PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

300 CAPITOL MALL SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



March 21, 2019

To: All Interested Parties

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for consideration of San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E's) application (Application A. 17-06-029) for the proposed TL674A Reconfiguration and TL666D Removal Project. The Final IS/MND has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and incorporates changes resulting from comments submitted during the public review period (December 6, 2018, through January 7, 2019).

Description of the Proposed Project. The linear project would be located in the northwestern portion of the City of San Diego and in the City of Del Mar, with portions of the proposed project located within the San Dieguito Lagoon, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, and Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. The project would consist of the following four components:

- TL674A Reconfiguration: Removal of approximately 700 feet of 69-kilovolt (kV) overhead tap; installation of about 1.1 miles of underground duct bank with four vaults to connect TL674A (renamed TL6973 as part of the project) to the Del Mar Substation.
- **TL666D Removal**: Removal of approximately 6 miles of 69-kV overhead power line between the Del Mar Substation and the intersection of Vista Sorrento Parkway and Pacific Plaza Drive.
- C510 Conversion: Conversion of approximately 3,900 feet of existing 12-kV overhead distribution line to an underground configuration within San Dieguito and Racetrack View Drive; removal of five poles adjacent to Racetrack View Drive; and installation of several poles to connect existing overhead lines to new underground configuration.
- C738 Conversion: Conversion of approximately 630 feet of existing 12-kV overhead distribution line to an underground configuration within the Sorrento Valley multi-use path, with removal of distribution line poles and installation of several new poles and risers.

The project would also include the removal and replacement of a circuit breaker at the existing Del Mar Substation to accommodate increased ampacity of TL6973¹.

SDG&E is proposing the Project to address the safety, environmental, and reliability concerns in San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E) existing Del Mar Substation area, and to ensure that the substation and associated components meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) criteria.

¹ Ampacity is defined as the maximum amount of current that an electrical conductor can safely carry.

Contents of the Final IS/MND. The Final IS/MND consists of one volume with the Mitigated Negative Declaration statement to be adopted by the CPUC, and the Initial Study, which evaluates the potential significance of project impacts. The Initial Study also contains the Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Plan, to be approved by the CPUC. The List of Preparers, formerly included as Chapter 7 of the Draft IS/MND, has been updated to Chapter 9 of the Final IS/MND to accommodate two new chapters. One new chapter (Chapter 7) has been added to the Initial Study that presents the written comments received during the public review period, and written responses to those comments. Additionally, a second new chapter (Chapter 8) has been added to the Initial Study to reflect other staff-initiated revisions to the IS/MND that were identified after publication of the Draft IS/MND.

Changes Made to the IS/MND. In response to comments on the Draft MND/IS that was circulated for public review, various changes or additions have been made to the document. Other than insertion of the new Chapter 7 and Chapter 8, any text inserted into the Final MND/IS is <u>underlined</u>, and any deleted text is shown in <u>strikeout</u>.

Information has been added or revised in the Final MND/IS as follows:

- Revisions to the Project Description to reflect a circuit breaker replacement that SDG&E
 would incorporate into the proposed project, fully within the existing footprint of the Del
 Mar Substation, and, where necessary, associated revisions document-wide to reflect this
 change.
- Minor revisions were made to the Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Mandatory Findings Sections.
- Minor revisions were made to mitigation measures in the Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Noise Sections. These revisions are also reflected in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP, Chapter 6). Where applicable, including for resource area sections that had no revisions to mitigation measures, revisions were made to the implementation columns in Table 6-1 in the MMRP ("Monitoring/Reporting Action", "Effectiveness Criteria", "Timing", "Location", and/or "Responsible Agencies and Parties") for clarification.
- Minor revisions to Appendix A: Air Quality Emissions Report, Appendix C: Master Species Tables, and Appendix G: Land Use Policy Matrix
- Minor corrections to Figure 5.12-1 Noise-Sensitive Receptors within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Project Vicinity and Figure 5.14-1 Public Services near the Proposed Project Vicinity.
- Comment letters received during the public review period and CPUC responses are included (Chapter 7).

CPUC Actions After Final IS/MND Circulation and Public Involvement in CPUC General Proceeding. There is no comment period for the Final IS/MND. Following the publication of the Final IS/MND the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may seek further briefings or testimony on issues associated with the project. The ALJ may seek further information on the legal validity of the IS/MND or any other topic pertaining to the issuance of the Permit to Construct.

If the ALJ intends to take further evidence relating to the project then he will convene a pre-hearing conference to allow parties to set out their issues and to establish a timetable for briefing on these

issues. Upon completion of briefs the ALJ will then write the proposed decision which may include the recommendation that the Commission adopt and certify the IS/MND.

The Commissioners will then evaluate the proposed decision, and may propose alternative decisions. The Commissioners will then vote on whether to issue a Permit to Construct for the TL674A Reconfiguration and TL666D Removal Project. The decision will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing.

If the CPUC approves the proposed project, the CPUC will implement a Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program. This program will ensure that the approved project is constructed as defined, and that all adopted mitigation measures and project design features the applicant committed to are implemented to ensure that effects on the environment do not exceed those described in the IS/MND.

Availability of the Final IS/MND. Copies of the Final IS/MND on compact disk (CD) have been mailed to parties to the General Proceeding and public agencies and Native American Tribes that commented on the proposed IS/MND during the public review period, as well as members of the public who have requested it. The document is available on the CPUC's project website at:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/delmar/delmar.html.

The Final IS/MND is also available at the repository locations below:

San Diego County Public Library, Del Mar Branch 1309 Camino Del Mar

Del Mar, CA 92014 (858) 755-1666 San Diego County Public Library, Central Library

330 Park Boulevard San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 236-5800

Copies of the Final IS/MND on CD may be requested by e-mail at <u>TL674A.CPUC@ene.com</u> or by calling at 1 (844) 422-9692 (toll-free). The CPUC also has a limited number of hard copies of the complete Final IS/MND document available to the public upon request at the above addresses and numbers.

Further information about this document is available from John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager, at <u>John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov</u> or (916) 327-6782.