CPUC PUBLIC MEETING FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
SALT CREEK SUBSTATION PROJECT

CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 4, 2015

REPORTED BY: Kathryn L. Edwards, CSR No. 7288

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7	For	California Public Utilities Commission
8		CONNIE CHEN
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1	CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA
2	THURSDAY, June 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
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4	MS. HEIM: The purpose of the meeting tonight
5	is to go over the San Diego Gas & Electric Company Salt
6	Creek Substation Project. We're going to give you an
7	overview of the CPUC process for the application. We're
8	going to describe the proposed project and the
9	objectives and then we're going to discuss the impacts
10	of the project and alternatives that were considered by
11	the CPUC. And then after we've gone through that
12	process, we'll take comments.
13	So if you have oral comments, we have a
14	stenographer here tonight, who is going to take your
15	comments, and we can also receive written comments. So
16	if you want to leave written comments, there is a box
17	over there, and you can just drop them in the box on
18	your way out. And if you want to have more time to
19	think about your comments, you can also send them later
20	in writing, in an e-mail. So we'll give you the e-mail
21	address and also in the presentation.
22	So the California Public Utilities Commission
23	(CPUC) is the lead agency under the California
24	Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and they're the entity
25	that prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

- 1 Panorama Environmental is a consultant to the California
- 2 Public Utilities Commission.
- 3 So I'll introduce Connie Chen. She's here with
- 4 the CPUC, and she's going to talk about the CPUC
- process.
- 6 MS. CHEN: Okay. The CPUC regulates investors
- 7 in utilities, such as San Diego Gas & Electric, and so
- 8 they're required to submit permits to the CPUC to build
- 9 certain infrastructures under Public Utilities Code
- 10 Section 1001. And so San Diego Gas & Electric has
- submitted an application to the CPUC, and we have
- authority to approve or deny the process. So CPUC has
- reviewed the application through two concurrent
- processes, CEQA and the CPUC proceeding. And so right
- now we've published the document, and now we're in the
- public comment period, which ends June 29, 2015. And
- the hearing process we are in currently is for the
- 18 prehearing conference. Typically prehearing conferences
- are scheduled after the release of the draft
- 20 environmental documents. So that's where we're at in
- the process.
- MS. HEIM: I'll talk a little bit about the
- basic project objectives. The primary objectives of the
- project are to meet the electric distribution capacity
- of the area. So there's been a lot of growth in the

1	area and there is a need to provide additional electric
2	distribution and to improve reliability. And SDG&E also
3	wants to improve their operational flexibility to
4	transfer loads between substations.
5	The project proposed here, it's very close to
6	this area, but at a closer scale you can see it on the
7	map to the right over there, where you can see it's just
8	south of Hunte Parkway, where the substation will go,
9	and then the power lines will go within the existing
10	transmission corridor from the Miguel Substation to the
11	Salt Creek Substation.
12	The project components include a new Salt Creek
13	Substation. So that is a 120 12-kV substation that
14	would be constructed on 11 acres just south of Hunte
15	Parkway, and there would be three underground 12-kV
16	distribution circuits to Hunte Parkway. Then there
17	would be a new 69-kV power line, on new steel poles,
18	between the substation on Hunte Parkway and the Miguel
19	Substation, and there would be some minor modifications
20	at Miguel Substation.
21	The construction schedule is estimated to be
22	about 18 to 24 months to build the substation and power
23	lines, and it's anticipated to begin in early 2016 and
24	then finish about late 2017. It will be up to 91

workers on the site each day, during the peak of

construction, and work hours would be those that are 1 2 considered the normal construction hours in the City of 3 Chula Vista; although, there may be some periods where they have to do the work of construction around the clock. And there would be general construction 6 equipment on the site, and helicopters could be used for 7 up to a week when they're stringing the new power line. This gives you a view of the substation site 9 that currently exists. There would be grading of the 10 site to create and construct a new flat pad for the 11 substation equipment to sit on top of, and they would 12 widen the existing City of Chula Vista access road to 13 accommodate the construction equipment and getting in 14 and out of the site. And then they're going to 15 construct the three new underground distribution 16 circuits and connect in the 69-kV power line within the 17 corridor. And that construction will last about 18 to 24 months. 18 19 This is an overview of what the substation 20 looks like. So the area in the yellow, that's the 21 substation pad, and then the purple lines are the 22 distribution lines that would connect up to Hunte 23 Parkway. And you have the light blue line. That's the 24 new power lines to the substation, and the green line is

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to tie in.

