TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

THIS PAGE IS INTENDED TO BE LEFT BLANK

4.15 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless APMs Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b.	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c.	Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? In making this determination, the City shall consider whether the project is subject to the water supply assessment requirements of Water Code Section 10910, et. Seq. (SB 610), and the requirements of Government Code Section 664737 (SB 221).	☐	☐	☑	☐
e.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☑	☐
g.	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☑

4.15.1 Introduction

This section of the PEA describes the existing conditions and potential project-related impacts to utilities and service systems. Utilities and service systems include water infrastructure and supply, wastewater, solid waste disposal, utilities (electricity and natural gas), and communications. Less than significant impacts may occur to utility and service systems (water supply), as well as to local landfill capacity from construction of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would have a positive impact on the reliability of electric utility services within the San Diego County service territory.

4.15.2 Methodology

Utilities and service systems data were obtained from searches of local government websites and other local service informational resources. Solid waste information for construction and demolition activities was provided by SDG&E.

4.15.3 Existing Conditions

4.15.3.1 Regulatory Setting

State

California Integrated Waste Management Board Solid Waste Policies, Plans and Regulations

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (PRC 40050 et seq. or AB 939, codified in PRC 40000), administered by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, requires all local and county governments to adopt a Source Reduction and Recycling Element to identify means of reducing the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. This law set reduction targets at 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. Senate Bill 1016 (2007) builds on AB 939 by implementing simplified measures of performance toward meeting solid waste reduction goals.

Local

San Diego County

Portions of the Proposed Project are located in the unincorporated communities of Ramona and Santa Ysabel as well as the San Diego Country Estates; the growth and development of these communities is generally governed by the *San Diego County General Plan*, as adopted August, 2011. With specific regard to the General Plan, the following goals and policies are potentially relevant:

> **Goal LU-4: Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination.** Coordination with the plans and activities of other agencies and tribal governments that relate to issues such as land use, community character, transportation, energy, other infrastructure, public safety, and resource conservation and management in the unincorporated County and the region.
>
> **Policy LU-4.6: Planning for Adequate Energy Facilities.** Participate in the planning of regional energy infrastructure with applicable utility providers to ensure plans are consistent with the County's General Plan and Community Plans and minimize adverse impacts to the unincorporated County.

Within the framework of the General Plan exists specific Community Plans, as well as Subregional Plans that are designed to guide the physical development of unincorporated communities, as well as clearly define the character, aesthetic, values and densities of each community. The community of Ramona and the San Diego Country Estates are both subject to the *Ramona Community Plan* as adopted in August 2011. With specific regard to the *Ramona Community Plan*, the following policy is potentially relevant:

> **Policy LU 5.1.7 –** Encourage local service district and utility companies to conform to the adopted Community Plan.

The community of Santa Ysabel is subject to both the *North Mountain Subregional Plan* and the *Central Mountain Subregional Plan*, as adopted in August 2011.

4.15.3.2 Water

Approximately two-thirds of the water sources for southern California are located in northern California. The State Water Project brings water from northern California to southern California via the California Aqueduct. The San Diego County Water Authority imports approximately 80 percent of San Diego County's water supply. Roughly 30 percent of this is supplied through the State Water Project; the Colorado Aqueduct, operated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supplies the remaining 50 percent of San Diego County's imported water supply. The County relies on local sources and conservation methods to supply 20 percent of its water supply. The Proposed Project is located within portions of the unincorporated community of Ramona and the San Diego Country Estates, both serviced by the RMWD, and the unincorporated community of Santa Ysabel, which is serviced by the Wynola Water District.

4.15.3.3 Sewer

The majority of sewage treatment and disposal in unincorporated San Diego County is handled either by regional systems maintained by public water or sewer districts, small wastewater treatment facilities operated by independent districts or the County, or on-site underground sewage disposal systems (septic tanks). The RMWD provides sewer services within four sewer service boundary areas accounting for approximately 90 percent of the Ramona Community Planning Area. The unincorporated community of Ramona lies within the Activated Sewer Powers Area, and the San Diego Country Estates lies within the San Vicente Sewer Service Area. The unincorporated community of Santa Ysabel is not located within the service territory of any public or private sewer districts, and utilizes septic systems for sewage storage.

4.15.3.4 Solid Waste

There are seven active landfills in San Diego County that serve both incorporated and unincorporated communities. It is estimated that there is sufficient landfill capacity for thirty years considering current landfill expansions, and proposed new landfills. Otay Landfill (Solid Waste Information System [SWIS] No. 37-AA-0010), is a private facility with permitted capacity of 61,154,000 cubic yards a year. The Otay Landfill has approximately 24,514,000 cubic yards of capacity remaining as of November 2012, and is expected to be active until the year 2028; Otay Landfill is expected to be the primary receiver of solid waste generated by the Proposed Project.

4.15.3.5 Utilities

SDG&E provides both gas and electric utilities to the communities of Ramona, San Diego Country Estates (census-designated place), and Santa Ysabel. SDG&E provides energy service to 3.4 million people through 1.4 million electric meters and 850,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties, with a service territory spanning approximately 4,100 square miles.

