



September 21, 2015
(20807)

Rob Fletcher
San Diego Gas and Electric
8315 Century Park Court, CP21E
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: Updated Special-Status Plant Species Survey Results Following Late Spring/Early Summer 2015 Surveys For the Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

This memo report summarizes the results of the additional vegetation community mapping and focused plant survey conducted for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project (proposed Project), Application No. 14-04-011. This information is intended to supplement the information provided in the Biological Technical Report (BTR; Busby Biological Services (BBS) 2014a) and special-status plant survey summary report (BBS 2014b) prepared for the Proposed Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of the Alternative Cable Pole (South of Carmel Valley Road) proposed by the CPUC, SDG&E prepared preliminary engineering for underground 230kV transmission line alignments that would connect the Alternative Cable Pole location (south of Carmel Valley Road) to the proposed 230kV underground alignment within Carmel Valley Road. Two alignments were reviewed: an easterly route and a westerly route. The eastern route would follow an existing paved access road northeast from the cable to Carmel Valley Road. The western route would largely follow an unpaved access road southwest, and then north until connecting with Carmel Valley Road.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is located in the city of San Diego of San Diego County, California. The proposed Project can be found on the California United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute *Del Martopographic* quadrangle. The proposed Project ranges from 700 to 850 feet in elevation above mean sea level (amsl) and consists primarily of native vegetation, with a lesser degree of disturbed areas. A map of the survey area is provided in Attachment 1.

METHODS

A list of special-status plant survey target species was developed for the proposed Project by reviewing the results of various database searches for special-status plant species reported within 1, 3, and 5 miles of the main proposed Project alignment and the Encina Hub. The focused plant survey was conducted by Chambers Group, Inc., botanists Jeremy Smith and Heather Clayton on May 20 and July 1, 2014. The focused

survey for sensitive plant species included federally and state listed endangered and California Rare Plant Rank 2 and above. The sensitive species were surveyed in accordance with the Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities (CDFW 2000). Table 1 identifies these three sensitive plant species.

During the focused plant surveys, the botanists both visually scanned and walked meandering transects through the entire anticipated impact area within the proposed Project site for the presence of sensitive plant species in bloom. When a special-status plant species was observed, a waypoint was taken with a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) that recorded the plant’s location. Where vegetation was very dense on steep slopes, documentation of some species was accomplished through the use of binoculars and marking of the species’ location on a field map that was later digitized and incorporated into the Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

All other plant species observed during the surveys were also noted (Attachment 2). Plants of uncertain identity were collected and subsequently identified from keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Baldwin et al. (2012) and Munz (1974). Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition* (Baldwin et al. 2012).

RESULTS

Five sensitive species were observed during the April survey (Table 1), which was conducted during the appropriate blooming period for all species. No other federally and/or state listed endangered or threatened or otherwise sensitive plant species were observed during the survey. A total of 116 plant species, including 68 native species and 48 nonnative species, were observed within the Project area during the survey (Attachment 2).

Table 1. Sensitive Species Status and Blooming Period

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Individuals	Status	Blooming Period
spineshrub	<i>Adolphia californica</i>	89 (approx.)	CRPR 2B.1	Dec-May
coast barrel cactus	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>	2	CRPR 2B.1	May-June
Palmer’s grapplinghook	<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	10,070 (approx.)	CRPR 4.2	Mar-May
graceful tarplant	<i>Holocarpha virgata</i> ssp. <i>elongata</i>	59	CRPR 4.2	May-Nov
decumbent goldenbush	<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>decumbens</i>	106 (approx.)	CRPR 1B.2	Apr-Nov

CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank

CONCLUSIONS

A total of five sensitive plant species with multiple individuals were observed within and adjacent to the proposed Project area during the time of the surveys (Table 1). The majority of these species were found in

the areas mapped as native grassland. No other sensitive plant species were observed during the surveys. All five species are considered sensitive by the CNPS and CDFW. It is recommended that efforts be made to avoid impacts to these species during Project activities.

Please contact Paul Morrissey at (949) 261-5414 ext. 7288 or pmorrissey@chambersgroupinc.com if you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo.

Sincerely,

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.



Jeremy Smith
Biologist

ATTACHMENTS



Attachment 1 – Project Survey Area
Attachment 2 – Plant Species Observed
Attachment 3 – Project Photographs

REFERENCES

- Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken (editors)
2012 *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.
- Munz, P. A.
1974 *A Flora of Southern California*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.
- State of California, the Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
2000 Guidelines for Accessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities.



Legend

-  Underground Alternative
-  Survey Area



Attachment 1
Sycamore to Penasquitos
Project Survey Area

Attachment 2 – Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
PINACEAE	PINE FAMILY
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> *	Aleppo pine
<i>Pinus</i> sp.	pine
ANGIOSPERMS (EUDICOTS)	
ADOXACEAE	MUSKROOT FAMILY
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>caerulea</i>	blue elderberry
AIZOACEAE	FIG-MARIGOLD FAMILY
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> *	hottentot-fig
ANACARDIACEAE	SUMAC OR CASHEW FAMILY
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonadeberry
APIACEAE	CARROT FAMILY
<i>Apiastrum angustifolium</i>	wild celery
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	fennel
ASTERACEAE	SUNFLOWER FAMILY
<i>Acourtia microcephala</i>	sacapellote
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	western ragweed
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> subsp. <i>salicifolia</i>	mule fat
<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	broom baccharis
<i>Brickellia californica</i>	California brickellbush
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> subsp. <i>pycnocephalus</i> *	Italian thistle
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> *	totalote
<i>Chrysanthemum carinatum</i> *	tricolor chrysanthemum
<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>	sand-aster
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i> *	cardoon
<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	fascicled tarweed
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California bush sunflower
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	brittlebush
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> *	flax-leaved horseweed
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	horseweed
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	golden yarrow
<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	gum-plant
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>	saw-toothed goldenbush

