Table 4.5-1 summarizes the archaeological resources and their eligibility for listing on the CRHR or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Survey and Archaeological Monitoring Results

The results of the field surveys are summarized below, categorized by project component areas.

Proposed Substation Parcel. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the proposed substation area, and no new cultural resources were identified during the project-specific surveys (HDR 2011, AECOM 2012a, AECOM 2012b, and AECOM 2013).

Transmission Corridor. The pedestrian field survey did not identify any previously unrecorded archaeological resources in the transmission corridor. Lithic material associated with site CA-

Table 4.5-1 Cultural Resources Sites within the Record Search and Survey Areas

Site	Description	Eligible for Listing in CRHR or NRHP?
CA-SDI-4527	Late Prehistoric camp composed primarily of a lithic scatter, ceramics, and midden soil	Yes
CA-SDI-4529	Temporary camp composed of lithic scatters and bedrock milling features	Yes
CA-SDI-4897	Ten loci (A through J), majority of which are low-density lithic scatters believed to represent temporary camps and/or quarry locales; locus E is dual component; site includes a historic cistern	Yes
CA-SDI-7197	Five loci interpreted as lithic workshop and bedrock milling features	No
CA-SDI-8651	Moderate lithic scatter	Yes
CA-SDI-8666	Prehistoric core isolate	No
CA-SDI-12067	Small prehistoric quarry with lithic scatter	Yes
CA-SDI-12909	Sparse lithic scatter	No
CA-SDI-14225	Lithic scatter	Yes
P-37-015138	Isolated lithic flake	No
P-37-015375	Isolated metavolcanic flake	No
P-37-015377	Two metavolcanic flakes	No
SC-CBR-I-1	Metavolcanic flake	No
SC-CBR-I-2	Two green metavolcanic modified flakes	No

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SDI-12909 and one mano fragment within site CA-SDI-7197 were observed during the SDG&E pedestrian field survey effort (AECOM 2012a, AECOM 2012b, and AECOM 2013). No other cultural material was identified within any of these sites during the survey. No subsurface cultural material was observed during archaeological monitoring for project geotechnical work (AECOM 2012b).

Miguel Substation. ~~Lithic material associated with site CA-SDI-4897 was observed during the SDG&E pedestrian field survey effort (AECOM 2012a; AECOM 2012b; and AECOM 2013).~~ Two new isolated finds, SC-CBR-I-1 and SC-CBR-I-2, were identified in Miguel Substation during the survey effort for TL 6965 corridor (AECOM 2012a; AECOM 2012b; AECOM 2013). SC-CBR-I-1 consists of one metavolcanic flake. SC-CBR-I-2 consists of two green metavolcanic modified flakes. These resources are not eligible for listing in the CRHR. No other cultural material was noted.

Temporary Work Areas. Three staging yards and five potential alternative staging yards are proposed for the project. Lithic material associated with site CA-SDI-4897 was observed during the SDG&E pedestrian field survey effort (AECOM 2012a; AECOM 2012b; and AECOM 2013). One isolate, P-37-015138, was previously recorded in one of the staging yards and was previously collected (SDG&E 2013). Site CA-SDI-8666 was previously recorded in a staging yard as a lithic scatter (SDG&E 2013) and has been reclassified as an isolated find (SDG&E 2013). Two isolated finds, P-37-015375 and P-37-015377, were previously recorded just outside the boundaries of one of the staging yards (SDG&E 2013). All visible ground surfaces were inspected, and no cultural material was observed within the proposed staging yards.

Testing Results

Previous testing programs and site evaluations were reviewed to evaluate the eligibility of six cultural resource sites in the project disturbance area. SDG&E conducted additional testing and evaluation in 2014 at two previously unevaluated sites located within the project work areas (CA-SDI-7197 and CA-SDI-12909) (AECOM 2014b). Of the remaining four sites, all except one were isolates and were determined to be ineligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP and, therefore, were not tested. The other site that was not tested, CA-SDI-8651, was determined to be outside of the project area (on the border of the transmission corridor) and therefore did not require testing because there was no potential for it to be impacted by project activities. CPUC reviewed the testing report.

Sparse surface scatters were observed at each of the two previously unevaluated sites (CA-SDI-7197 and CA-SDI-12909); however, both sites are heavily disturbed and the testing programs did not identify subsurface cultural deposits. In addition, both sites lack integrity due to past construction activities associated with adjacent development. Based on the test results, CA-SDI-7197 and CA-SDI-12909 do not have the potential to yield important information in prehistory under Criterion D of the CRHR, or under any other criteria (AECOM 2014b).

Native American Coordination Results

SDG&E requested a SLF search with the NAHC in Sacramento on March 23, 2012, to identify any resources considered significant by the local Native American community. The NAHC

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responded to SDG&E in a letter dated April 2, 2012, stating that no sacred sites were known within 0.5 mile of the proposed project.

On April 4, 2012, SDG&E mailed letters to local Native American tribal groups and/or individuals listed by NAHC, requesting information and a summary of any concerns they may have about resources in the proposed project area or vicinity. CPUC also contacted a representative of a Native American tribe (Mr. Clint Linton of the Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel) on March 26, 2014; Mr. Linton was the only tribal member who responded to the letters mailed by SDG&E in April 2012. Mr. Linton indicated that there are numerous cultural resources in the proposed project area, and requested involvement with the proposed project prior to conducting the survey effort. Additionally, Mr. Linton requested that a Native American monitor be included in the survey effort.

On May 14, 2012, an on-site meeting was conducted with Dr. Susan Hector of SDG&E, Mr. Linton, and Cheryl Bowden-Renna of AECOM to discuss Mr. Linton's concerns regarding the proposed project. Based on the information presented by Dr. Hector regarding past surveys conducted in the area and on the brief site visit, it was determined that no Native American monitor was required during the pedestrian survey effort. While no Native American monitor was present during the majority of pedestrian surveys, a monitor was present during testing of sites CA-SDI-7191 and CA-SDI-12909 (AECOM 2014b) in 2014.

Mr. Linton responded to the CPUC outreach conducted by Panorama Environmental Inc., (Panorama) and relayed his concerns to Panorama on March 26, 2014. Mr. Linton stated that he is familiar with the Eastlake area of Chula Vista and indicated that it has several Native American sites including quarries and village sites where trails meet waterways. In an April 2014 memorandum, Mr. Linton requested a Native American monitor (specifically, a member of the Kumeyaay Tribe) whenever an archaeologist is on site during project construction and during any project-related archaeological excavations (Linton 2014).

Records of communication with Native Americans are included in Appendix F.

Paleontological Resources in the Project Area

The SDNHM prepared a Paleontological Resource Assessment in October 2012 based on a paleontological records search (SDNHM 2012). The assessment was revised in January 2013 (SDNHM 2013). SDNHM reviewed relevant published and unpublished geologic reports, published and unpublished paleontological reports, and museum paleontological locality data to identify paleontological resources within and adjacent to the project area. Identifying the geologic formations and associated fossil productivity allows for prediction of where fossils could or could not be encountered within the project area. CPUC reviewed the SDNHM paleontological report and used the report to describe and assess potential impacts to paleontological resources.

The assessment determined that the proposed project area and associated facilities are located within three geologic units with varying potential to contain fossils:

- Santiago Peak Volcanics (Cretaceous)

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- Mission Valley Formation (Tertiary)
- Otay Formation (Tertiary)

Figures 4.5-1 and 4.5-2 show the paleontological sensitivity in the project area.

Santiago Peak Volcanics. The molten origin of the Santiago Peak Volcanics generally precludes the possibility of fossil remains. There are no records of any fossil collecting sites in these rocks south of San Clemente Canyon and, therefore, the unit is considered to have no sensitivity for paleontological resources.