1	The new 69-kV line is a five-mile-long overhead
2	69-kV power line. It would run between the Miguel
3	Substation and the new substation, and it would be
4	located in the transmission corridor to the east of the
5	existing tower. So there is a large 230-kV tower in a
6	120-foot-wide right-of-way, and this would be located
7	about 45 feet east of those, and it would be constructed
8	on new galvanized steel poles. And the duration to
9	construct that line is about a year.
10	Other project components; work areas. There
11	would be staging areas. You can see some of them on the
12	map to the right there, in orange. Those are areas that
13	may be used for staging during construction and material
14	laydown. There's also stringing sites. So when they're
15	tightening the line, they have some work areas where
16	they'll need to come in, for a short period of time, to
17	apply tension and pull the line in. And then there's
18	also Within the staging areas there would be
19	helicopter landing zones, for the weeks that they need
20	the helicopters. And access roads are primarily
21	existing access roads, but there may be some new access
22	roads, from the existing access roads, to the new pole
23	site.
24	During operation and maintenance, the
25	substation would be unattended. There would be weekly

inspections, and the vegetation around the poles would
need to be trimmed regularly as required. And equipment
would be repaired and/or replaced as needed during
regular maintenance.
So we're going to talk a little bit about the
Draft EIR and what's discussed in there. On this line
you can see all the topics that were covered in the
Draft EIR, and in the red we show the ones that have
significant impact. So I'll be talking about those a
little bit more in a moment.
In the EIR we describe the impact of the
project. We also discuss the impact prior to
applicant-proposed measures. So those are measures that
would be implemented by San Diego Gas & Electric. We
described what the impact is after those measures are
implemented. And then we if there's any significant
impacts that are remaining, we define mitigation
measures that would reduce the impact.
The first significant impact we'll talk about
is aesthetics. We give a pretty good idea of what that
looks like from the posters on the sides, if you want to
get an idea of what the substation is going to look
like. The impact is primarily the view of the
substation from Hunte Parkway, from the City of

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Chula Vista Greenbelt and areas to the south. So those

Views along Hunte Parkway, for motorists,

there's only about 30 seconds that a motorist would be

able to see the view. So that impact is a fairly short

views would be impacted.

- duration, but there is a longer duration impact forpeople who may be using the trails adjacent to the
- 7 substation and those who are traveling from north to
- 8 south along Hunte Parkway. But, actually, the
- 9 substation would actually be screened from view because
- of the elevation drop. So the substation is set below
- the grade and elevation of Hunte Parkway, such that, if
- you're standing on the -- I believe it's the -- to the
- left, the west side of the road, the northwest side of
- the road, you wouldn't be able to see the substation
- from the road.

- So in order to assess the visual impact, what
- we did in the EIR, and you can take a look at it in
- here, with all the simulations, there were 15
- 19 simulations that were done, and we rated those
- 20 simulations to assess the change in visual quality. And
- 21 where there was a significant change or a significant
- impact, we defined mitigation. And in the case of
- aesthetics, the mitigation is -- for the substation, is
- to landscape and make sure the landscaping is
- successful; that is, the vegetation and trees that would

- be planted would block the view of the substation.
- 2 And that mitigation, it will take time to
- 3 implement. So initially they're going to be
- 4 constructing the site, and then they're going to
- 5 landscape the area, and there will be some time for the
- 6 trees to grow in. So that impact would be less than
- 7 significant, but it would be after a period of five
- 9 years.
- 9 (Indicating) That's a simulation for the
- proposed area, and that's what it looks like after
- mitigation.
- 12 (Indicating) And here is a simulation of the
- power lines.
- And so it ends up being fairly similar to form
- and color to the existing structures. So the power
- lines' impact were considered to be less than
- significant.
- The next significant impact is noise, and the
- noise is generated from the construction equipment and
- the helicopters. It's a temporary impact, but it is
- 21 significant because it will cause an increase in noise
- level in the vicinity of the project. So for when
- they're doing work, if you live right near a work area,
- 24 you would hear an increase in noise levels during the
- period of construction during the day. And if you're