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Hedypnois cretica</i> *	crete hedypnois
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> *	bristly ox-tongue
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed
<i>Holocarpha virgata</i> subsp. <i>elongata</i>	graceful tarplant
<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>decumbens</i>	decumbent goldenbush
<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i>	spreading goldenbush
<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>vernonioides</i>	Coastal goldenbush
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	prickly lettuce
<i>Logfia filaginoides</i>	California fluffweed
<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	California everlasting
<i>Pseudognaphalium canescens</i>	felty everlasting
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>	white-head cudweed
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	common sow thistle
BORAGINACEAE	BORAGE FAMILY
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grappling hook
BRASSICACEAE	MUSTARD FAMILY
<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	black mustard
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	shortpod mustard
CACTACEAE	CACTUS FAMILY
<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>	San Diego barrel cactus
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i>	coastal prickly pear
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>	southern honeysuckle
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> *	Australian saltbush
<i>Chenopodium album</i> *	lamb's quarters
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle
CISTACEAE	ROCK-ROSE FAMILY
<i>Cistus incanus</i> *	purple rock-rose
CONVOLVULACEAE	MORNING-GLORY FAMILY
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	western bindweed
CUCURBITACEAE	GOURD FAMILY
<i>Marah macrocarpa</i>	wild cucumber
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
<i>Chamaesyce maculata</i> *	spotted spurge
FABACEAE	LEGUME FAMILY
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> *	Sydney golden wattle
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	deerweed

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acmispon strigosus</i>	strigose lotus
<i>Astragalus trichopodus</i>	Santa Barbara locoweed
<i>Calliandra californica</i>	fairyduster
<i>Lupinus</i> sp.	lupine
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> *	bur clover
<i>Melilotus alba</i> *	white sweetclover
<i>Melilotus indica</i> *	sourclover
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	clover
FAGACEAE	OAK FAMILY
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak
GENTIANACEAE	GENTIAN FAMILY
<i>Zeltnera venusta</i>	canchalagua
GERANIACEAE	GERANIUM FAMILY
<i>Erodium botrys</i> *	broad-lobed filaree
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *	red-stemmed filaree
GROSSULARIACEAE	GOOSEBERRY FAMILY
<i>Ribes indecorum</i>	white flowering currant
LAMIACEAE	MINT FAMILY
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> *	rosemary
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	white sage
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	mesa bushmallow
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	cheeseweed
MYRSINACEAE	MYRSINE FAMILY
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> *	scarlet pimpernel
NYCTAGINACEAE	FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY
<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> *	bougainvillea
<i>Mirabilis laevis</i>	wishbone bush
PHRYMACEAE	LOPSEED FAMILY
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	orange bush monkey-flower
PITTIOSPORACEAE	TOBIRA FAMILY
<i>Pittosporum</i> sp.	pittosporum
PLATANACEAE	SYCAMORE FAMILY
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	western sycamore
POLYGONACEAE	BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i>	Mojave desert California buckwheat

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	curly dock
PORTULACACEAE	PURSLANE FAMILY
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> *	common purslane
RHAMNACEAE	BUCKTHORN FAMILY
<i>Adolphia californica</i>	California adolphia
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	spiny redberry
ROSACEAE	ROSE FAMILY
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon
<i>Raphiolepis indica</i> *	Indian hawthorne
RUBIACEAE	MADDER FAMILY
<i>Galium angustifolium</i> subsp. <i>angustifolium</i>	narrow-leaf bedstraw
SALICACEAE	WILLOW FAMILY
<i>Populus fremontii</i> subsp. <i>fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	black willow
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow
SAPINDACEAE	SOAPBERRY FAMILY
<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i> *	Chinese flame tree
SIMAROUBACEAE	QUASSIA FAMILY
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> *	tree of heaven
SOLANACEAE	NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	tree tobacco
TAMARICACEAE	TAMARISK FAMILY
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> *	Mediterranean tamarisk
ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTS)	
AGAVACEAE	AGAVE FAMILY
<i>Agave attenuata</i> *	agave
ALLIACEAE	ONION FAMILY
<i>Allium</i> sp.	onion
ARECACEAE	PALM FAMILY
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> *	Mexican fan palm
ASPHODELACEAE	ASPHODEL FAMILY
<i>Aloe</i> sp.*	aloe
CYPERACEAE	SEDGE FAMILY
<i>Cyperus involucratus</i> *	umbrella-plant
IRIDACEAE	IRIS FAMILY
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	blue-eyed grass
LILIACEAE	LILY FAMILY
<i>Calochortus</i> sp.	mariposa lily

Scientific Name	Common Name
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	slender wild oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	ripgut grass
<i>Bromus japonicus</i> *	Japanese brome
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> subsp. <i>rubens</i> *	red brome
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	brome
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> *	pampas grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *	Bermuda grass
<i>Festuca perennis</i> *	Italian ryegrass
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergass
<i>Schismus barbatus</i> *	Mediterranean schismus
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	purple needlegrass
<i>Stipa speciosa</i>	desert needlegrass
THEMIDACEAE	BRODIAEA FAMILY
<i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i>	blue dicks

*Non-Native Species, +Ornamental, Unlikely to be Invasive

Attachment 3 – Site Photographs



**California
adolphia
(*Adolphia
californica*)**



**San Diego
barrel cactus
(*Ferocactus
viridescens*)**



**Palmer's
grapplinghook
(*Harpagonella
palmeri*)**



**Decumbent
goldenbush
(*Isocoma
menziesii* var.
decumbens)**



**Delicate
tarplant
(*Holocarpha
virgata* ssp.
elongata)**