Mission Valley Formation. No known fossil localities are mapped in the Mission Valley Formation within the proposed project area; however, well-preserved fossils have been previously recovered from this formation, including marine fossils from the marine layers (e.g., foraminifera [microorganisms], clams, snails, and bony fish) and terrestrial fossils from the fluvial layers (e.g., wood, opossums, bats, rodents, and primates). The Mission Valley Formation is considered to have high sensitivity for paleontological resources due to previous records of fossils in this unit.

Otay Formation. The records search identified more than 20 fossil-collecting sites recorded within the proposed project area, all of which were located in Otay Formation sediments. Recorded fossils include aquatic plant impressions, freshwater invertebrate shells, isolated bones and teeth, and whole and partial skeletons of terrestrial vertebrates. Fossil species include:

- Lizards (*iguanid*)
- Opossums (cf. *Nanodelphys* sp.)
- Insectivore (cf. *Centetodon* sp.)
- Hedgehog (cf. *Ocajila* sp.)
- Rhinoceros (cf. *Subhyracodon* sp.)
- Mouse deer (*Hypertragulus* sp.)
- Reodont (*Sespia californica*)
- Early rodents (*Heliscomys* sp., *Leidymys* sp., *Pleurolicus* sp., *Protospermophilus* sp., and *Meniscomys* sp.)

The Otay Formation is considered to have high sensitivity for paleontological resources due to previous records of fossils in this unit (SDNHM 2012; SDNHM 2013).

Unique Geologic Features

There are no unique geologic features in the project area.

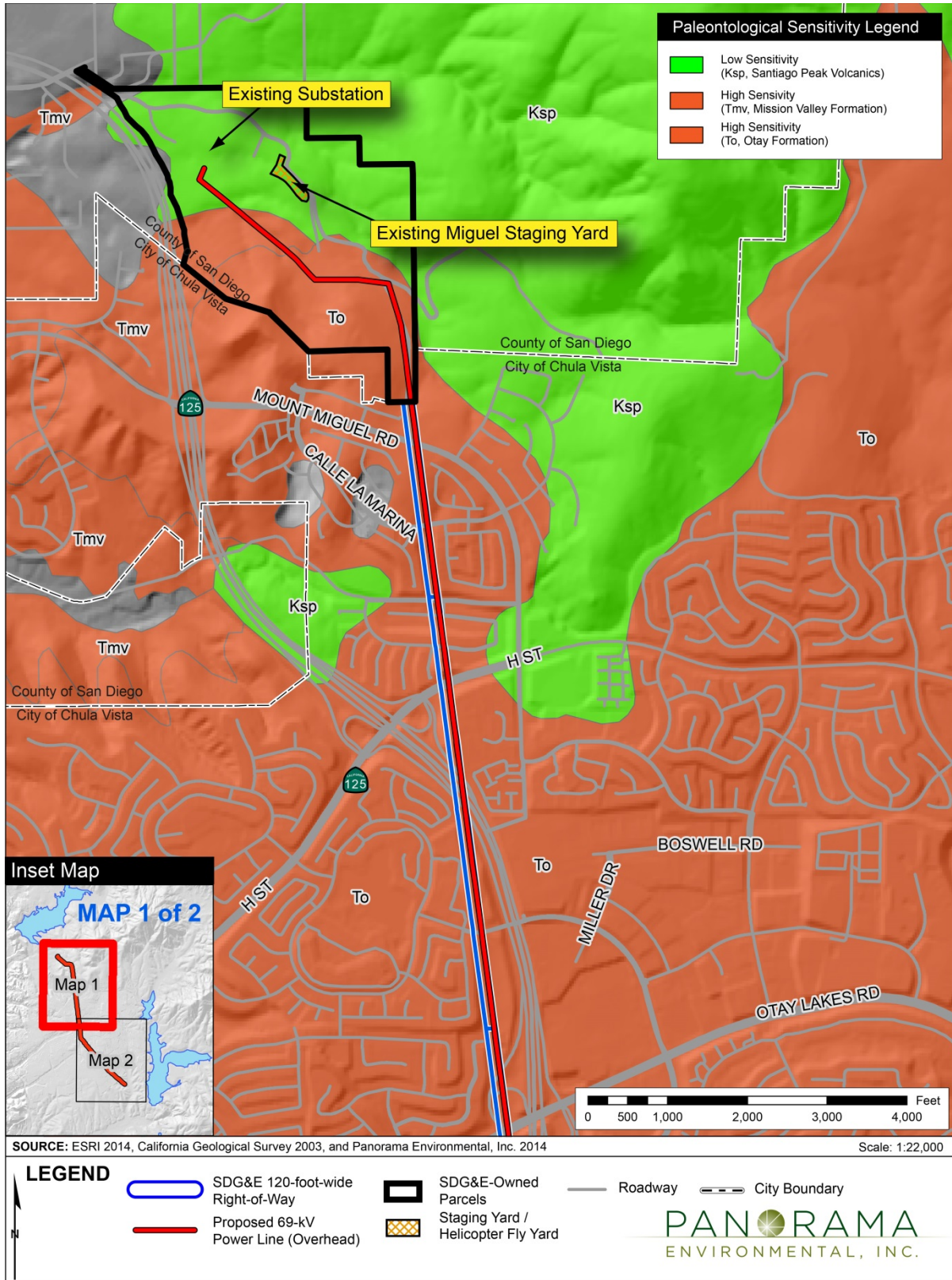
4.5.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

A federal agency is not approving, implementing, or funding the proposed project or any element of it; therefore, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act does not apply to this project. California PRC Section 5024.1 established the CRHR, which includes properties that are listed, or have been formally determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

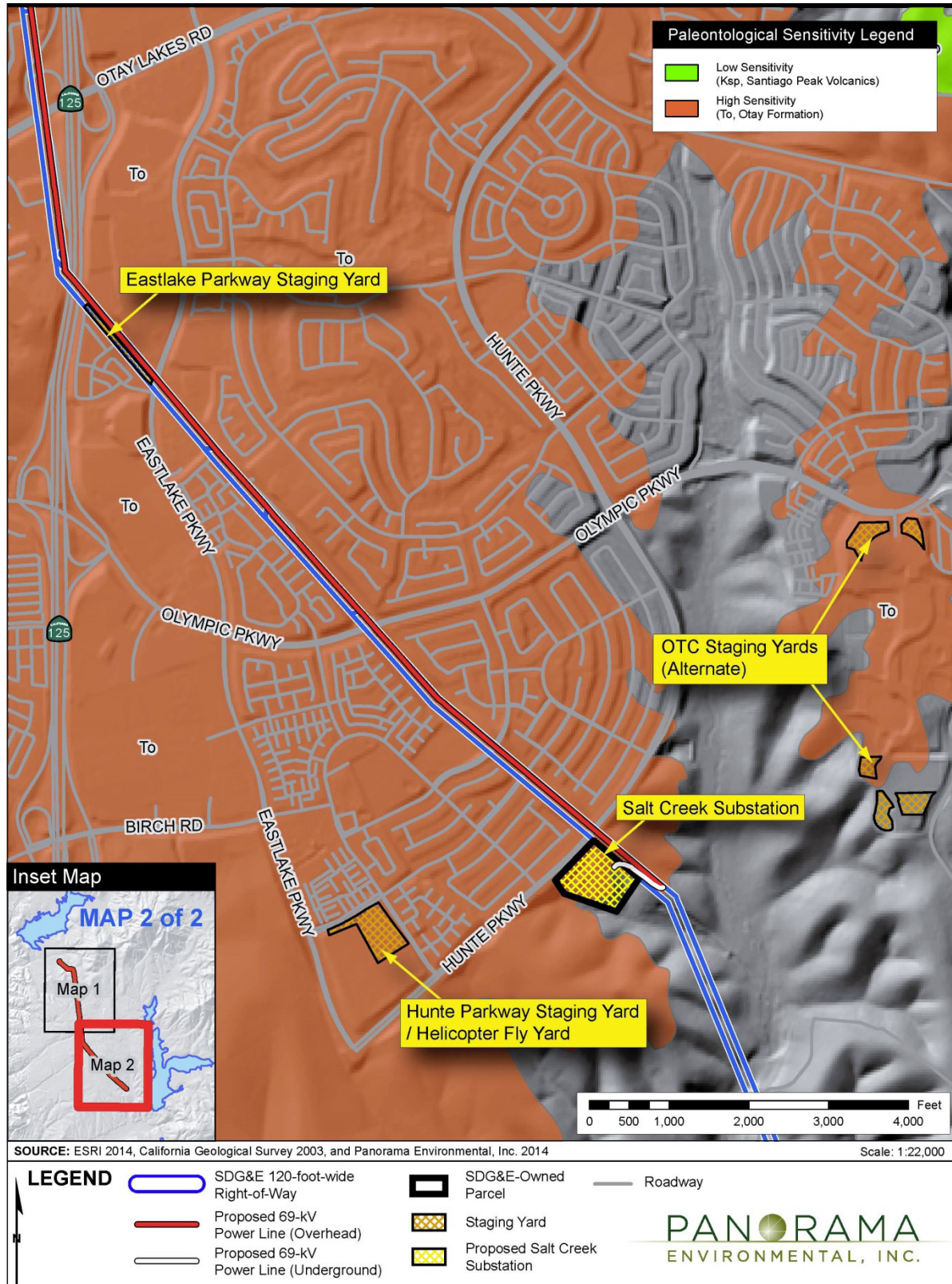
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Figure 4.5-1 Paleontological Sensitivity in the Project Area (1 of 2)



