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4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless APMs Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i.	Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii.	Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii.	Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv.	Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v.	Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.12.1 Introduction

This section of the PEA describes local public services in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Fire and police protection, public parks, schools, and other public facilities such as hospitals are addressed, and the potential effects resulting from the Proposed Project construction, operation, and maintenance are evaluated. Impacts from restricted access to existing parks and other recreational facilities are discussed in Section 4.13, Recreation.

4.12.2 Methodology

Public service, utilities, and service systems data were obtained from searches of local government websites and other local service informational resources. The review also included Google Earth maps, aerial photographs of the Proposed Project area, GIS data, and online maps.

4.12.3 Existing Conditions

4.12.3.1 Public Services Setting

Fire Protection

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services in the Ramona area are provided by the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD), which contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for these services. These services include 33 full-time firefighters, 11 per day, covering three fire engines, one rescue unit, and two paramedic transport ambulances. The RMWD-Ramona Fire Department covers approximately 75 square miles.

Outside of the RMWD, services are provided by CAL FIRE; volunteer fire companies; and for federal lands surrounding the Ramona area, the USFS, and Cleveland National Forest.

There are three fire stations in Ramona, which house personnel and equipment 24 hours a day, 365 days every year. Fire Station 80, located at 829 San Vicente Road, is approximately 2 miles from the western end of the Proposed Project area. Fire Station 81, operated by the USFS, is approximately 2.8 miles from the portion of the Proposed Project area that crosses the San Diego Country Estates subdivision, and is located at 24462 San Vicente Road.

The Inter-Mountain Fire and Rescue Department is an all-volunteer department with two fire stations and 57 volunteer firefighters. Fire Station 85, located at 25858 A Hwy 78 in Ramona, is approximately 3.5 miles from the Proposed Project alignment northeast of the San Diego Country Estates subdivision. Station 54, located at 911 Schoolhouse Canyon Road in Santa Ysabel, provides fire service to Santa Ysabel, and is approximately 4.5 miles from the eastern terminus of the Proposed Project Area. Station 85 has a fire engine, rescue vehicle, brush vehicle, and water tender. Station 54 has a brush vehicle that holds 500 gallons of water.

There is a Mutual Aid agreement between CAL FIRE, Inter-Mountain Fire, the RMWD, and the San Diego Rural Fire Protection District, whose jurisdiction covers a portion of the Ramona Planning Area. Agreements with all fire service providers provide first-responder services for any emergency incident, known as the closest resource concept.

CAL FIRE and the USFS provide watershed and wildland fire protection services in the areas within their jurisdiction. CAL FIRE protects the State Responsibility Areas from one station located on Hwy 79. The USFS is responsible for fire protection of all federal wildlands. The USFS operates four stations within the Subregion: the Descanso Substation located on Viejas Grade Road; the Laguna Substation/Camp Ole in Mt. Laguna; the Glen Cliff Substation on Old Hwy 80, in the Pine Valley Area; and the Pine Hills Substation on Boulder Creek Road.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement services are provided to the Ramona Community Planning Area by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The department is comprised of approximately 4,000 employees, both sworn officers and professional support staff. In the unincorporated areas, the Sheriff's Department provides generalized patrol and investigative services. San Diego County Sheriff's Ramona Substation serves the community of Ramona and the San Diego Country Estates subdivision. The Ramona Substation provides law enforcement services to nearly 40,000 residents in an area of over 150 square miles. It is located at 1424 Montecito Road in Ramona, approximately 3 miles northwest of the Proposed Project area. The substation is staffed by one lieutenant, three sergeants, three detectives and 17 deputies. In addition, reciprocal-aid agreements are in effect with the neighboring City of Poway.

The County Sheriff provides basic law enforcement service to the Central Mountain Subregion. This area is within the Rural Division of the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Operations Bureau, and is served by two sheriff substations. The Julian Substation serves an area of over 200 square miles and includes the community of Santa Ysabel. The substation is located at 2907 Washington Street in Julian, approximately 6.6 miles southeast of the Proposed Project area. Service in the Subregion is below the Sheriff Department's acceptable response time of 12 minutes for priority calls and 24 minutes for non-priority calls in rural areas.