near a substation, you would hear that noise for the 1 2 period of construction, from 18 months to two years. 3 So the mitigation is notification of residents. There's also requirements to put up noise barriers. 5 specifically at the substation, where they'll do work for a couple of years, they may need to put up a noise 6 barrier to minimize that impact. And also, coordination 7 with schools, so that when the helicopters were flying 9 it wouldn't interrupt. 10 Then the last significant impact is the views 11 of substation and the increase in noise levels could 12 impact the recreational value of the trails and 13 recreational resources around the substation. So this 14 is directly related to the two previous impacts, where 15 the -- if you're walking on a trail that's near the 16 substation, you're going to have a view of it, and that could decrease your -- the value of that resource when 17 18 you're standing there. And so the landscaping also 19 mitigates that impact. 20 Under CEQA, the CPUC evaluated alternatives to 21 the proposed project. So there was a range of 22 alternatives that were screened. We started out with 18 23 alternatives, and then we screened them relative to the 24 project objectives, to see if they ultimately achieved

the project objectives. We then looked at whether or

not the alternatives were legally feasible, meaning that 1 2 you could legally construct them on the project; whether they were regulatorily feasible, whether you could get 3 approvals from regulatory agencies to construct the project; and whether they were technically feasible, meaning can you engineer it, can you actually do it. 6 7 And then we evaluated whether or not it would meet environmental criteria, in that would it reduce significant impact or would it somehow -- even if it did 9 10 reduce the significant impact, could it make other 11 impacts much more severe. So if it made another impact 12 much more severe, it may fall out of screening. 13 So after that screening process, there were --14 We started out with 18; there were three alternatives 15 that remained. 16 The first alternative is a 230/12-kV substation 17 and 230-kV loop-in. So that alternative would be 18 constructed on the same site as the proposed substation, 19 but it would be a larger 230-kV substation and it would 20 loop in the existing 230-kV lines in the corridor. 21 So this alternative reduced impact, because it 22 would have avoided construction of a new power line. 23 There's no need to put in a new line. But it did 24 increase impact, because it resulted in taller -- in a 25 taller substation, which would be visible for the life

- ${\bf 1}$ $\,$ of the project. So the visual screening was not able to
- 2 reduce the impact. The aesthetics were less than
- desirable. So it was not environmentally superior.
- 4 (Indicating) This gives you an idea of what it
- 5 looks like after construction. You can see the Salt
- 6 Creek Substation. You have a taller structure, and it's
- 7 still visible even with the mitigation.
- 8 The second alternative is the 69-kV substation
- 9 with additional generation at two electric generating
- facilities.
- So this alternative reduced impact because it
- obviated the need to build a new 69-kV power line. So
- you still have the same substation being built, in the
- same location as the proposed project, but you don't
- 15 have the new power line. There's no impact from the
- power line.
- And this was the environmentally superior
- alternative because it avoided all the impacts of power
- lines, without any impacts -- visual impacts from this
- project.
- Then the third alternative is the 69-kV
- substation, in the same location, with an underground
- power line on Hunte Parkway, Proctor Valley Road, and
- 24 Mount Miguel Road. And so it reduced the impacts from
- the power line on biological resources, cultural

- resources, and potential hazards, but it overall
 increased traffic impact substantially. So it was also
- 3 not environmentally superior.
- 4 We also looked at the no project alternative,
- 5 which is required under CEQA. So the no project
- 6 alternative is what would -- what would SDG&E do if the
- 7 proposed project was not approved. And so SDG&E said
- 8 that they would build out their existing substation, but
- 9 even with that build-out, it would not meet the
- objectives or the need for the project. So over time,
- electrical service would become less reliable, which
- could result in significant impact to the utilities and
- public services.
- Now I'll talk a little bit about public
- comments.
- So part of the purpose of the meeting today is
- 17 to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
- 18 Report. The Draft EIR is available for 45 days for
- public review. So all comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on
- 20 June 29th. And you can submit comments to us tonight.
- 21 We have a box where you can leave comment cards. If you
- want to speak, we have a stenographer here who can take
- oral comments. Or you can provide written comments, and
- 24 you can send those to us via e-mail or also via fax.
- 25 (Indicating) Here are some options, or e-mail.

1	Is there anyone who wanted to speak tonight?
2	AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
3	Yeah, I have a question. I live right off Trellis
4	Street, 2358, which is literally my back yard faces
5	Hunte Parkway. So I will be directly impacted by this.
6	As far as the noise, what noise I didn't
7	hear or see in the report the noise that the power
8	substation in itself would generate. Because at
9	nighttime, where the power lines currently run, it's
10	very loud (demonstrative sound). You can hear it. But
11	during the daytime, for some reason, you don't hear it.
12	So what is the noise going to be produced from the
13	substation?
14	MS. HEIM: Yeah, so the noise the permanent
15	noise from the substation is generally considered
16	minimal. I don't think that you would be able to hear
17	it from the other side of Hunte Parkway. So it's not a
18	large producer of noise. I think that Yeah, I think
19	there is something about it, if you look in the
20	permanent noise section, you'll be able to find some
21	more information.
22	AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
23	The other question I have, is there not another
24	location? Like why does it have to be directly up
25	against Hunta Parkway warsus other parts of the greak