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Figure 4.5-2 Paleontological Unit Sensitivity in the Project Area (2 of 2)



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State

California Register of Historic Resources

The CRHR (*California PRC Section 5024.1*) is a listing of properties that are to be protected from substantial adverse change. It includes properties that are listed, or have been formally determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, State Historical Landmarks, and eligible Points of Historical Interest. A historical resource may be listed in the CRHR if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or cultural heritage of California or the United States;
- It embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
- It has yielded or has the potential to yield information important in the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Section 21084.1. PRC section 21084.1 stipulates that any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in the CRHR is presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Resources listed in a local historical register or deemed significant in a historical resources survey (as provided under PRC section 5024.1g) are presumed historically or culturally significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that they are not. A resource that is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in CRHR, not included in a local register or historical resources, or not deemed significant in a historical resource survey may nonetheless be historically significant. This provision is intended to give the lead agency discretion to determine that a resource of historical significance exists where none had been identified before and to apply the requirements of PRC section 21084.1 to properties that have not previously been formally recognized as historical.

Section 21083.2. PRC section 21083.2 stipulates that a project that may adversely affect a unique archaeological resource requires the lead agency to treat that effect as a significant environmental effect. When an archaeological resource is listed in or is eligible to be listed in CRHR, PRC section 21084.1 requires that any substantial adverse effect to that resource be considered a significant environmental effect. PRC sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 operate independently to ensure that potential effects on archaeological resources are considered as part of a project's environmental analysis. Either of these benchmarks may indicate that a project may have a potential adverse effect on archaeological resources.

California Health and Safety Code

Section 7050.5(b). Section 7050(b) of the California Health and Safety Code requires that in the event of discovery of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the County coroner has been notified. The coroner will determine whether or not the remains are subject to the provisions of Section 27491 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the

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circumstances, manner and cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains. The coroner shall make his or her determination within 2 working days from the time of notification.

California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Sections 8010-8011. Section 8010 brands this chapter of the code as the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 2001. Section 8011 ensures that a consistent state policy is followed with respect to handling of all California Indian human remains and cultural items, and that the state's repatriation policy is applied consistently with the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 USC Section 3001 et seq.). Section 8011 also facilitate implementation of the provisions of NAGPRA with respect to publicly funded agencies and museums in California and encourages voluntary disclosure and return of remains and cultural items by agencies and museums. The section also provides a mechanism whereby lineal descendants and culturally affiliated California Indian tribes that file repatriation claims for human remains and cultural items under NAGPRA or under this chapter with California state agencies and museums may request assistance from the commission in ensuring that state agencies and museums are responding to those claims in a timely manner and in facilitating the resolution of disputes regarding those claims. Section 8011 also provides a mechanism whereby California tribes that are not federally recognized may file claims with agencies and museums for repatriation of human remains and cultural items.

Local

County of San Diego General Plan Policies

The San Diego County General Plan (2011) establishes goals and objectives to provide guidance in the growth of the County. The following cultural resources policies were identified in the Conservation and Open Space Element Chapter in the County of San Diego General Plan:

- Policy COS-7.1 Archaeological Protection. Preserve important archaeological resources from loss or destruction and require development to include appropriate mitigation to protect the quality and integrity of these resources.
- Policy COS-7.2 Open Space Easements. Require development to avoid archaeological resources whenever possible. If complete avoidance is not possible, require development to fully mitigate impacts to archaeological resources.
- Policy COS-7.3 Archaeological Collections. Require the appropriate treatment and preservation of archaeological collections in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Policy COS-7.4 Consultation with Affected Communities. Require consultation with affected communities, including local tribes to determine the appropriate treatment of cultural resources.
- Policy COS-7.5 Treatment of Human Remains. Require human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) and under the requirements of Federal, State and County Regulations.

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- Policy COS-7.6 Cultural Resource Data Management. Coordinate with public agencies, tribes, and institutions in order to build and maintain a central database that includes a notation whether collections from each site are being curated, and if so, where, along with the nature and location of cultural resources throughout the County of San Diego.
- Policy COS-8.1 Preservation and Adaptive Reuse. Encourage the preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites, structures, and landscapes as a means of protecting important historic resources as part of the discretionary application process, and encourage the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process.
- Policy COS-9.1 Preservation. Require the salvage and preservation of unique paleontological resources when exposed to the elements during excavation or grading activities or other development processes.
- Policy COS-9.2 Impacts of Development. Require development to minimize impacts to unique geological features from human related destruction, damage, or loss.

San Diego County Code

The portions of the project located in unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego may be subject to ordinances specifically dealing with cultural resources. The following San Diego County ordinances would apply:

- San Diego County Administrative Code Section 396.7 establishes the San Diego County Local Register of Historical Resources, defines eligible properties, establishes criteria to determine significance, and lists nomination procedures.
- The Resource Protection Ordinance requires a resource protection study to protect “environmentally sensitive lands,” including significant prehistoric and historic sites. The ordinance defines significant cultural resources and prohibits damaging such resources. The ordinance also provides exemptions for essential public facilities, which are defined as “any structure or improvement necessary for the provision of public services, which must be located in the particular location to serve its purpose and for which no less environmentally damaging location, alignment, or non-structural alternative exists.”

City of Chula Vista General Plan Policies

The City of Chula Vista General Plan (2005) establishes goals and objectives to provide guidance in the growth of the City. The following cultural resources policies were identified in Land Use and Transportation Element and Environmental Element Chapters the City of Chula Vista General Plan:

- Policy LUT 12.7 Continue to assess and mitigate the potential impacts of private development and public facilities and infrastructure to historic resources in accordance with CEQA.

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- Policy LUT 12.12 In instances where projects may adversely affect significant historic resources, require the implementation of an appropriate conservation program in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.
- Policy E 9.2 Support and encourage the accessibility of Chula Vista’s important cultural resources to the public for educational; religious; cultural; scientific; and other purposes, including the establishment of museums and facilities accessible to the public, where such resources can be appropriately studied, exhibited, curated, etc.
- Policy E 9.3 Discourage disruption, demolition, and other negative impacts to historic cultural resources.
- Policy E 10.2 Support and encourage public education and awareness of local paleontological resources, including the establishment of museums and educational opportunities accessible to the public.