Within the Cleveland National Forest, law enforcement services are provided by the USFS, which employs approximately 590 law enforcement personnel nationwide. The authority for providing law enforcement services is described at 16 USC 551 and 559. The means to implement these authorities are found in 36 CFR 261 and Title 18 of the USC. Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers enforce Federal laws and regulations governing USFS Lands and resources.

Schools

San Diego County has 24 elementary school districts, six high school districts, 12 unified school districts, and 5 community college districts. The Ramona Unified School District includes five elementary schools, one middle school, two high schools, one combined middle school/high school, and one K-12 school. The Spencer Valley Elementary School District is located in Santa Ysabel, and includes one school that serves 2,266 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

There are four private schools in Ramona. Keystone Academy is a private school for grades 9-11 with 18 students, Montessori Children's Elementary school has 30 students in grades K-5, and Montessori Children's House has 23 students in grades K-7. Ramona Lutheran School serves preschool and grades K-8. There are no private schools in Santa Ysabel.

There are no schools within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project. The closest school to the Proposed Project is the Barnett Elementary School located at 23925 Couana Way, Ramona, in the San Diego Country Estates development, approximately 0.5 mile from the Proposed Project.

Parks

The Proposed Project alignment crosses two preserves operated by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Cleveland National Forest. The 650-acre Simon Preserve includes 5 miles of trails and is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The 1,574-acre Mt. Gower Open Space Preserve is leased to the County by the BLM and consists of approximately 8 miles of trails and a primitive campground.

The Proposed Project also passes briefly through the boundaries of the Cleveland National Forest, at Pole Nos. P115 and P116.

Other Public Facilities

There are no hospitals or public libraries within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project area. The closest hospital, Pomerado Hospital in Poway, is an acute care hospital that provides emergency services. It is approximately 12 miles west of the western end of the Proposed Project. Palomar Medical Center in the City of Escondido is also an acute care hospital with emergency services, and it is approximately 15 miles from the western end of the Proposed Project. The closest library is the Ramona branch of the County of San Diego public library system. The Ramona library branch is located on Main Street in Ramona, approximately 1.8 miles from the Creelman Substation.

4.12.4 Potential Impacts

4.12.4.1 Significance Criteria

Thresholds of impact significance were derived from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Under these guidelines, the Proposed Project could have a potentially significant impact to public services if it would:

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
 - i. Fire protection;
 - ii. Police protection;
 - iii. Schools;
 - iv. Parks; and
 - v. Other public facilities.

4.12.4.2 Question 12a (i) – Impacts to fire protection?

Construction – No Impact

No emergency service providers are located within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project alignment or adjacent to the affected substations. Construction of the Proposed Project would not result in significant temporary increases in local population, since it would be short-term and would not include any new facilities that would require new or expanded fire protection services.

SDG&E would implement the *TL 637 Project Fire Plan* a project-specific Fire Plan (refer to Section 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and Appendix 4.7-C), which exceeds fire prevention measures as stated in California Forestry Practice Rules; PRC 4:6 and SDG&E’s own wildland fire prevention procedures. In addition, portions of the Proposed Project occurring within the Cleveland National Forest must abide by the *Cleveland National Forest Fire Plan* (refer to Section 4.7 and Appendix 4.7-B). Therefore, construction project design features and ordinary construction/operating restrictions would minimize the potential increased need for fire protection services, and would not unduly burden local fire services. No impacts to fire protection services would occur.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution, and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site, and the Proposed Project is the reconstruction of existing electric facilities within existing SDG&E ROW and Substation Property. SDG&E’s existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities are included in the baseline for evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project. Operations and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly and would not require hiring any new workers or result

in any increase in local population. The Proposed Project, once operational, will reduce the risk of fire in the area and would therefore result in a reduction in potential need for local fire protection services. Any future potential maintenance-related construction projects would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA for purposes of assessing whether further CPUC approval is required. Therefore, no adverse impacts relating to fire protection services would result.