1 or the canyon area? 2 That's a good question. MS. HEIM: 3 So part of the alternatives analysis was evaluation of other sites. So when we did the alternatives analysis, SDG&E also went and did 6 alternatives analysis. There were nine different 7 substation sites that were considered. And part of the challenge with developing a 9 substation in this area, there's a lot of areas that 10 have either been built out or are currently proposed to 11 be built out, under construction, and then you have 12 areas that are also in preserves. And then there's also 13 the need to have access to the transmission corridor, so 14 a place to put in -- bring in the power to the 15 substation. 16 So all of these factors were considered when 17 the alternatives were developed. And there's an 18 alternatives screening report, that's in the document, 19 if you want to look at what the alternative sites that 20 were considered and how they were screened and why one 21 was different than the other. 22 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) Hi. My 23 name is Raul Cardenas. I'm living in the community 24 area. And exactly the -- For my family or for my

neighbors, the concern is for the health for everybody.

- 1 It's a lot of energy. It's a lot of electromagnetic
- fields that is going to be around the area. That can
- affect the health for the humans and also will be affect
- 4 the value for the neighborhood.
- I just reviewed some reports, and I can see
- 6 that in some areas -- I'm worried -- I don't worry
- 7 about how aesthetic it's going to be, the place or the
- 8 building that you're going to building, but I can see
- 9 that you put in a landscaping. Landscaping, as you
- 10 know, San Diego right now is in an alert for water.
- 11 Then at least the City is going to put in some recycling
- water plants to -- that's landscaping everything.
- That's going to be nice, but I don't think that that is
- very nice like this. It's going to be like a desert
- 15 because of the water now, the problem. Then that's my
- concern.
- MS. HEIM: Okay. Are there any other comments?
- 18 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Marco Torres) Marco
- 19 Torres. I live over in San Miguel Ranch. And I'm just
- curious, how did the determination get made to not go
- with Alternative 2, which it seems like, all other
- factors being equal, it has an environmentally superior
- alternative or it was an environmentally superior
- 24 alternative.
- MS. HEIM: The alternatives in the process, the

- 1 CPUC, under CEQA, will evaluate alternatives. So an
- 2 alternative has not been selected by the CPUC. The CPUC
- 3 still is undergoing their review process of the project.
- 4 So we're still in the CEQA process.
- 5 And actually, what I can do is go back to that
- 6 slide. I think this might be helpful to show you where
- 7 we are, and we can talk about what happens to select an
- 8 alternative.
- 9 MS. CHEN: I can explain that a little bit.
- So right now the Draft EIR document came out
- and there is an environmentally superior alternative
- from the draft document, and right now we're taking your
- comments. We're going to make changes to the draft
- document. We're going to respond to the comments, and
- that's when we prepare the final document. And the
- final document leads into this point in the process
- where the assigned ALJ at the Commission throughout this
- process prepares the proposed decision.
- And so there's a separate process, where there
- 20 could be hearings at the Commission, and all of this
- information and all of that would be part of the record.
- 22 And so a decision to select whatever alternatives
- wouldn't happen until that final decision is voted on by
- the Commissioners.
- 25 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Marco Torres) So just