4.5.4 Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E proposes to implement measures that would reduce environmental impacts. The following relevant APMs are considered part of the proposed project (Table 4.5-2). The significance of the impact, however, is first considered prior to application of the APM and a significance determination is made. The implementation of the APM is then considered as part of the project when determining whether impacts would be significant and thus would require mitigation. These APMs would be incorporated as part of any CPUC approval of the project, and SDG&E would be required to adhere to the APMs as well as any identified mitigation measures. The APMs are included in the MMRP for the proposed project (refer to Section 9: Mitigation Monitoring and Report Plan in this Draft EIR), and the implementation of the measures would be monitored and documented in the same manner as mitigation measures.

Table 4.5-2 Applicant Proposed Measures for Cultural Resources

APM Number	Requirements
APM CUL-1: Cultural Resources Training	A qualified archaeologist shall attend pre-construction meetings, as needed, to consult with the excavation contractor concerning excavation schedules, archaeological field techniques, and safety issues. A qualified archaeologist is defined as an archaeologist that meets the U.S. Secretary of Interior Professional Qualifications Standards, as published in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 61. Proposed Project personnel shall receive training regarding the appropriate work practices necessary to effectively implement the APMs, including the potential for exposing subsurface cultural resources and paleontological resources. This training program shall be submitted to CPUC for approval and include procedures to be followed upon the discovery or suspected discovery of archaeological materials, Native American remains, and paleontological resources. Such appropriate work practices and inadvertent discovery procedures are outlined in the Cultural Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (CRMMP). The requirements for archaeological monitoring shall be noted on the construction plans.

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APM Number	Requirements
APM CUL-2: Cultural Resources Monitoring	An archaeological monitor shall work under the direction of the qualified archaeologist. Monitoring will be conducted according to the procedures outlined in the CRMMP and will occur during proposed pole replacement/improvement activities and access road grading adjacent to eligible cultural resources. Monitoring shall also occur during vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. If the previously delineated work areas must be expanded or modified during construction, CPUC procedures will be followed and the cultural monitors will review the previous survey data for the proposed project to determine if any sensitive resources would be impacted by the proposed activities, to identify any necessary avoidance and minimization measures, and to document any additional impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures. The CRMMP will address any project refinements that go outside of previously evaluated work areas and will detail the appropriate measures to be implemented. The CRMMP will specify the criteria by which the resource will be evaluated for significance. The CRMMP will also outline the consultation requirements. In the event that cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the archaeologist shall have the authority to divert or temporarily suspend ground disturbance to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. The archaeologist shall follow the appropriate reporting and treatment procedures outlined in the CRMMP before activities are allowed to resume.
APM CUL-3: Access Routes	Where ground-disturbing activities, such as grading, are conducted along access roads, monitoring shall occur where the access road crosses the site or is located with the boundaries of a site, and equipment blades shall be lifted when traversing sites. Monitoring shall occur for ground-disturbing activities associated with access road improvements within the Existing Substation property. Additionally, all vehicles shall remain on existing dirt roads and new access identified for the Proposed Project. In the event that a resource is observed while monitoring an access road, appropriate inadvertent discovery procedures outlined in the CRMMP shall be followed before activities are allowed to resume.
APM CUL-4: Qualified Paleontologist	A qualified paleontologist shall attend preconstruction meetings, as needed, to consult with the excavation contractor concerning excavation schedules, paleontological field techniques, and safety issues. A qualified paleontologist is defined as an individual with a Master's of Science or Doctor of Philosophy in paleontology or geology who is experienced with paleontological procedures and techniques, who is knowledgeable in the geology and paleontology of Southern California, and who has worked as a paleontological mitigation project supervisor in the region for at least 1 year. The requirements for paleontological monitoring shall be noted on the construction plans.
APM CUL-5: Paleontological Monitoring	A paleontological monitor shall work under the direction of the qualified Proposed Project paleontologist, and shall be on site to observe excavation operations that involve the original cutting of previously undisturbed deposits with high paleontological resource sensitivity (i.e., Mission Valley and Otay Formations). A paleontological monitor is defined as an individual who has experience in the collection and salvage of fossil materials. If the previously delineated work areas must be expanded or modified during construction, the paleontological monitors would review the previous survey data for the proposed project to determine if the additional impact area to determine if any sensitive resources would be impacted by the proposed activities, to identify any necessary avoidance and minimization measures, and to document any additional impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures. In the event that fossils are encountered, the paleontological monitor shall have the authority to divert or temporarily halt construction activities in the area of the discovery to allow recovery of fossil remains in a timely manner.

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APM Number	Requirements
APM CUL-6: Paleontological Screen Washing	Because of the potential for recovery of small fossil remains, it may be necessary to set up a screen-washing operation on-site. If fossils are discovered, the paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) shall recover them, along with pertinent stratigraphic data. Because of the potential for recovery of small fossil remains, such as isolated mammal teeth, recovery of bulk sedimentary matrix samples for off-site wet screening from specific strata may be necessary, as determined in the field. Fossil remains collected during monitoring and salvage shall be cleaned, repaired, sorted, cataloged, and deposited in a scientific institution with permanent paleontological collections. A final summary report shall be completed. This report shall include discussions of the methods used, stratigraphy exposed, fossils collected, and significance of recovered fossils. The report shall also include an itemized inventory of all collected and catalogued fossil specimens.
APM CUL-7: Discovery of Human Remains	If human remains are encountered during construction, SDG&E staff will comply with California law (Health and Safety Code section 7050.5; PRC sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99). This law specifies that work stop immediately in any areas where human remains or suspected human remains are encountered. The appropriate agency and SDG&E will be notified of any such discovery. SDG&E will contact the Medical Examiner at the county coroner's office. The Medical Examiner has two (2) working days to examine the remains after being notified by SDG&E. Under some circumstances, a determination may be made without direct input from the Medical Examiner. When the remains are determined to be Native American, the Medical Examiner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will immediately notify the identified Most Likely Descendant (MLD), and the MLD has 24 hours to make recommendations to the landowner or representative for the respectful treatment or disposition of the remains and grave goods. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 24 hours, the area of the property must be secured from further disturbance. If there are disputes between the landowner and the MLD, the NAHC will mediate the dispute to attempt to find a resolution. If mediation fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his/her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

4.5.5 Significance Criteria

Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project will have significant impacts on the environment. Consistent with Appendix G, the proposed project would have significant impacts on cultural resources if it would:

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5
- b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5
- c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature
- d. Disturb any undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries

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4.5.6 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impacts to cultural resources could result from ground-disturbing activities and/or damage to, destruction of, or alteration of historical structures. Ground-disturbing activities include project-related excavation, grading, trenching, vegetation clearing, operation of heavy equipment, and other surface and subsurface disturbance that could damage or destroy surficial or buried archaeological resources, including prehistoric and historical resources or human burials. The impact assessment defines the impacts to both recorded and previously undiscovered cultural resources. Mitigation is defined to reduce significant impacts to cultural and paleontological resources.

Impact Assessment

Table 4.5-3 provides a summary of the significance of potential impacts to cultural resources prior to application of APMs, after application of APMs and before implementation of mitigation measures, and after the implementation of mitigation measures.

