



CPUC PUBLIC MEETING FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

San Diego Gas & Electric Company Salt Creek Substation Project

Application No. 13-09-014

California Public Utilities Commission

June 4, 2015

PANORAMA
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Meeting Purpose: Draft EIR Public Information

- Overview of the CPUC **application review** processes
- Describe the proposed **SDG&E Salt Creek Substation Project**
- Discuss **significant impacts** of the proposed project and mitigation measures included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Describe **Alternatives** to the proposed project that were evaluated in the Draft EIR
- Describe the Draft EIR **comment process**
- **Receive comments** on the Draft EIR



Roles



**California Public Utilities
Commission (CPUC),
Lead Agency under CEQA**



**Panorama Environmental, Inc.,
Environmental Contractor
for CPUC**



**San Diego Gas & Electric
Company (SDG&E),
Project Applicant**

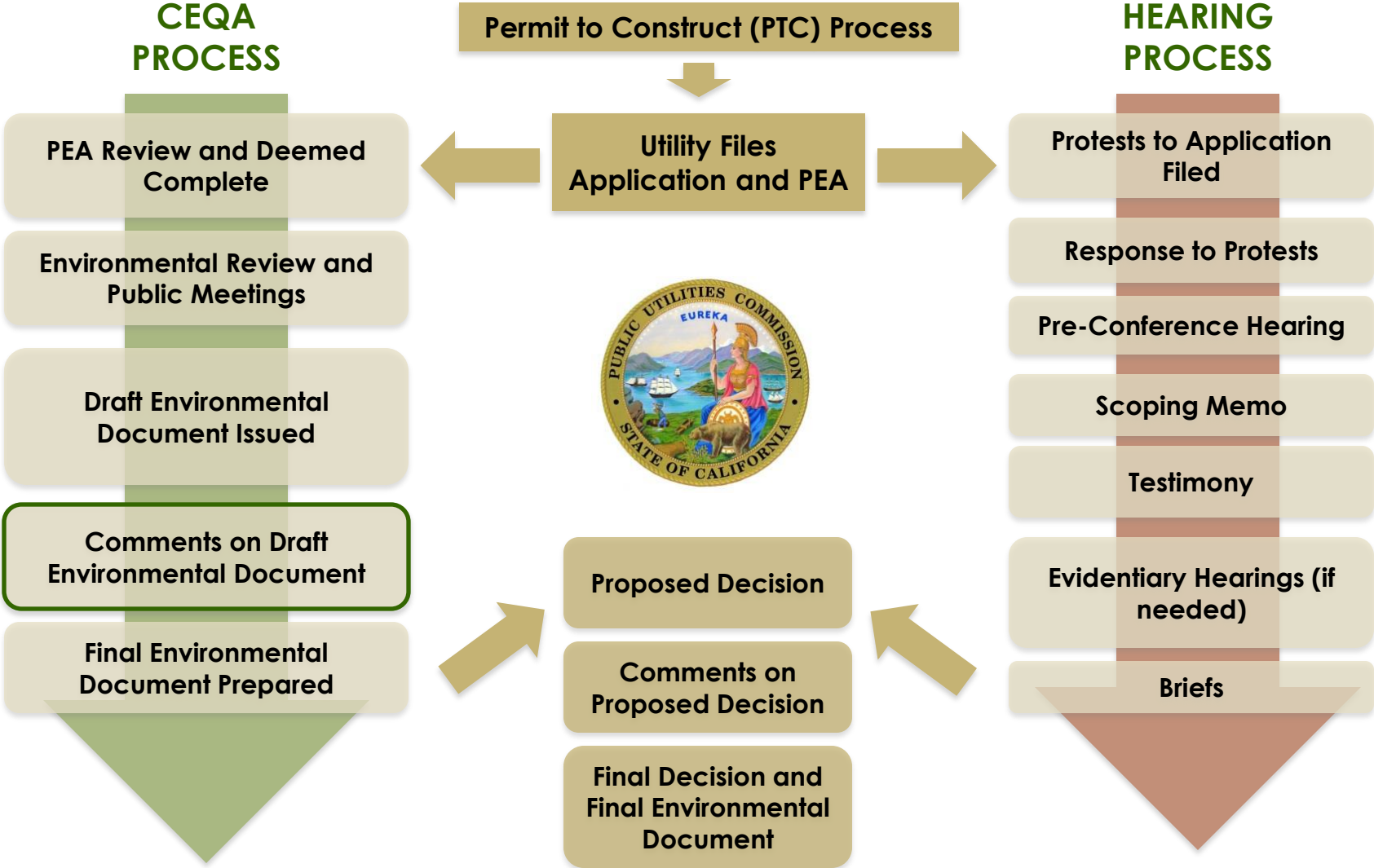


CPUC Process

- Investor-owned utilities must submit a permit application to CPUC for construction of certain infrastructure listed under Public Utilities Code Section 1001
- SDG&E filed an Application consisting of:
 - Application for Permit to Construct (PTC) the project
 - A Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- CPUC has authority to approve or deny the Application
- CPUC permit application review involves:
 - Environmental Review (CEQA)
 - CPUC Proceeding