4.15.3.6 Communications

Communications services are provided by numerous providers in unincorporated San Diego County, including Time Warner Cable and Cox Communications. These companies offer telephone and internet services in San Diego County.

4.15.4 Potential Impacts

4.15.4.1 Significance Criteria

Thresholds of impact significance were derived from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Under these guidelines, the assessment of the Proposed Project should look to whether the Proposed Project would:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB;

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed;

e) Result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; or

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

4.15.4.2 Question 15a – Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?

Construction – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project and would not generate additional wastewater, require any alteration of existing sewer systems or septic tanks, or affect wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impacts to wastewater treatment requirements would occur. The proposed scope of work for the construction phase requires minimal volumes of water for the purpose of mixing grout for use in micropile foundation installation at approximately 87 pole installation sites. The water used for this purpose becomes incorporated into the grout/cement mixture and is not discharged as a wastewater byproduct.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project with the purpose of upgrading power line reliability, as well as minimizing maintenance efforts in the future. 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, operations and maintenance activities constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and activities for the Proposed Project would decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions, and current operations do not exceed the RWQCB's wastewater treatment requirements. Therefore the Proposed Project's operations and maintenance would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the San Diego RWQCB. Furthermore, future operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing any future impacts relating to wastewater treatment requirements.

4.15.4.3 Question 15b – Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Construction – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project and would not generate a demand for water services, nor does the Proposed Project generate a demand for wastewater facilities and services. Although water would be utilized during construction of the Proposed Project in order to control dust on access roads, and to prepare grout for micropile foundations, this demand would not require or result in the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. No new landscaping or irrigation is proposed. There would not be any need for new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities because the construction water needs would be minimal and temporary; therefore, no impact 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 operations and maintenance activities constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated. Upon completion of construction activities, TL 637 will operate unmanned, with minimal maintenance efforts required (slightly less than existing, baseline conditions). Included in the scope of work for the Proposed Project is the replacement of existing porcelain insulators with standardized polymer insulators which will reduce maintenance activities as well as reduce water volume usage as the newly installed polymer insulators do not require annual washing. The volume of water required for the operation of the line would be materially less than is required under existing conditions, and therefore no new wastewater treatment would be required due to operation. Any future operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential impacts relating to new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.4.4 Question 15c – Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Construction – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project and will not generate a substantial amount of additional stormwater runoff because the amount of impervious area will not be substantially altered. The Proposed Project would not result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities; therefore, there would be no impacts to stormwater drainage facilities. The Proposed Project is required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit through the SWRCB. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a SWPPP. SDG&E has prepared a SWPPP, which is subject to approval by the San Diego RWQCB Region 9. The Proposed Project will not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project area, 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 constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and 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. Therefore, operations and maintenance activities would not require construction of new or expanded water or wastewater facilities. The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project and will not generate a substantial amount of additional stormwater runoff because the amount of impervious area will not be substantially altered. Any future operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential future impacts relating to stormwater drainage facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.4.5 Question 15d – Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

Construction – Less Than Significant Impact

Water is anticipated to be the primary means for dust control during construction of the Proposed Project. Water would be brought to the site in trucks specially equipped to allow for the dispersal of water onto unpaved disturbed areas where road re-establishment or routine movement of construction vehicles occurs. It is estimated that approximately 2,250,000 gallons of water could be used for dust control over the duration of construction. The proposed scope of work for the construction phase also requires minimal volumes of water for the purpose of mixing grout for use in micropile foundation installation at 87 pole installation sites. Water used

during construction of the Proposed Project will be acquired by the construction contractors from existing local water sources. It is anticipated that water used during construction could come from either local private land owners or local municipal sources, such as the RMWD. It is anticipated that the Proposed Project will be sufficiently served by existing local water resources and will not cause need for new or expanded entitlements or other water supply resources. Therefore, impacts to water supply will be minimal and less than significant.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project that involves the replacement or enhancement of existing facilities and would not result in expanded development. SDG&E's existing facilities and operations and maintenance activities constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and 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. There would not be an increase in water demand that warrants expanding existing entitlements. Any future operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential impacts to water supply. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.4.6 Question 15e – Result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Construction – No Impact

The Proposed Project is an unmanned utility project, and wastewater generation during construction is not anticipated to require direct support from the local waste water treatment system. Construction activities will be served by portable sanitary systems which will not be connected to the local waste water system. Stormwater runoff during construction activities will be managed through compliance with the SWPPP and would not require additional commitment from the local waste water provider. Therefore, no impacts to wastewater treatment providers are anticipated.