Table 4.5-3 Summary of Potential Impacts to Cultural Resources

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance After APMs and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact Cultural-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5	Construction	Significant	Significant APM CUL-1, APM CUL-2	Less than significant MM Cultural Resources-1, MM Cultural Resources-2, MM Cultural Resources-3, MM Cultural Resources-4
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact
Impact Cultural-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5	Construction	Significant	Significant APM CUL-1	Less than significant MM Cultural Resources-1
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact
Impact Cultural-3: Disturb any undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries	Construction	Significant	Less than significant APM CUL-1, APM CUL-7	Less than significant
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact

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Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance After APMs and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact Cultural-4: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature	Construction	Significant	Significant APM CUL-4, APM CUL-5, APM CUL-6	Less than significant MM Paleontology-1
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact

Impact Cultural-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Proposed Substation

No archaeological sites were found at the proposed substation site during the cultural resources surveys. Construction of the proposed substation would include ground disturbance that could expose previously undiscovered archaeological resources. If a previously undiscovered archaeological resource is encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource could be damaged, resulting in a significant impact. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 specify methods for evaluation and avoidance or treatment of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-1 defines methods for mitigation of inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-2 requires preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) as the preferred mitigation strategy and requires preparation of a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) to define the research design for data recovery of archaeological resources. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-3 requires data recovery to mitigate effects to unavoidable resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 would reduce impacts to previously undiscovered resources to a less-than-significant level. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Native American consultation indicated that there may be cultural resources that are sensitive to Native Americans at the proposed substation site. Impacts to sensitive Native American cultural resources would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-4 would require Native American involvement in cultural resources monitoring to reduce impacts to Native American cultural resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

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Table 4.5-4 identifies the recorded eligible sites that would be affected by project construction. SDG&E proposes to avoid the concentrations of resources within the boundaries of sites; however, construction activities (e.g., pole installation), ground disturbance, and truck traffic on unpaved roads are proposed within the boundaries of eligible sites. These activities could disrupt or damage eligible cultural resources sites and affect the integrity and eligibility of the

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Table 4.5-4 Eligible Cultural Resources Sites Requiring Mitigation

Site	Description
CA-SDI-4527	Late Prehistoric camp composed primarily of a lithic scatter, ceramics, and midden soil
CA-SDI-4529	Temporary camp composed of lithic scatters and bedrock milling features
CA-SDI-4897	Ten loci (A through J), majority of which are low-density lithic scatters believed to represent temporary camps and/or quarry locales; locus E is dual component; site includes a historic cistern
CA-SDI-12067	Small prehistoric quarry with lithic scatter
CA-SDI-14225	Lithic scatter

resources. Minor grading may be required for a new access road, permanent pole work areas, and stringing sites, which could damage cultural resources including previously undiscovered archaeological resources. Damage to CRHR-eligible resources within the transmission corridor from construction traffic, grading, or excavation would be a significant effect. APMs CUL-1 and CUL-2 would be implemented to reduce impacts on these resources. APM CUL-1 requires cultural resources training for workers, and APM CUL-2 requires cultural resources monitoring at work sites that are located adjacent to previously recorded resources. Even with these APMs, earth disturbance could damage CRHR-eligible resources, causing a significant impact.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 would reduce impacts to CRHR-eligible resources to a less-than-significant level by requiring preservation in place, the HPTP, and data recovery. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Miguel Substation Modifications

The Miguel Substation modifications are proposed within an area that was previously disturbed from construction of the Miguel Substation. No archaeological resources are recorded within the area of the proposed modifications. The substation modifications involve excavation and could potentially expose previously undiscovered buried archaeological resources. If a previously undiscovered archaeological resource is encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource could be damaged, resulting in a significant impact. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 require avoidance or treatment of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources and would reduce impacts to previously undiscovered resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Staging Yards

One CRHR-eligible resource, CA-SDI-4897, was found within a proposed staging yard. This staging yard is a previously constructed area consisting of a flat graded area covered in a layer of gravel. Isolated finds were located adjacent to staging yards. None of these resources were determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, and none of these resources are considered significant under CEQA. Additionally, no ground-disturbing activities would occur at the staging yards because material could be staged and stored on

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the site without any modifications to the yards. Therefore, the proposed project would not damage CA-SDI-4897 or other isolated finds. No impact to archaeological resources would occur as a result of using the staging yards.

SDG&E has proposed potential grading of the Eastlake Parkway staging yard. The ground disturbance at the Eastlake Parkway staging yard could expose previously undiscovered archaeological resources. If a previously undiscovered archaeological resource is encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource could be damaged, resulting in a significant impact. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 require avoidance or treatment of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources and would reduce impacts to previously undiscovered resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance activities associated with the project would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Operation and maintenance activities would not differ from those currently conducted for the existing power lines. Maintenance vehicles would use access roads and all maintenance activities would be conducted within previously disturbed areas. There would be no potential to encounter and impact archaeological resources from project operation and maintenance. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, and Cultural Resources-4

Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-1: If previously undiscovered resources are identified during construction, the CPUC-approved cultural resource specialist/archaeologist shall evaluate the resource and determine whether it is (1) eligible for the CRHR (and thus a historical resource for purposes of CEQA); or (2) a unique archaeological resource as defined by CEQA. If the resource is determined to be neither a unique archaeological nor a historical resource, work may commence in the area. If the resource meets the criteria for either a historical or unique archaeological resource, or both, work shall remain halted within ~~165~~ 50 feet (~~50~~ 15 meters) of the area of the find, and the cultural resources specialist/archaeologist shall consult with CPUC staff regarding methods to ensure that no substantial adverse change would occur to the significance of the resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b). Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred method of mitigation for impacts to cultural resources and shall be required to mitigate impacts to previously undiscovered resources. Other methods of mitigation, described below, shall only be used if the CPUC-approved cultural resource specialist/ archaeologist determines the method would provide superior mitigation of the impacts to the resource. The alternative methods of mitigation may include data recovery and documentation of the information contained in the site to answer questions about local prehistory (see Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-3 and Cultural Resources-4). The methods and

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results of evaluation or data recovery work at an archaeological find shall be documented in a professional-level technical report to be filed with the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Work in the area may commence upon completion of treatment, as approved by CPUC.

Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-2: SDG&E shall prepare and submit for CPUC approval a Historical Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) for CRHR-eligible or potentially eligible cultural resources to avoid or mitigate potential impacts. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) shall be the preferred mitigation strategy. Recordation and data recovery will be used as mitigation alternatives if preservation in place is not feasible or the CPUC-approved cultural resource specialist/ archaeologist determines recordation or data recovery would provide superior mitigation. The HPTP shall be submitted to CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to construction.

As part of the HPTP, SDG&E shall prepare a research design and a scope of work for evaluation of cultural resources and for data recovery and testing or additional treatment of CRHR-eligible or potentially eligible sites that cannot be avoided. Data recovery and testing on most resources would consist of sample excavations and/or surface artifact collection, and site documentation. A possible exception would be a site where burials, cremations, or sacred features are discovered that cannot be avoided. The HPTP shall define and map all CRHR-eligible or potentially eligible properties in or within 50 feet of all project work areas and shall identify the cultural values that contribute to their CRHR-eligibility. The HPTP shall also detail how CRHR-eligible or potentially eligible properties will be marked and protected as environmental sensitive areas during construction.