CPUC Processes

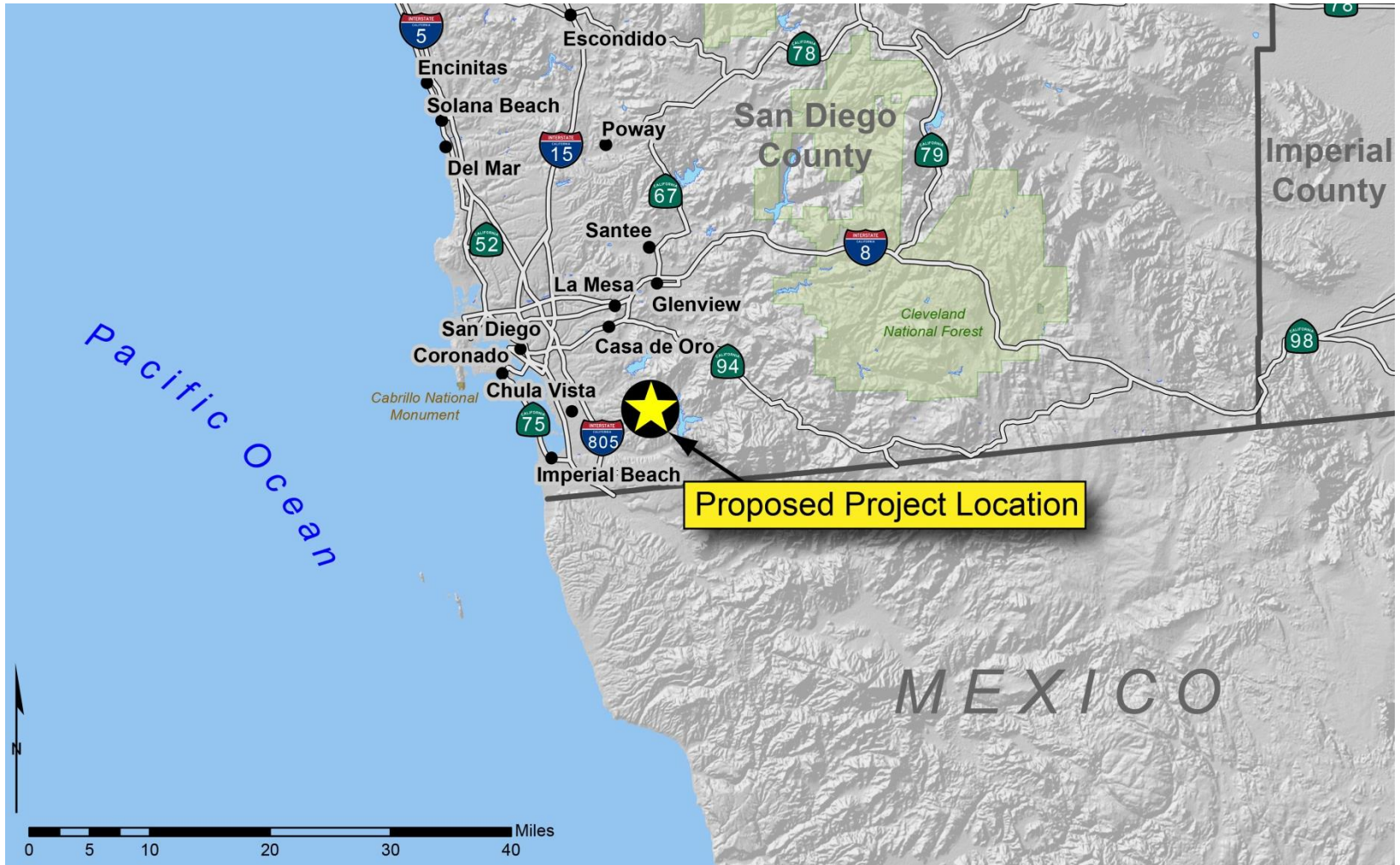


Basic Project Objectives

1. Meet the **electric distribution capacity needs** in the southeastern Chula Vista service territory
2. Provide substation and circuit tie capacity that would provide **additional reliability** for existing and future system needs
3. Reduce loading on area substations to optimum operating conditions, providing **greater operational flexibility** to transfer load between substations



Where is the Proposed Project?