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to be clear, the application right now, as it stands, is
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 2
       for the purpose of developing the Hunte Substation, the
 3
       current option; right? And is it possible that the
       alternative might ultimately get decided on?
                MS. CHEN: Yeah, the Commissioners.
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Marco Torres)
                                                       The
7
       Commission ultimately makes that decision?
                MS. CHEN: Yes. Does that answer your
 9
       question?
10
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Marco Torres) Yes.
11
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche) I have a
12
       question. My name is Derrick Roche. I actually
13
       represent Councilman John McCann, whose district is part
14
       of Chula Vista.
15
                I heard the timelines as far as the
16
       construction and everything, but I don't think I
17
       missed -- Is there an actual date when they anticipate
18
       starting the project?
19
                MS. HEIM: I don't think that there is a
20
       specific date. I quess that's --
21
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche)
22
       Considering all the reviews and everything I've got, do
23
       we have an idea of when that would actually start?
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                MS. HEIM: I think it is dependent on when it
25
       gets through the process and the decision is made and
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they get a contract. Then they'll actually start the
 1
 2
       construction. So there's -- It's all in line of the
 3
       process.
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche) Is there
 5
       a year?
 6
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Andy Renger) Yeah, I
7
       mean, depending on when we get the notice to proceed
 8
       with this, early next year, if things go well.
 9
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
10
       This is Jonathan Greenwood.
11
                Is there another scheduled meeting for the
       public?
12
               Because it appears, even for myself, just the
13
       general neighborhood and community is just unaware of
14
       what's getting ready to come down the pipeline. And I'm
15
       starting to reach out to all my neighbors and folks in
16
       the community, to let them know that this massive
17
       project power substation is about to be planted right in
18
       our backyards, and everybody has concerns.
19
       Unfortunately, they couldn't come tonight.
20
       curious, is there another planned meeting on this?
21
                And the way that information was communicated
22
       in the little postcard, I mean it's not really
23
       informative to the community as to what a substation is.
24
       Nobody really knows what a substation -- I had to
25
       Google it, to figure out that it's something similar to
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the San Miquel Substation off the 125 Freeway. So there 1 2 is a lot of concerns there that the community in general is just not well informed on what's actually coming. 3 MS. CHEN: So I wasn't sure if you got a chance 5 to look at the project website. And there's some 6 information on there, especially with the links to the 7 draft environmental document. I think, you know, I understand it's a really big document, but you can look 9 at the executive summary for some idea of what the 10 proposed project is about. 11 At this point in the CEQA process is when we do 12 reach out. We did have a scoping meeting when the 13 application was filed, or after the application was 14 filed, in 2013. Unfortunately, the process itself 15 requires us to reach out at this point when the draft 16 environmental document is prepared. 17 But you could participate in the formal hearing 18 process at the CPUC, and there are special rules in 19 practice and procedure related to that. And if you want 20 to go on the CPUC website, there is a Public Advisors' 21 page that helps individuals and groups who are 22 interested in participating in the hearing process on 23 the other side. 24 And so there will be a prehearing conference

scheduled soon. And again, those are typically

- scheduled after the draft document goes out. And so we
- will announce that on the CPUC website.
- 3 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood) So
- 4 no mail communication will be sent out to all the
- 5 residents that will be affected?
- 6 MS. CHEN: We're still finalizing the
- 7 documents. So the final EIR will be published and
- 8 released, and we will be sending mail out to nearby
- 9 residents.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Andy Renger) One
- thing, too, that you were worried about being like
- Miguel, it's not going to be that big. That's a 500-kV
- 230/138. This is a 69-12 that's proposed. So it's not
- qoing to be that big.
- 15 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche) Where
- are the hearings held? Are the hearings local or are
- they up in San Francisco?
- MS. CHEN: It depends on what the assigned ALJ
- decides to do. Typically they're in San Francisco, but
- if there's a local interest in attending the hearing,
- they may be held locally. Sometimes they're held
- telephonically. So we will announce the hearing and
- there will be a number sent out to call in.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- This is Jonathan again.

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1
                For the Alternative 3, the selection -- why
 2
       that wasn't selected, I'm hearing, was due to traffic
       impacts. Could you elaborate more on that?
 3
                           Yeah. So to install the power line
                MS. HEIM:
 5
       within roads would require having an open trench in the
       roadway and it would be for many miles.
 6
                                                There would
7
       also be increased air quality impacts.
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood.)
 9
       There would be what?
10
                MS. HEIM: Air quality impacts, but so there's
11
       additional construction emissions associated with it.
12
       But mainly it's that you're going to have to have an
13
       open trench in the roadway, along six miles, over a
14
       period of a year. So they're going to move along the
15
       road and impact traffic. So there would be areas that,
16
       you know, otherwise wouldn't be impacted by the proposed
       project because it's overhead and you just cross right
17
       over it.
18
19
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Pardon
20
            The environmental impacts, as they're discussed
21
       here, whether they're superior or not superior, are
22
       premised on their environmental impact during the
23
       development process or during the long-term life of the
24
      project itself?
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MS. HEIM: So it's both. That's a really brief

- summary and conclusion of the analysis that's in the 1 2 EIR, but we consider -- The long-term impacts are given more weight. So if there's a long-term impact that 3 would occur for a number of years -- like, for instance, the alternative one, which is a much larger substation, 6 which has long-term impacts to aesthetics, that impact 7 is given more weight than a temporary impact like noise, which is fleeting and after construction would go away. So there is a relative weight that's given to the impact 9 10 based on the duration and the intensity. 11 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood) 12 This is Jonathan Greenwood again. 13 What's to prevent kids from injuring themselves 14 or entering into that substation, given that, you know, 15 the High Tech High schools are right there. Kids, as 16 they leave school, I see them, you know, playing back 17 there all the time. What's the mitigation or what are 18 you -- how are you guys addressing, not just kids, but
- MS. HEIM: You can see there's like a ten- to
 12-foot wall that surrounds the substation. There's
 also going to be a locked fence.

anybody getting injured back there?