The HPTP shall include provisions for analysis of data in a regional context, reporting of results within one year of completion of field studies, curation of artifacts and data (maps, field notes, archival materials, recordings, reports, photographs, and analysts' data) at a facility that is approved by CPUC, and dissemination of reports to appropriate local and state repositories, ~~libraries, and interested professionals.~~

Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-3: Where CRHR-eligible resources cannot be protected from direct impacts of the project, data recovery investigations shall be conducted by SDG&E to reduce adverse effects to the characteristics of each property that contribute to its CRHR eligibility. For sites eligible under Criterion (d), significant data shall be recovered through excavation and analysis. For properties eligible under Criterion (a), (b), or (c), data recovery may include historical documentation, photography, collection of oral histories, architectural or engineering documentation, preparation of a scholarly work, or some form of public awareness or interpretation. Data gathered during the evaluation-phase studies and the research design element of the HPTP shall guide plans and data thresholds for data recovery; treatment shall be based on the resource's research potential beyond that realized during resource recordation and evaluation studies. If data recovery is necessary, sampling for data

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recovery excavations shall follow standard statistical sampling methods, but sampling shall be confined, as much as possible, to the direct impact area. Data recovery methods, sample sizes, and procedures shall be detailed in the HPTP consistent with Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-3 and implemented by SDG&E only after approval by CPUC. Following any field investigations required for data recovery, SDG&E shall document the field studies and findings, including an assessment of whether adequate data were recovered to reduce adverse project effects, in a brief field closure report. The field closure report shall be submitted to CPUC for its review and approval, as well as to appropriate state repositories, local governments, and other appropriate agencies. Construction work within 100 feet of cultural resources that require data recovery fieldwork shall not begin until authorized by CPUC, as appropriate, to ensure that impacts to known significant archaeological deposits are adequately mitigated.

Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-4: SDG&E shall consult with Native Americans to identify culturally sensitive locations and determine where Native American monitoring is required prior to performing any ground-disturbing activities. Consultation shall consist of letters sent to the NAHC and Native American representatives requesting information about any sacred lands or sites within the proposed project area. Consultation materials also shall include documentation of responses from NAHC and Native American representatives. A Native American monitor shall be required during archaeological excavations and ground-disturbing activities performed in areas identified as culturally sensitive. SDG&E shall prepare a summary letter that indicates the locations where Native American monitors will be required and shall specify the tribal affiliation of the required Native American monitor for each location. SDG&E shall retain and schedule any required Native American monitors. SDG&E shall submit documentation of consultation efforts (i.e., information request letters and responses) and the summary letter to CPUC for review and recordkeeping within 30 days prior to construction.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Cultural-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

No historical resources have been identified within or adjacent to the project areas. There is potential for discovery of historical resources during construction activities. If a previously undiscovered historical resource is encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource could be damaged by grading, excavation or other ground disturbance, resulting in significant impacts. APM CUL-1 requires that project construction personnel be trained to recognize potential historical resources common to the area, and to follow applicable procedures upon discovery or suspected discovery of historical resources. Even with implementation of APM CUL-1, impacts to historical resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 could be significant. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-1 identifies the methods for

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mitigating the effects to newly discovered historical resources and would ensure that no substantial adverse change to the significance of a discovered historical resource occurs as a result of the project. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance activities associated with the project would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Routine inspection activities would not differ from those currently conducted for the existing power lines. Because all operation and maintenance activities would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed by construction there would be no potential to encounter and impact significant historic resources during operation and maintenance. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measure: Cultural Resources-1

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Cultural-3: Disturb any undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries (*Less than significant; no mitigation required*)

Construction

No recorded Native American or other human remains have been identified within or adjacent to the project area. The potential for the unintended discovery of human remains during subsurface construction activities is considered low; however, the discovery of remains during ground-disturbing activities could result in damage to the remains, which would be a significant impact. APM CUL-1 would require that project construction personnel be trained to recognize possible buried cultural resources, and to follow applicable procedures and requirements upon discovery or suspected discovery of Native American remains. APM CUL-7 would require that if human remains are encountered during construction, SDG&E would implement the appropriate notification processes as required by law. Work would be halted in the vicinity of the find and the County coroner would be notified. Implementation of APMs CUL-1 and CUL-7 and adherence to all applicable laws and regulations would reduce construction-related impacts related to human remains. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

Proposed operation and maintenance activities would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Maintenance activities would generally be similar to current maintenance and inspections for the existing power lines in the transmission corridor. Minor ground-disturbing activities may be required periodically to perform maintenance and repair activities. All ground-disturbing maintenance activities would be conducted within areas that would be disturbed during construction; maintenance would not result in new areas of ground disturbance and there would be no potential to encounter human remains during operation and maintenance activities. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

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Impact Cultural-4: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Impacts to paleontological resources could occur when earthwork activities, such as grading and excavation, disturb geological deposits or formations within which fossils are buried. These direct impacts could result in the physical destruction of the fossil locality and the fossil remains.

Construction activities would involve excavation to a maximum depth of approximately 30 feet for engineered pole installation, a maximum depth of approximately 17 feet for steel pole installation, 11 feet for duct bank construction, and 30 feet for the proposed substation site grading. The Tertiary Otay and Mission Valley Formation sediments present at the proposed substation site, along the transmission corridor, and at the staging yards have high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Table 4.5-5 summarizes the paleontological sensitivity of the geologic formations underlying the various project components. Disturbance of unique paleontological resources would be a significant impact. APMs CUL-4, CUL-5, and CUL-6 would be implemented to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. APM CUL-4 describes the duties and qualifications for the qualified paleontologist. APM CUL-5 requires paleontological monitoring during subsurface work in the Otay and Mission Valley Formations. APM CUL-6 requires screen washing of sediments to identify fossils if the qualified paleontologist deems it necessary to recover small fossils in select project areas.

Even with implementation of the APMs, the potential exists for a significant paleontological resource to be uncovered, and a significant impact to the resource would occur if the resource is not treated properly. Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1 includes specific provisions to address discovery of paleontological resources and minimize effects to these resources. Impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

There would be no impact to unique geologic features during construction because none exist in the project area. No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance activities associated with the project would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Inspection and routine maintenance activities would not differ from those currently conducted for the existing power lines. Maintenance vehicles would use access roads and would not disturb undeveloped lands. There is no potential to encounter paleontological resources during operation and maintenance because no earth disturbance would be conducted in areas that could contain paleontological resources. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

There would be no impact to unique geologic features during operation because none exist in the project area. No mitigation is required.

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Table 4.5-5 Paleontological Resource Assessment by Proposed Project Area

Proposed Project Location	Geologic Formation	Level of Sensitivity	Recorded Localities	Monitoring Recommendations
Proposed Substation				
Proposed Substation Site	Otay Formation	High	Yes	Monitor per APM CUL-5
TL 6965 and TL 6910 Loop-in				
Northern Terminus	Santiago Peak Volcanics	Low	No	None
	Mission Valley Formation ¹	High	Yes ²	Monitor per APM CUL-5
From Miguel Substation to Proposed Substation	Otay Formation	High	Yes	Monitor per APM CUL-5
Miguel Substation				
Miguel Substation	Santiago Peak Volcanics	Low	No	None
	Mission Valley Formation	High	Yes ²	Monitor per APM CUL-5
Staging Yards				
Miguel Staging Yard	Santiago Peak Formation	Low	No	None ³
	Mission Valley Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
Eastlake Parkway Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
Hunte Parkway Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
OTC 1 Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
OTC 2 Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
OTC 3 Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
OTC 4 Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³
OTC 5 Staging Yard	Otay Formation	High	Yes ²	None ³

Notes:

¹ Underlies the Santiago Peak Volcanics in the same location.

² Localities found in this formation but not located within proposed project area.

³ Ground-disturbing activities would be minimal and would not impact soils associated with paleontological resources.