Proposed Project Components



New Salt Creek Substation

- 120-MVA 69/12-kV substation on 11.6 acres of undeveloped land
- Three underground 12-kV distribution circuits to Hunte Parkway
- TL 6910 loop-in



New 69-kV Power Line, TL 6965

- 5-mile, single-circuit, 69-kV power line within existing transmission corridor from Miguel Substation to the new Salt Creek Substation
- Overhead on new power poles; southernmost 720 feet underground



Miguel Substation Modification

- Minor construction to connect to TL 6965
- Pole-top work on existing structures



Project Construction Overview

Construction Schedule

- About 18 to 24 months from start to finish
- Anticipated to begin early 2016
- Anticipated to finish late 2017

Workforce

- Up to 91 workers during peak construction

Work Hours

- Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Some concrete pours, transformer oil filling, and conductor stringing may require extended work hours

Equipment

- Variety of general construction vehicles
- Helicopters could be used for 1 week during power line stringing



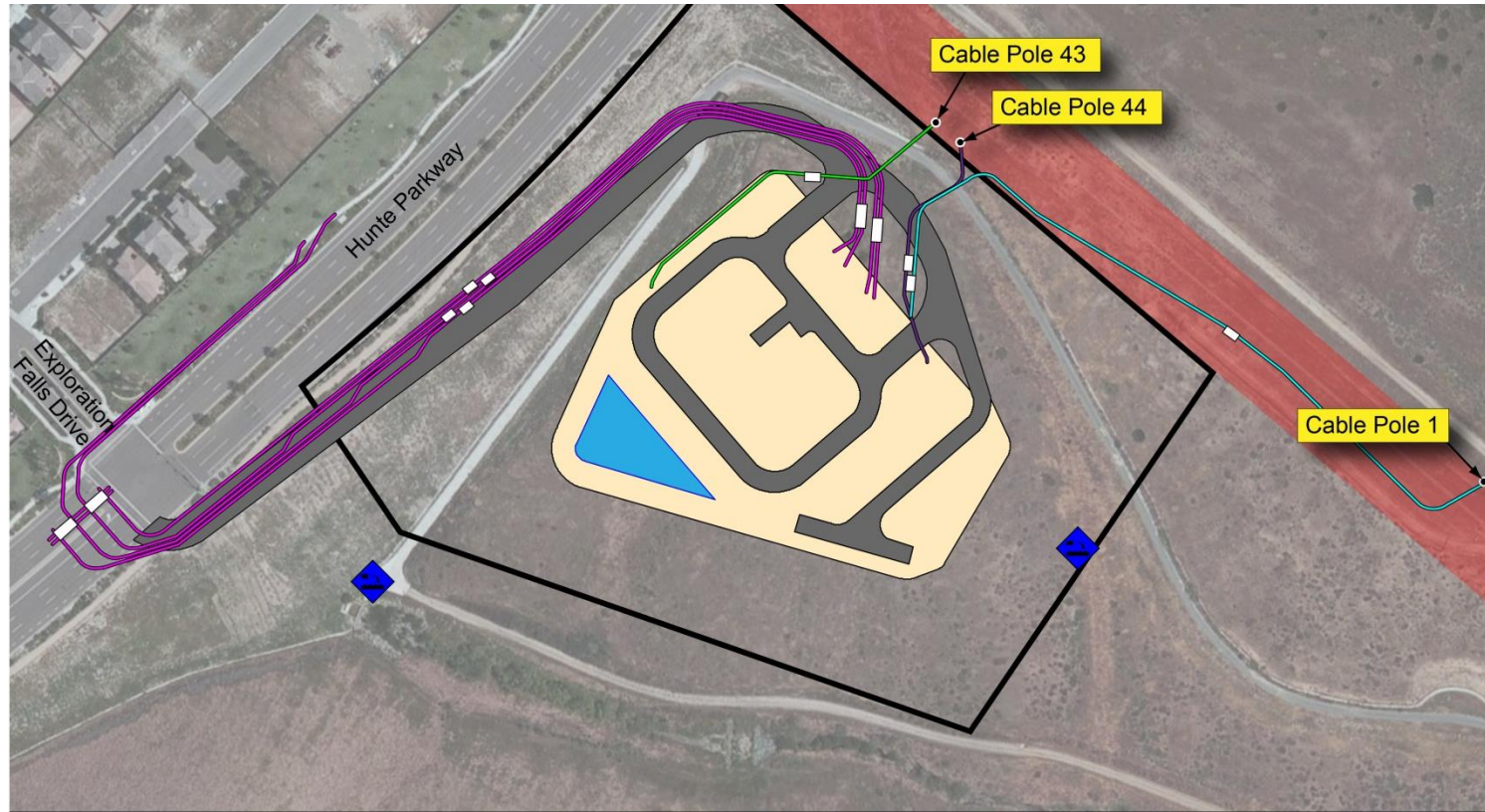
Salt Creek Substation



- 11.6-acre site southeast of Hunte Parkway
- Grading to accommodate the substation and supporting infrastructure
- Widening and grading existing access road
- Installation of three underground 12-kV distribution lines
- Connection of substation to existing 69-kV power line (TL 6910) and new 69-kV power line (TL 6965)
- **Construction Duration: 18 to 24 months**



Salt Creek Substation Layout



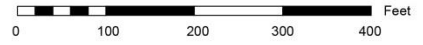
LEGEND



- Tie-Line 6964
- Tie-Line 6910
- Tie-Line 6965
- 12-kV Distribution Line
- Vault or Manhole

- Substation Parcel
- Substation Footprint
- Cable Pole

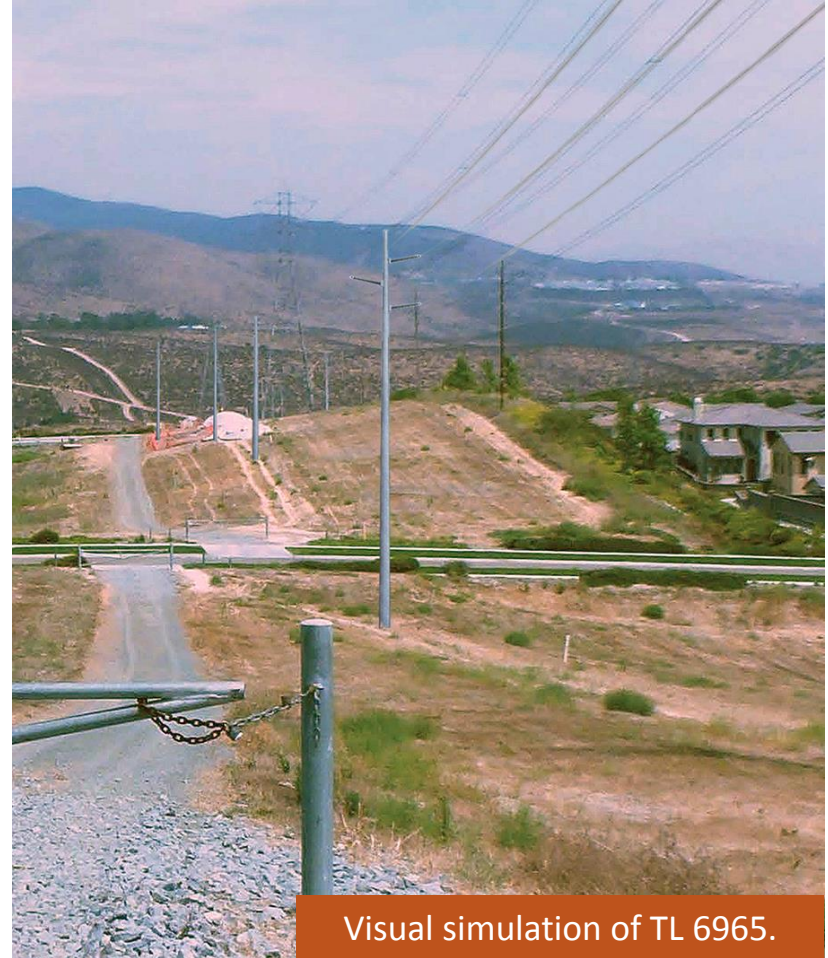
- Access Road
- Water Quality Basin
- SDG&E 120-foot-wide Right-of-Way
- Storm Drain Outfall



SOURCE: Esri 2015, San Diego Gas & Electric Company 2014, and Panorama Environmental, Inc. 2015