- Is there anything else, like as far as security
 features you have planned?
- 25 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Andy Renger) Yeah, a

- 1 lot of signage to warn people, "High Voltage," but the
- wall, blocks it. You know, it's just not open for
- 3 people to walk into the substation.
- 4 MS. HEIM: SDG&E wants to prevent vandalism, as
- 5 well. So they don't want people walking through the
- facility.
- 7 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) Do you
- 8 know what section of the 125 will be closed, if it's
- 9 going to be south or north or if it's going to be closed
- the whole way?
- MS. HEIM: The highway?
- 12 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) The 125
- Toll Road.
- MS. HEIM: So there's two crossings of the 125.
- 15 CalTrans may require temporary closure when the
- stringing occurs. And oftentimes that happens -- They
- told us that usually happens during the wee hours of the
- morning. So like 2:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m., something like
- that, when there's not a lot of traffic.
- But it could happen potentially at the two
- crossings of the 125, the ones you can see it on the map
- there. Right here. So this little bit north of
- 23 Eastlake Parkway and then again over here below "H"
- 24 Street. Those are the two places.
- 25 And it would be for -- Usually, when that

- happens, it's for a couple hours.
- 2 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) We're
- 3 here with SDG&E. So we work closely with CalTrans and
- 4 Highway Patrol. And so just as said, it's very limited
- bours we're allowed to do it. It's very early in the
- 6 morning, a couple hours. So it may be a couple hours a
- 7 couple days in a row.
- 8 MS. HEIM: It's typically on a Sunday morning.
- 9 It has to be done by 6:00 o'clock.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified.) And
- then the road is not closed for that period of time.
- 12 Highway Patrol works with the utility and contractor.
- They stop traffic for a certain period of time, allow
- some work to happen, and then work stops, and then they
- let traffic through, and they just repeat that for a few
- hours.
- 17 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) How do
- 18 we know the extensions for that to close? Because I
- work in -- to the border, I take the 125 every day. And
- I took the 125 because it's shorter than to go through
- the Olympic and get the 805. Then that is going to be
- more expense for the community, because it's more gas or
- for the car. Then how would we know the schedules on
- that closures?
- 25 MS. HEIM: There is a mitigation measure in the

EIR that's part of notification of any closures. 1 2 there would have to be advanced notification. Usually 3 the CalTrans permits will require some sort of process where there will be notification and require signage if 5 there's going to be a closure. 6 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Andy Renger) It's not a 7 continuous shut off the highway. They'll stop it for a 8 little bit, let it get to a point where, you know, they 9 can stop work and release the break, let people go 10 through, and then stop it again. And, you know, they 11 kind of phase in and out. So it's not like all day. 12 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Have you 13 seen -- You've seen Highway Patrol do that for an 14 accident. There's an accident up ahead, they come in, 15 they stop traffic, weave their way across the lanes, 16 slow everybody down. And you get to follow, and they 17 just keep you moving along, and then they release. They 18 have to try to control, and that's exactly what we'll 19 do. So you're not stopped from driving on that road 20 that day. You just may be delayed a few minutes while 21 they control that traffic. 22 MS. HEIM: To be honest, that is addressed in 23 the EIR traffic section, and there's a specific 24 mitigation that deals with that. If you have any 25 comments on that impact and mitigation measure, please

feel free to submit it in writing. 2 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) Now we are talking about probably, because we are neighbors on 3 that, and we are worried about it, we are talking about 5 just the disadvantage of the project, but do you have 6 the benefits for the existing neighborhood, what the 7 benefits were? AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: So ultimately it will 9 improve electrical reliability for everybody in the 10 area. So, you know, it's not just the new development. 11 The ultimate objective of the project is improving the 12 electrical reliability, which addresses the whole 13 southeastern area. That's the overall objective of the 14 project.

- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood) 15 16 The grading, the height of the -- I'm sorry. This is 17 Jonathan Greenwood.
- 18 The height that you guys have built around the 19 aesthetics of it, how is that determined and can it go 20 any lower than that? This is like the only place you 21 guys can actually put this?
- 22 And I say that with concerns of all of the 23 residents that -- whose backyard faces along Hunte 24 Parkway and would have to look at that, you know; 25 whereas, today we have a nice, you know, nature preserve

- to look at. That will directly change the value and --
- 2 you know, of the community.
- MS. HEIM: Is that a comment or --
- 4 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- 5 Yeah. So like what -- how did the height -- It looks
- 6 like they're building up, versus down.
- 7 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) So it's
- 8 kind of hard to see it in that, and I can't remember the
- 9 exact dimensions, but it's below. Like if you're on the
- northwest side of Hunte, the other side of Hunte, when
- you look across, it's not going to be visible, because
- it's actually below the sidewalk there. So it is sunken
- down. That's kind of -- You've got to kind of look at
- some other ones, too.
- 15 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) There is
- a key view, I think it's 8, from Hunte Parkway, that you
- 17 can see, you really can't see the substation from the
- 18 road. You only see it from the -- This is either from
- 19 the trail, when you're standing on the edge. But if
- you're on the other side --
- 21 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- 22 What about from the residents between Hunte Parkway and
- where Exploration Falls Drive meets up? I live right on
- 24 Trellis Street. So my backyard faces it directly. So
- if I'm in my backyard, will I be able to see it?

```
1
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) This is
 2
       the simulation right here. You can see the new pole,
      but you can't actually see the substation. I don't know
 3
       specifically where your property is. This is directly
       across the street, I suppose. I don't know if you're
 5
 6
       looking directly across.
 7
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
 8
       Probably close. Probably a little bit right over here,
 9
       on this side, but pretty much facing this.
10
                Anybody on Trellis Street will be looking at
11
       this, west of Exploration Falls Drive. So you're saying
12
       it is going to be --
13
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) You look
14
       down. It's like a little hill there, and it will be
15
      made flat.
16
                And in the proposed 69/12-kV sub, it's what we
17
       call a low-profile sub. So we try to make those as
18
       short as possible and still be within the required
19
      height to the ground.
20
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
21
       no poles or overhead wires on like the San Miguel one?
22
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Oh, you
23
      mean the --
24
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
25
       Yes.
```

```
1
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) No, not
 2
       that. (Inaudible.)
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Those
 3
       aren't that high.
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) There
 6
       will be some cables. Proposed there are some cable
7
      poles, but not that height.
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
                                                             So
 9
       when you say there are some new poles --
10
                MS. CHEN: Show the simulation.
11
                MS. HEIM: Which one? On the other page?
12
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
13
       Then what are the guarantees that you guys actually
       stick to this actual design, and not do something other,
14
15
      after you get a verbal?
16
                MS. HEIM:
                          So if there was a substantial
17
      modification to the application, they would need to come
      back to the CPUC, and they would need to file a change
18
19
      per the CPUC. And if it doesn't fall within the box of
20
       what was considered under CEQA and there's greater
21
       impact, the CPUC would need to do a new CEQA process.
22
       So they would need to go back. You'd be notified. You
23
       would basically start all over with this project.
24
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) And
25
       during construction, they watch us.
```

```
1
                MS. CHEN: Yeah, we'll be monitoring, during
 2
       construction, to ensure the proposed project or the
 3
       approved project is being built. And if SDG&E wanted to
       come back and make changes to the project, and, as she
 5
       said, there would be substantial changes, we may need to
 6
       do a new CEQA process, and that would be a petition for
7
      modification, and that would be a separate new process,
 8
       where we'll be doing public outreach and contacting you
       all, that we'll be doing that.
 9
10
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
                                                             Is
11
       there anywhere else in the county that has a similar
12
       type of substation that we could look at?
13
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) The
14
       Mira Mesa one was just built there. 805 and Mira Mesa
15
       Boulevard. It's just a 90/12-kV. It's at a higher
16
       elevation than this. That's because of the topography
17
       in that area.
18
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Go north
19
       on the 5, right where the 805 and 5 meet. It's on the
20
       right. I believe it's -- Qualcomm buildings are --
21
       There's some office buildings and whatnot. So like I
22
       would say, that one is kind of -- You'll be able to see
23
       it from the freeway. Try to visualize putting that one
24
       down below.
```

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified)