Source: SDG&E 2013

Mitigation Measure: Paleontology-1

Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1: In the event that a paleontological resource is uncovered during project implementation, all ground-disturbing work within ~~165~~ 50 feet (~~50~~ 15 meters) of the discovery shall be halted. A CPUC-approved, qualified paleontologist shall inspect the discovery and determine whether further investigation is required. If the discovery can be avoided and no further impacts will occur, no further

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effort shall be required. If the resource cannot be avoided and may be subject to further impact, a qualified, CPUC-approved qualified paleontologist shall evaluate the resource and determine whether it is “unique” under CEQA, Appendix G, part V. The determination and associated plan for protection of the resource shall be provided to CPUC for review and approval. If the resource is determined not to be unique, work may commence in the area. If the resource is determined to be a unique paleontological resource, work shall remain halted, and the paleontologist shall consult with SDG&E and CPUC staff regarding methods to ensure that no substantial adverse change would occur to the significance of the resource pursuant to CEQA. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred method of mitigation for impacts to paleontological resources and shall be required unless there are other equally effective methods. Other methods may be used but must ensure that the fossils are recovered, prepared, identified, catalogued, and analyzed according to current professional standards under the direction of a qualified paleontologist. All recovered fossils shall be curated at an accredited and permanent scientific institution according to Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard guidelines (SVP) standards; typically the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and UC Berkeley accept paleontological collections at no cost to the donor (SVP 2010). Work may commence upon completion of treatment, as approved by CPUC.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.5.7 Project Alternatives

Table 4.5-6 provides a summary of the potential impacts to cultural resources from the proposed project alternatives.

Table 4.5-6 Summary of Impacts from Alternatives by Significance Criteria

Significance Criteria	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Impact Cultural-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation	Less than significant with mitigation	Less than significant with mitigation
		APM CUL-1	APM CUL-1	APM CUL-1
		MM Cultural Resources-1,	MM Cultural Resources-1,	MM Cultural Resources-1,
		MM Cultural Resources-2,	MM Cultural Resources-2,	MM Cultural Resources-2,
		MM Cultural Resources-3,	MM Cultural Resources-3,	MM Cultural Resources-3,
		MM Cultural Resources-4	MM Cultural Resources-4	MM Cultural Resources-4

4.5 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Significance Criteria	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Impact Cultural-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-1 MM Cultural Resources-1	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-1 MM Cultural Resources-1	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-1 MM Cultural Resources-1
Impact Cultural-3: Disturb any undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries	No impact	Less than significant APM CUL-1, APM CUL-7	Less than significant APM CUL-1, APM CUL-7	Less than significant APM CUL-1, APM CUL-7
Impact Cultural-4: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-4, APM CUL-5, APM CUL-6 MM Paleontology-1	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-4, APM CUL-5, APM CUL-6 MM Paleontology-1	Less than significant with mitigation APM CUL-4, APM CUL-5, APM CUL-6 MM Paleontology-1

Alternative 1: 230/12-kV Substation and 230-kV Loop-In

Environmental Setting

Alternative 1 would involve construction of a 230/12-kV substation within the SDG&E fee-owned parcel south of Hunte Parkway. The cultural resources conditions for the proposed substation and Hunte Parkway and OTC staging yards described in Section 4.5.1 would apply to this alternative. The cultural resources surveys conducted to characterize cultural and paleontological resources at the substation site would apply to Alternative 1.

This alternative does not involve construction of the TL 6965 power line; the cultural resources within the transmission corridor of the proposed project are outside of the Alternative 1 project area.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Construction of the 230/12-kV substation pad would require substantial grading to create a flat pad. Vegetation would be cleared from approximately 12 acres at the substation and within the adjacent transmission corridor at the location of the Alternative 1 230-kV loop-in. Similar to the proposed project, vegetation would be cleared within the generally level Hunte Parkway staging yard and grading would also be conducted. Preparation of the OTC staging yards would not involve grading or vegetation removal regardless of whether the proposed project or Alternative 1 is ultimately selected.

No archaeological or historical sites were identified within the Alternative 1 area during the cultural resources surveys conducted for the proposed project, and no recorded Native American or other human remains have been identified within or adjacent to the Alternative 1 area. Construction of the 230/12-kV substation would include ground disturbance that could

4.5 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

expose previously undiscovered archaeological or historical resources or human remains. If a previously undiscovered archaeological or historical resource or human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource or remains could be damaged, resulting in a significant impact. APM CUL-1 requires that project construction personnel be trained to recognize possible buried archaeological and historical resources and Native American remains, and to follow applicable procedures upon discovery or suspected discovery of such resources. APM CUL-7 would require that if human remains are encountered during construction, SDG&E would implement the appropriate notification processes as required by law. Even with implementation of APMs CUL-1 and CUL-7, impacts to cultural resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 could be significant. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, and Cultural Resources-3 specify methods for evaluation and treatment of inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources and would reduce impacts to previously undiscovered resources to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measure Cultural Resources-4 requires Native American involvement in cultural resources monitoring. Impacts to archaeological and historical resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

Impacts to paleontological resources could occur during earthwork at the substation site, which could result in the physical destruction of the fossil locality and the fossil remains. The Otay Formation sediments present at the Alternative 1 substation site has high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Disturbance of unique paleontological resources would be a significant impact. APMs CUL-4, CUL-5, and CUL-6 would be implemented to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. APM CUL-4 describes the duties and qualifications for the qualified paleontologist. APM CUL-5 requires paleontological monitoring during subsurface work. APM CUL-6 requires screen washing of sediments to identify fossils if the paleontologist deems it necessary. Even with implementation of the APMs, a significant paleontological resource may be uncovered, and a significant impact to the resource would occur if the resource is not treated properly. Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1 includes specific provisions to address discovery of paleontological resources and minimize effects to these resources. Impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 1 would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Maintenance vehicles would use access roads and would not disturb undeveloped lands. There would be no impacts to cultural or paleontological resources from operation and maintenance.

Unlike the proposed project, Alternative 1 would not involve installation of a 5-mile-long, 69-kV power line within the transmission corridor. Impacts to significant cultural resources within the transmission corridor would be avoided. All ground disturbance associated with the construction of TL 6965 would be avoided.

Impacts to cultural and paleontological resources would be less than significant with implementation of APMs CUL-1, CUL-4, CUL-5, CUL-6, and CUL-7 and Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, Cultural Resources-4, and Paleontology-1. Alternative 1 would reduce impacts to cultural resources relative to the

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proposed project because all CRHR-eligible resources that were recorded during project surveys would be avoided by Alternative 1. Impacts of Alternative 1 within the proposed substation parcel would be the same as the proposed project substation. Alternative 1 avoids all cultural and paleontological impacts associated within the transmission corridor and staging yards north of the substation site.

Alternative 2: 69/12-kV Substation and Generation at Border and Larkspur Electric Generating Facilities

Environmental Setting

Alternative 2 would involve construction of a substation, distribution lines, and TL 6910 loop-in in the same manner as the proposed project. The existing cultural resources conditions for the proposed substation and Hunte Parkway and OTC staging yards described in Section 4.5.1 would apply to this alternative. The cultural resources surveys and results for the proposed substation would apply to Alternative 2.

Alternative 2 does not require a new power line. Cultural resources within the transmission corridor of the proposed project are not within the Alternative 2 project area.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impacts from construction of Alternative 2 would be the same as the proposed substation, distribution circuits, and TL 6910 loop-in because these components would be constructed in the same location and manner as the proposed project. Alternative 2 would avoid all impacts within the transmission corridor of the proposed project because the alternative does not involve construction of TL 6965.

No archaeological or historical sites were found during the cultural resources surveys conducted for the proposed substation site, and no Native American or other human remains have been recorded within or adjacent to the site. Construction of the substation would include ground disturbance that could expose previously undiscovered buried archaeological or historical resources or human remains. If a previously undiscovered archaeological or historical resource or human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the resource or remains could be damaged, resulting in a significant impact. APM CUL-1 and APM CUL-7 would be implemented to reduce impacts. Even with implementation of APMs, impacts to cultural resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 could be significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, and Cultural Resources-4 would reduce impacts to previously undiscovered resources to a less than significant level.