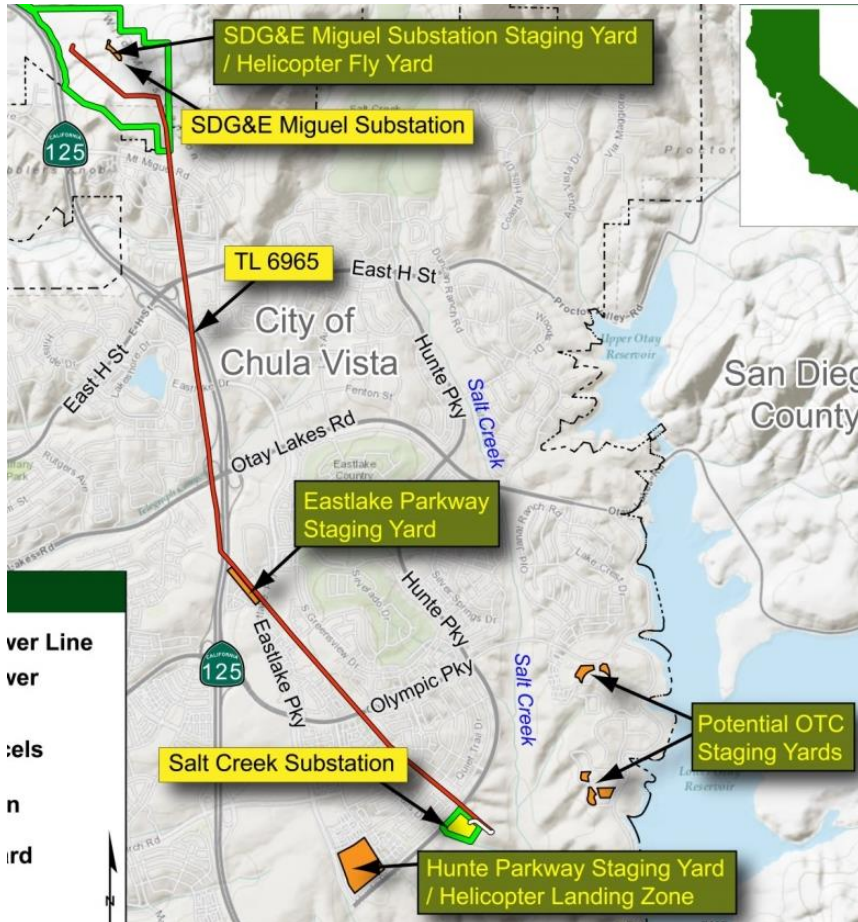
- 5-mile, single-circuit, 69-kV power line
- Hunte Parkway to Miguel Substation (northern border of Chula Vista)
- East of existing 230-kV lines in 120-foot-wide SDG&E right-of-way
- 41 new galvanized steel poles
- **Construction Duration: 12 months**



Visual simulation of TL 6965.



Other Project Components



- Staging yards/
Equipment laydown areas:
 - Hunte Parkway
 - Eastlake Parkway
 - Miguel Substation
 - Olympic Training Center (alternate)
- Stringing sites
- Helicopter landing zones/
fly yards
- Access roads



Project Operation and Maintenance

- Substation would be unattended, automated, and operated remotely (no on-site staff)
- Weekly inspections and maintenance would occur at the new substation
- Vegetation would be trimmed regularly, per SDG&E protocols
- Equipment would be repaired and/or replaced as needed
- Aerial and ground inspections of TL 6965 would occur annually



CEQA Draft EIR

TOPICS:

Aesthetics

Agriculture and forestry resources

Air quality/greenhouse
gas emissions

Biological resources

Cultural resources

Geology and soils

Hazards and hazardous materials

Hydrology and water quality

Land use and planning

Mineral resources

Noise

Population and housing

Public services
(fire, police, schools, parks)

Recreation

Transportation and traffic

Utilities and service systems
(water, wastewater, solid waste)



Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)

- Include APMs and Project Design Features proposed by SDG&E and included in the PEA
- Considered part of the project
- Intended to reduce impacts of the project

Mitigation Measures

- Developed by CPUC
- Mitigate significant impacts to environmental resources
- May be required in addition to APMs