25

That's

- 1 also standard. (Inaudible.) The one in Mira Mesa is in
- 2 a commercial industrial area.
- 3 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche) Excuse
- 4 me. Is this going to be similar to the one down in Otay
- 5 Mesa, right by the 905? Will it be similar to that one?
- 6 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) I
- 7 haven't seen it. So I don't.
- 8 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Derrick Roche) Because
- 9 that was not a very big one. I've seen it.
- 10 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) I have
- to look at that myself. Are you talking about the one
- near the power plant down there?
- 13 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Unidentified) Yeah.
- Well, no. There's the new one, but there's an older one
- that's down there, right where the 905 --
- 16 (Inaudible comments from various audience
- participants.)
- MS. HEIM: Are there any other comments?
- 19 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas) Yeah.
- The last one is, during the construction period, we
- cannot use the trails, the neighborhood. But in my
- location is -- right behind me is the existing towers.
- Where you are planning to put in the other 40 poles for
- the 69-kV, it's going to be closed? Or how are we going
- to protect kids that don't go to the park? It's behind

- to the existing towers. Are they going to close the
- park? Are they going to close the roads? Or how is it
- 3 going to work?
- 4 MS. HEIM: So there's, in the recreation
- 5 section of the EIR, we discuss the impacts on the
- 6 trails, and there's mitigation measures about making
- 7 sure that there's notification about closure to the
- 8 trails, with regards to safety, but there's also going
- 9 to need to be alternate detours.
- So because the construction will be on one side
- and there's multiple access roads, probably what will
- happen is they'll close off one of the access roads, to
- just use for recreational use, and redirect people
- around. But it's not going to involve any construction
- 15 areas. It will all be concentration in the transmission
- corridor.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- 18 This is Jonathan Greenwood.
- How often do you guys reject or what is the
- ratio of projects of this magnitude that you guys
- 21 reject?
- 22 MS. CHEN: I do not have that information.
- 23 Typically we have to go through the CEQA process again.
- 24 We, you know, talked about the alternatives process. So
- we don't necessarily reject projects. We make changes

- to the project and we look at alternatives that are
- environmentally superior and still meets project
- 3 objectives and needs. And ultimately I do not have the
- 4 number of how many projects we reject.
- 5 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- 6 Okay. How about alternatives? How often do you --
- 7 would you say you --
- 8 MS. CHEN: Yeah. So we are required to go --
- 9 you know, go through the CEQA process. And part of the
- 10 CEQA process requires us to look at a range of
- reasonable alternatives and offer an environmentally
- 12 superior alternative. I do not have the number of times
- where the environmentally superior alternatives is
- different from the proposed project, but it is a process
- we have to go through to determine what is
- environmentally superior. But I don't have a number of
- when that's different from the proposed project.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
- 19 And if you could get those numbers, that would be
- helpful.
- You cover all of California; right? So it
- wouldn't just be for --
- MS. CHEN: The CPUC regulates investor-owned
- 24 utilities. So that's PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric,
- and Edison.

```
1
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
 2
       All right.
 3
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Raul Cardenas)
       the HOA associations know about this? Because I'm
       concerned that the associations is not here, hearing
 6
       what we are talking about. Then suppose the association
 7
       is to help the community, and I don't see any
       representatives from the association. I don't know if
 9
       they was informed or not.
10
                MS. HEIM: We sent notifications to all
       residents within 500 feet of the project. And then
11
12
       there's also the standard notifications to agencies.
                                                              So
13
       there's about 400 mailings -- or not 400, but 4,000
14
       mailings that went out on the Draft EIR.
15
                AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood)
16
       only to residents that are within 500 feet of the actual
       project, but not necessarily residents in the community
17
18
       that all use that space or have kids that go to the
19
       schools, that might live a little bit further up the
20
       street or anything of that nature; right?
21
       within the 500 feet or the entire community?
22
                           So the notification requirements,
                MS. HEIM:
23
       they're sent out. There are certain requirements under
24
       CEQA, and then there's also -- there's other
       requirements under the CPUC General Order. The General
25
```

1 Order requires 300 feet, and CEQA requires notification 2 of agencies. And it's often the 300 feet kind of rule 3 of thumb that's used. And because of the close proximity of these communities, we decided to go out to 500 feet. We actually notified a wider swab than what's 6 typically done. 7 Is that all? AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: (Jonathan Greenwood) 9 And you guys did say that the HOA is notified of this, 10 not just residents? 11 MS. HEIM: We did send letters to HOAs, as 12 well. 13 If that's all the comments, we can stick around 14 for a little bit. If there are any final questions you 15 may have, we have poster boards, if you want to stay and 16 look at them. And we do have copies of the document, if 17 you want to look at anything in more detail, as well as 18 the visual simulations that we pulled out. Those are 19 all in the document. 20 Thank you so much for attending and for your 21 comments. 22 (ENDING TIME: 7:30 p.m.) 23 24

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