Impacts to paleontological resources could occur during earthwork, which would be a significant impact. APMs CUL-4, CUL-5, and CUL-6 would be implemented to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. Even with implementation of the APMs, a significant paleontological resource may be uncovered, and a significant impact to the resource would occur if the resource is not treated properly. Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1 specifies measures for treatment of paleontological resources. Impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

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Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 2 would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Maintenance vehicles would use access roads and would not disturb undeveloped lands. There would be no impacts to cultural resources from operation and maintenance and no mitigation is required.

Unlike the proposed project, Alternative 2 would not involve installation of a 5-mile-long, 69-kV power line within the transmission corridor. Impacts to cultural and paleontological resources from power line construction would be avoided because a new power line would not be constructed. All ground disturbance associated with the construction and maintenance of TL 6965 would be avoided.

Impacts to cultural and paleontological resources would be less than significant with implementation of APMs CUL-1, CUL-4, CUL-5, CUL-6, and CUL-7 and Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, Cultural Resources-4, and Paleontology-1 and would be less than those associated with the proposed project because there would be no impacts to resources within the transmission corridor. Impacts within the proposed substation parcel would be the same between the proposed substation and Alternative 2. All work would be restricted to the substation site and the surrounding supporting infrastructure, and all cultural and paleontological impacts associated with the power line and other staging yards north of the substation site would be avoided.

Alternative 3: 69/12-kV Substation and Underground 69-kV Power Line within Public ROW

Environmental Setting

Alternative 3 would involve construction of a substation, distribution lines, and TL 6910 loop-in in the same location as the proposed project. Alternative 3 also involves construction of a 69-kV underground power line within public ROW along Hunte Parkway, Proctor Valley Road, and Mountain Miguel Road. The 69-kV power line would be overhead within Miguel Substation and would be installed in the same location within Miguel Substation as the proposed project. The underground transmission route would be 1 mile longer than the proposed project power line. The existing cultural resources conditions for the proposed substation, Miguel Substation, and proposed project staging yards, described in Section 4.5.1, would apply to this alternative. The cultural resources surveys that were conducted to characterize cultural and paleontological resources at the substation site, within Miguel Substation, and at the staging yards would apply to Alternative 3. Cultural resource conditions within the transmission corridor between the proposed substation and Miguel Substation would not apply to this alternative because those areas are not within the Alternative 3 project area.

A cultural resources database search for the underground portion of the transmission line was performed through the South Coastal Information Center to identify previously recorded cultural resources within and adjacent to the underground power line alignment. The records search identified 75 recorded archaeological sites within 0.25 mile of the underground alignment, ten of which are in the Alternative 3 underground power line area. Table 4.5-7 summarizes the archaeological resources in the Alternative 3 underground power line area. The

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ten resources within the Alternative 3 underground alignment area have not been evaluated for potential listing on the CRHR. These resources are defined as potentially eligible.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

69/12-kV Substation. Impacts associated with construction of the 69/12-kV substation, distribution lines and TL 6910 loop-in would be the same as impacts associated with construction of the proposed project substation, distribution circuits and loop-in. Similar to the proposed project, APMs CUL-1 and APM CUL-7 would be implemented to reduce impacts. Even with implementation of APMs, impacts to cultural resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 could be significant. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, and Cultural Resources-4 would reduce impacts to archaeological and historical resources from construction of the substation and distribution circuits by requiring evaluation and treatment of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological and historical resources and Native American monitoring. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Impacts to paleontological resources could occur during earthwork at the substation, which would be a significant impact. APMs CUL-4, CUL-5, and CUL-6 would be implemented to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. Even with implementation of the APMs, a significant paleontological resource may be uncovered, and a significant impact to the resource would occur if the resource is not treated properly. Impacts to paleontological resources would be reduced with Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Table 4.5-7 Cultural Resources Sites within the Record Search for Alternative 3

Site	Description	Eligible for Listing in CRHR or NRHP?
P-37-004529	Prehistoric lithic and milling scatter consisting of over 600 artifacts including cores, flakes, hammerstones, manos, mutates, shell and bone fragments, and tools	Potentially Eligible
P-37-004530	Prehistoric lithic scatter consisting of scrapers, cores, ground stones, flakes, and fire cracked rocks	Potentially Eligible
P-37-004531	Prehistoric midden containing scrapers, flakes, and cores	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012037	Small prehistoric temporary camp with cores, mano fragments, and flakes	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012038	Prehistoric temporary camp with cores, mano fragments, flakes, and a scraper; and isolated fragment of purple glass	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012039	Small prehistoric temporary camp with cores, mano fragments, and flakes	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012065	Sparse and dispersed prehistoric scatter	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012066	Prehistoric quarry and lithic workshop	Potentially Eligible
P-37-012278	Prehistoric lithic scatter consisting of cores, flakes, and hammerstone fragments	Potentially Eligible
P-37-018432	Prehistoric lithic scatter consisting of metavolcanic, quartz, and chalcedony flakes and debitage	Potentially Eligible

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69-kV Underground Power Line. Trenching of the transmission route within roadways would primarily occur in previously disturbed soils, road base, and underlying fill material. The potential to encounter unknown cultural resources during trenching work would be low; however, the potential exists and damage to a buried cultural or paleontological resource or to human remains would be a significant impact. APMs CUL-1 and CUL-7 would be implemented to reduce impacts to cultural resources. Even with implementation of the APMs, impacts to cultural resources could be significant. Ten potentially CRHR-eligible cultural resources were previously recorded within the road alignment (refer to Table 4.5-7). No testing or further investigation of these resources could be performed because they are buried underneath an existing roadway. Construction of Alternative 3 would not be expected to substantially affect these untested sites because previous construction of the paved roads would have likely disturbed any resources present in the alignment. However, there is a small potential that resources could be uncovered and/or damaged during construction if excavation were to occur beneath or outside of the area of previous roadway impacts. Damage to significant cultural resources would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measures Cultural Resources-1, Cultural Resources-2, Cultural Resources-3, and Cultural Resources-4 would reduce impacts to significant cultural resources from construction of the power line by requiring evaluation and treatment of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological and historical resources and Native American monitoring. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Impacts to paleontological resources could occur during trenching and vault installation, resulting in a significant impact. The depth of the trench within the roadway would be approximately 6 feet or greater. While trenching would primarily encounter roadway fill, paleontological resources may occur at a depth of 6 feet or greater. APMs CUL-4, CUL-5, and CUL-6 would be implemented to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. Even with implementation of the APMs, a significant paleontological resource may be uncovered, and a significant impact to the resource would occur if the resource is not treated properly. Impacts to paleontological resources would be reduced with Mitigation Measure Paleontology-1. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Unlike the proposed project, Alternative 3 would not involve installation of a 5-mile-long, 69-kV power line along existing ROW. Impacts to cultural and paleontological resources resulting from construction of an overhead power line in the transmission corridor would not occur.

Alternative 3 operation and maintenance activities would be conducted in areas that would be disturbed during project construction. Maintenance vehicles would use access roads and would not disturb undeveloped lands. Maintenance and inspections of the underground portion of the transmission line would occur via access vaults and would not result in any subsurface disturbance. There would be no impacts to cultural resources from operation and maintenance and no mitigation is required.

No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, SDG&E would add two additional transformer banks at the existing Proctor Valley Substation and install 6 to 7 miles of distribution circuits. Distribution circuits would likely be installed underground along various routes in the Otay Ranch area.

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None of the facilities associated with the proposed project or alternatives evaluated in this EIR would be constructed. Therefore, none of the impacts associated with cultural and paleontological resources described in this section would occur.

The two transformer banks at Proctor Valley Substation are currently approved and would be constructed even if the proposed project is not constructed. There would be no additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources from construction of the transformer banks at Proctor Valley Substation under the No Project Alternative because the distribution lines would be installed in existing roadways and the distribution circuits would not disturb new areas where cultural resources could be encountered. There would be no impact.

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