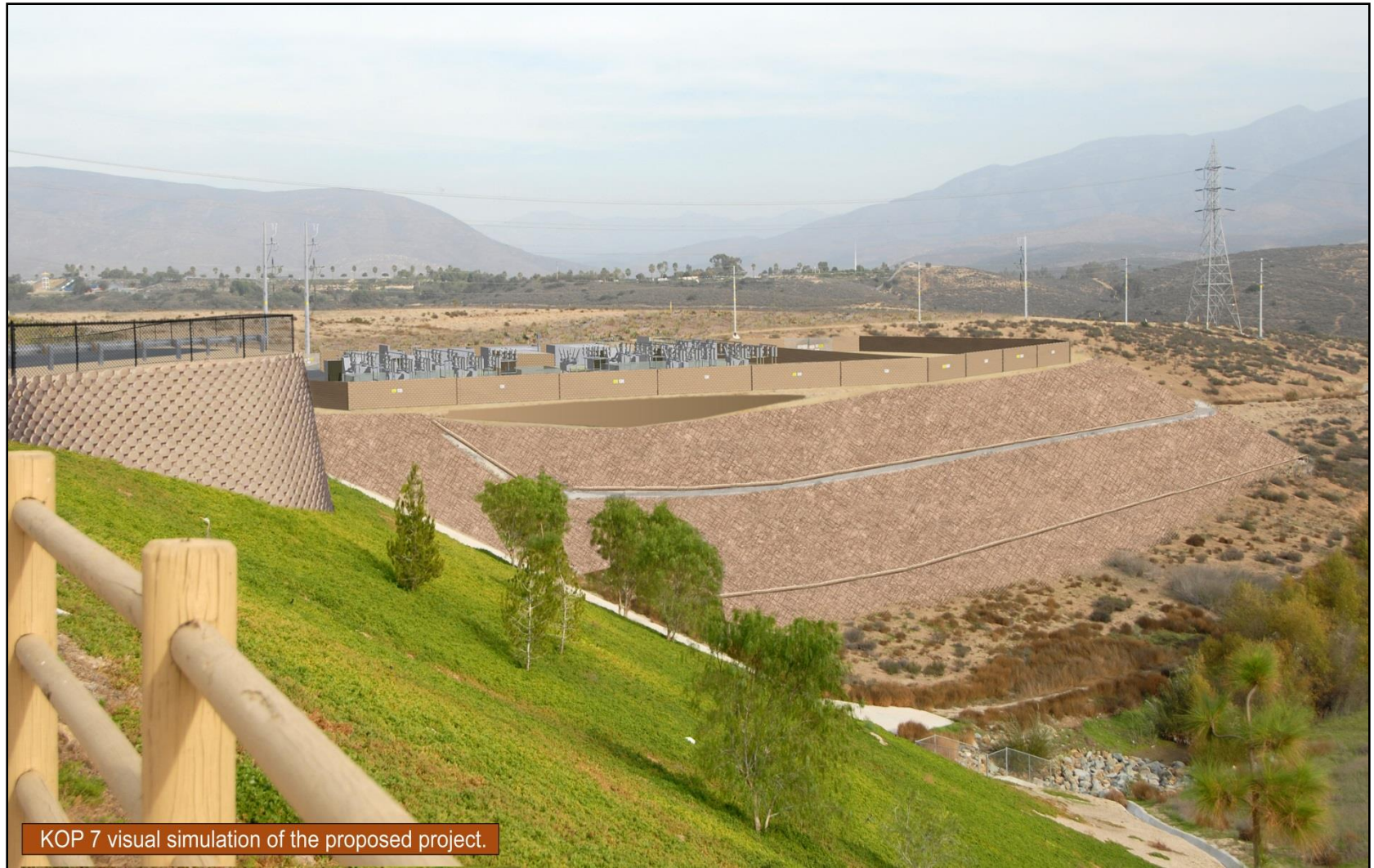


Significant Impacts - Aesthetics

- **Issue:** The substation would impact views from Hunte Parkway, University Village, City of Chula Vista Greenbelt, and nearby trails.
- **Studies:** 15 visual simulations were prepared and rated to assess the visual impacts of the project
- **Impact Conclusion:** *Significant unavoidable impact until vegetation is established (up to 5 years)*
 - New substation and graded slope would be visible immediately following construction and would significantly degrade views from Hunte Parkway and nearby trails
 - Views of the substation from the road while driving would be less than 30 seconds
 - Substation would be shielded over time as landscape vegetation matures
 - Impacts from TL 6965 are less than significant because the new poles are generally consistent with the existing infrastructure
- **Mitigation:** Landscaping and color treatment to reduce visual contrast, surface treatment to reduce glare



Simulation of the Substation from Hunte Parkway (No Mitigation)



KOP 7 visual simulation of the proposed project.



Simulation of the Substation from Hunte Parkway With Mitigation



Simulation of TL 6965 from Windingwalk Park



KOP 5 visual simulation of the proposed project.