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 constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and 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. Therefore, current wastewater treatment provider commitments are not anticipated to be altered as a result of the Proposed Project. Any future operations and maintenance construction

activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential impacts to waste water service. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.4.7 Question 15f – Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Construction – Less Than Significant Impact

During construction activities, some waste would be generated due to pole removal activities as well as due to general construction activities (i.e. personal waste generated by workers and personnel). Table 4.15-1, Capacity of Landfills Serving the Proposed Project, outlines data for landfill capacity for likely landfills that could serve the Proposed Project. SDG&E would arrange profiling and disposal of solid waste as a result of pole removal and construction. If SDG&E qualified environmental staff determines that the material is nonhazardous and qualifies as non-impacted, the contractor would handle the waste in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and dispose of the waste for recycling or permanent disposal at a nearby licensed landfill. Treated wood products and all conductors, insulators, and other pole hardware would be recycled or disposed of as appropriate. The conductors, hardware, and insulators would be sent to a metal recycler. Excess soil from excavation of trenches or new pole installations may also be transported to a local recycling or appropriately permitted waste disposal facility if the soil is not re-used onsite or otherwise recycled (refer to Section 3.4). Note that excess soil will be re-used onsite wherever possible and only transported offsite as the final option. SDG&E is typically able to re-use soil on site during wood-to-steel projects, like the Proposed Project, where extensive grading and excavation is not required.

Table 4.15-1: Capacity of Landfills Serving the Proposed Project

Facility	Total Capacity (million cubic yards)	Remaining Capacity (million cubic yards)	Maximum Permitted Throughput (tons/day)
Landfill Class III			
Otay Landfill	61.1	24.5	5,830
Total	**61.1**	**24.5**	**5,830**
Landfill Class I, II			
Kettleman Hill-B18 Nonhaz Codisposal	10.7	6.0	8,000
Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC	14.3	Not Available[1]	10,482
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**

Notes:
[1] Although the remaining capacity is not provided for the Clean Harbors Buttonwillow LLC, its closure date is anticipated to be January 2040, and therefore, it is assumed that there is remaining capacity at the Clean Harbors Buttonwillow LLC facility.
Source: CalRecycle. 2012. SWIS. Online: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/SearchList/List Site visited November 12, 2012.

Some treated wood products may not be recyclable, and such wood products would be disposed appropriately at a licensed landfill in accordance with local, State and Federal regulations. A likely recipient for material that cannot be recycled is the Otay Landfill (SWIS No. 37-AA-0010), a private facility with permitted capacity of 61,154,000 cubic yards (refer to Table 4.15-1, Capacity of Landfills Serving the Proposed Project). The Otay Landfill has approximately 24,514,904 cubic yards of capacity remaining as of March 2012, and is expected to be active until the year 2028. This landfill has adequate capacity to handle the minimal amount of unrecyclable waste that may be generated by Proposed Project construction. Ordinary construction restrictions have been incorporated into the Proposed Project (refer to Section 3.8); as a result, any associated impacts to landfills would be less than significant.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

Once operational, the Proposed Project will not routinely generate waste, and waste generation would not differ substantially from current conditions. SDG&E's existing facilities, operations and maintenance activities constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and activities 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 operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential impacts to solid waste capacity. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.4.8 Question 15g – Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Construction – No Impact

As analyzed in response to Question 15f, solid waste produced during construction would be recycled or disposed of a nearby licensed facility, such as the Otay Landfill. Management and disposal of solid waste would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

SDG&E currently maintains and operates existing electric power, distribution and substation facilities throughout the Proposed Project site. SDG&E's existing operations and maintenance activities constitute the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Project are evaluated, and the solid waste being generated as part of the Proposed Project would not materially increase in frequency or intensity, and overall operations and maintenance activities are anticipated to decrease slightly compared to baseline conditions. Any future operations and maintenance construction activities would be evaluated under G.O. 131-D and CEQA, as applicable, for purposes of assessing potential impacts relating to solid waste regulations. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.15.5 Project Design Features and Ordinary Construction/Operating Restrictions

Waste generated during construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project will be handled and disposed of according to all applicable local, state, and federal regulations as well as

SDG&E ordinary construction and operating restrictions (refer to Section 3.8). Adherence to applicable solid waste regulations and implementation of SDG&E ordinary construction and operating restrictions for solid waste handling will ensure that any potential impacts relating to solid waste are less than significant.

4.15.6 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project has no potentially significant impacts relating to utilities and service systems; therefore, no APMs are proposed.

4.15.7 Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts

Based on the preceding analysis, no significant impacts relating to utilities and service systems are anticipated from the Proposed Project.

4.15.8 References

CalRecycle. 2012. *Solid Waste Information System (SWIS).* Online: *http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/SearchList/List*. Site visited November 14, 2012.

San Diego County. 2011. *General Plan*. Online: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/generalplan.html

San Diego County Department of Public Works. 2012. Online: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/engineer/wasteh2o.html Site visited November 2012.

San Diego County. 2011. *General Plan Update Ramona Community Plan.* Online: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/docs/CP/Ramona_CP.pdf. Site visited December 11, 2012.

San Diego County Water Authority. 2012. Online: http://www.sdcwa.org/san-diego-county-water-sources Site visited November 2012.