4.12.4.3 Question 12a (ii) – Impacts to police protection?

Construction – No Impact

No emergency service providers are located within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project alignment or adjacent to the affected substations. Construction of the Proposed Project would not result in significant temporary increases in local population, since it would be short-term and would not include any new facilities that would require new or expanded police services.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not unduly burden local police services. At the completion of each work day, construction crews would lock up and secure each worksite to prevent theft or vandalism associated with work equipment or supplies. Therefore, construction would not create any need for new or expanded police service and there would be no impacts.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site, and the Proposed Project is the reconstruction of existing electric facilities within existing SDG&E ROW and substation property. SDG&E's existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities are included in the baseline for evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project. Operations and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions due to the increased reliability of the new power line components included in a typical wood to steel replacement project, the installation of fewer poles along the alignment, and the relocation of poles outside of jurisdictional features. Any future potential maintenance-related construction projects would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA for purposes of assessing whether further CPUC approval is required. As a result, there would be no impact to police protection services.

4.12.4.4 Question 12a (iii) – Impacts to schools?

Construction – No Impact

There are no schools within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project area. Barnett Elementary School is the closest school, located approximately 0.5 mile from the alignment. The Proposed Project would not affect school enrollment since construction of the Proposed Project is short-term and temporary. The duration of construction activities is sufficiently short that workers are not likely to re-locate to the local area. Thus, the Proposed Project construction work force would not be expected to generate new students for the area's schools. No new or physically altered schools would be necessary as a result of the Proposed Project and no impacts to schools would result from construction of the Proposed Project.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site, and the Proposed Project is the reconstruction of existing electric facilities within existing SDG&E ROW and substation property. SDG&E’s existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities are included in the baseline for evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project. Operations and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions due to the increased reliability of the new power line components included in a typical wood to steel replacement project, the installation of fewer poles along the alignment, and the relocation of poles outside of jurisdictional features. Any future potential maintenance-related construction projects would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA for purposes of assessing whether further CPUC approval is required. As a result, there would be no impact to schools as a result of operation and maintenance.

4.12.4.5 Question 12a (iv) – Impacts to parks?**Construction – No Impact**

The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new recreational facilities as it would not result in substantial or permanent increase in the local population. Construction activities within the preserves may be considered as an increased use of the recreational areas; however, the construction activity would be temporary in nature and would not cause substantial physical deterioration of the preserves. Because no new recreational facilities would be required and no substantial physical deterioration would occur, there would be no impacts to parks.

Additional discussion of temporary closures of portions of parks during construction of the Proposed Project is included within Section 4.13, Recreation.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site, and the Proposed Project is the reconstruction of existing electric facilities within existing SDG&E ROW and substation property. SDG&E’s existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities are included in the baseline for evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project. Operations and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions due to the increased reliability of the new power line components included in a typical wood to steel replacement project, the installation of fewer poles along the alignment, and the relocation of poles outside of jurisdictional features. Any future potential maintenance-related construction projects would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA for purposes of assessing whether further CPUC approval is required. As a result, there would be no impact to parks as a result of operation and maintenance.

4.12.4.6 Question 12a(v) – Impacts to other public facilities (hospitals)?

Construction – No Impact

No additional need for libraries or hospitals would be required as a result of construction. The Proposed Project would not increase the demand for, or alter the level of, local public services required because it would not measurably increase local population or housing needs during construction. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create a need for new hospitals or other public services and there would be no impact.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site, and the Proposed Project is the reconstruction of existing electric facilities within existing SDG&E ROW and substation property. SDG&E's existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities are included in the baseline for evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project. Operations and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions due to the increased reliability of the new power line components included in a typical wood to steel replacement project, the installation of fewer poles along the alignment, and the relocation of poles outside of jurisdictional features. Any future potential maintenance-related construction projects would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA for purposes of assessing whether further CPUC approval is required. As a result, there would be no impact to hospitals or libraries as a result of operation and maintenance.

4.12.5 Project Design Features and Ordinary Construction/Operating Restrictions

With implementation of project design features and ordinary construction and operations restrictions as outlined in Section 3.8, potential impacts relating to public services will remain less than significant.

4.12.6 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project has no potentially significant impacts relating to public services; therefore, no APMs are proposed.

4.12.7 Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts

Based upon the preceding analysis, no significant impacts relating to public services are anticipated from the Proposed Project.

4.12.8 References

Cleveland National Forest. 2012. Land Management Plan Strategy – Suitable Land Uses (Public Use and Enjoyment). Online:

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