Significant Impact - Noise

- **Issue:** Construction would involve vehicles and equipment including helicopters, which would cause a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels.
- **Studies:** Modeled noise levels at distance from the project
- **Impact Conclusion:** *Significant unavoidable impact during construction*
 - Construction equipment and vehicles would cause noise levels to increase by more than 10 decibels at sensitive receptors near the substation and staging yards
 - Substation construction would increase noise levels in the vicinity for 18 to 24 months
 - Power line construction would increase noise levels near the poles during pole construction (less than 1 week at each pole)
 - Power line stringing would increase noise levels along the alignment during helicopter flights (4 days)
- **Mitigation:** Notification of residents, respond to noise complaints, noise barriers, and coordination with schools



Significant Impact - Recreation

- **Issue:** Views of the substation and the increase in noise levels during construction would substantially reduce the recreational value of open space trails.
- **Studies:** Evaluated recreational uses near the substation and power line
- **Impact Conclusion:** *Significant unavoidable impact until vegetation around the substation is established (up to 5 years)*
 - Construction equipment and vehicles would cause noise levels to increase along Hunte Parkway Trail and trails in the transmission corridor
 - The aesthetic quality of open space areas from nearby trails would be substantially impacted by the substation until landscape vegetation matures
- **Mitigation:** Landscaping to reduce visual contrast



Alternative Evaluation Process

- Screened a range of alternatives:
 - Alternative substation locations
 - Alternative power line locations
 - Non-wire alternatives according to CEQA criteria
- CEQA screening criteria:
 - Meet most of the basic project objectives?
 - Feasible (i.e., legal, regulatory, technical)?
 - Avoid or substantially lessen any significant effects of the proposed project without substantially increasing impacts from the proposed project?



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

- **Components**

- 230-kV substation in the same location as the proposed Salt Creek Substation
- Loop-in the adjacent 230-kV transmission line underground
- No new power line

- **Reduced Impacts**

- Avoids all impacts from building a 5-mile long power line

- **Increased Impacts**

- Larger and taller substation would be visible from a greater distance
- Substation would be visible over the life of the project; landscaping could not screen the larger substation
- Construction would take 6 months longer than the proposed substation

- **Conclusion: Not Environmentally Superior**



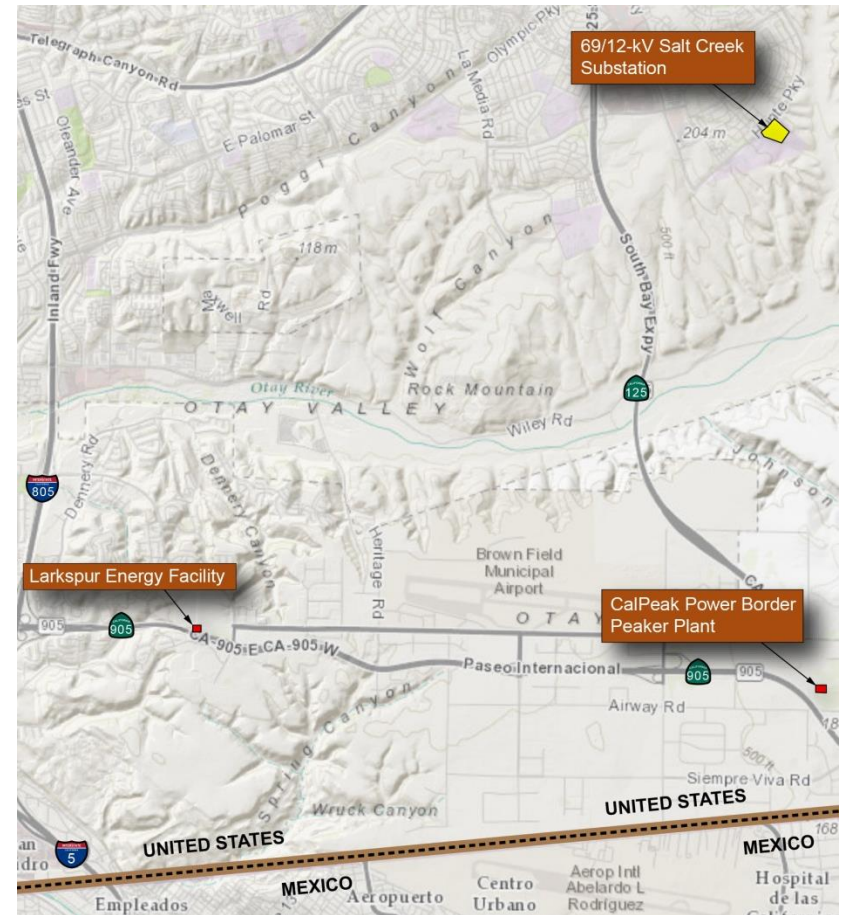


KOP 7 visual simulation of Alternative 1.



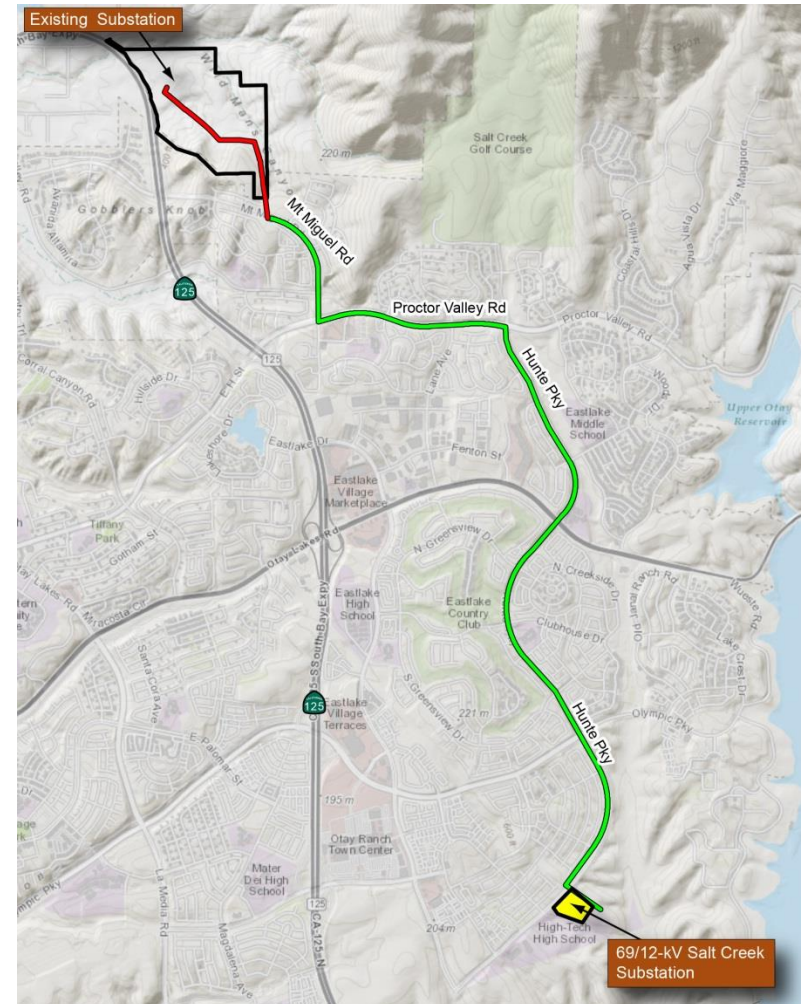
Alternative 2: 69-kV Substation and Generation at Border and Larkspur Electric Facilities

- **Components**
 - 69-kV substation with loop-in and distribution lines similar to the proposed project
 - Additional energy generation at existing facilities during peak loading
 - No new power line
- **Reduced Impacts**
 - Avoids all impacts from building a 5-mile long power line
- **Increased Impacts**
 - No new significant impacts or increase in the severity of significant impacts
- **Conclusion: Environmentally Superior Alternative**



Alternative 3: 69-kV Substation and Underground Power Line

- **Components**
 - 69-kV substation with loop-in and distribution lines similar to the proposed project
 - 6-mile long underground 69-kV power line
- **Reduced Impacts**
 - Reduces biological resource, cultural resource, and hazard impacts from constructing an overhead power line in the transmission corridor
- **Increased Impacts**
 - Greater traffic impacts from construction within area roads
- **Conclusion: Not Environmentally Superior**



No Project Alternative

- **Components**

- Build out existing area substations
- Extend distribution lines from existing substations

- **Reduced Impacts**

- Avoids significant aesthetic, noise, and recreational impacts of the proposed project

- **Increased Impacts**

- Will reduce reliability of electrical service in the Chula Vista area due to insufficient substation capacity
- Long-term impact to utilities and public services due to unreliability of electric service



Public Comments on Draft EIR

- The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment for a 45-day period
- **Review the Draft EIR:**
 - Project website:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/index.html
 - Otay Ranch Branch Public Library:
2015 Birch Road, Suite 409, Chula Vista
- Comments will be accepted until **June 29, 2015**
- Public comments and responses to comments will be incorporated into the Final EIR



How Can You Provide Comments?

- Oral comments and questions tonight
- Fill out a comment card to submit written comments and questions tonight
- Submit comments after this meeting by mail, phone, or email

Mail	Voice Mail/Fax	Email
Ms. Connie Chen CPUC c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc. One Embarcadero Center #740 San Francisco, CA 94111	(650) 373-1200 (650) 373-1211 fax	saltcreeksub@ panoramaenv.com

- Comments due by 5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2015

For more information, go to:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/Salt_Creek/index.html



Oral Comment Guidelines



- State name and affiliation
- One person speaks at a time
- Avoid side conversations
- Keep input concise (to maximize participation)
- No clapping or booing
- Respect others' opinions/interests

