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4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Proposed Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation 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 storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities (the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects)?				✓
d) Have sufficient water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed?			✓	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?				✓

4.17.0 Introduction

This section describes local utility services and infrastructure—including potable water, water drainage, electricity, cable and telephone, sewer, and solid waste services—in the vicinity of the proposed San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) TL674A Reconfiguration & TL666D Removal Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project will not require the use of public

utilities during construction or operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, with the exception of minimal water use during construction activities to control dust on non-paved portions of the Proposed Project area. The Proposed Project will generate a limited amount of solid waste during construction, which will ultimately be transported to nearby licensed landfill. Areas disturbed during grading will be restored to their original contours, and the surrounding area will be repaired, as appropriate. Therefore, the Proposed Project will result in less-than-significant impacts to utilities and service systems.

4.17.1 Methodology

Information regarding local utilities was obtained from the City of San Diego's General Plan and Urban Water Management Plan, as well as the City of Del Mar's website. Internet searches were also conducted to gather information regarding utility service providers in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

4.17.2 Existing Conditions

Regulatory Background

Federal

No federal regulatory requirements related to utilities and service systems are relevant to the assessment of Proposed Project impacts.

State

California Integrated Waste Management Board

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Public Resources Code [PRC] 40050 et seq.), 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 Assembly Bill 939 by implementing simplified measures of performance toward meeting solid waste reduction goals.

Local

The Proposed Project is not subject to local discretionary regulations because the California Public Utilities Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting, design, and construction of the Proposed Project. The following analysis of local regulations relating to utilities and service systems is provided for informational purposes.

City of San Diego General Plan

The City of San Diego's 2008 General Plan and General Plan Amendments were reviewed for utility and service systems policies that are relevant to the Proposed Project. None were identified within these plans.

Community Plan for the City of Del Mar.

Following the review of the Community Plan for the City of Del Mar, as well as its amendments and resolution, no utility and service system policies that are relevant to the Proposed Project were identified.

Potable Water

Water service within the City of San Diego and the City of Del Mar is provided by each city's public utilities department through a purchase agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)—a wholesale water agency that provides imported water to its 24 member agencies. In turn, the SDCWA purchases the majority of its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which is comprised of 26 cities and water agencies serving approximately 18 million people in six counties. The MWD imports water from two primary sources—from the Colorado River via the MWD's Colorado Aqueduct and from Northern California via the State Water Project (SWP). Water is delivered to Southern California by way of the MWD's approximately 242-mile-long aqueduct, which transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to MWD's service area. In addition, water from Northern California is delivered to Southern California through an approximately 444-mile-long aqueduct. The water is captured in reservoirs north of Sacramento and released through natural rivers and streams into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The MWD then blends the Colorado River and SWP water at a facility in Riverside County and transfers the untreated water via pipelines operated by MWD and SDCWA to storage facilities and treatment plants owned and operated by the SDCWA member agencies. The City of San Diego owns and operates three waste water facilities—the Miramar Water Treatment Plant, the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant, and the Otay Water Treatment Plant. The City of Del Mar obtains its treated water from the City of San Diego's Miramar Water Treatment Plant.

Although the City of San Diego and the City of Del Mar continue to rely heavily on imported water procured from the SDCWA, the City of San Diego has invested in local water supply projects to increase the supply of local water from surface and groundwater sources. The City of San Diego derives local surface water supplies from a series of nine city-owned and operated reservoirs,¹ eight of which are connected directly or indirectly to the city's three water treatment facilities. Of the city of San Diego's nine reservoirs, seven provide a continuous local water supply to the city, while the remaining two reservoirs are intended for emergency use only.

Local groundwater supplies are currently extracted from Santree-El Monte Basin via the San Vicente Production Well. Water pumped from the well is conveyed to the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant before it is distributed to SDCWA's member customers. Section 4.9 Hydrology and Water Quality provides additional discussion of groundwater resources in the San Diego region.

¹ The nine reservoirs have a total capacity of 561,281 acre-feet.

Water Drainage Facilities

In the City of San Diego and the City of Del Mar, storm water is conveyed through a system of pipes and channels that lead to a network of creeks, streams, and rivers, where the untreated storm water is eventually discharged into the ocean. In an effort to reduce coastal pollution, the City of San Diego has installed several interceptors that route dry weather runoff into the city's sewer system.

Electricity

Electricity in the City of San Diego and the City of Del Mar is provided by SDG&E.

Cable and Telephone

AT&T provides telephone, video/cable, and Internet services to residents within the Proposed Project area. Cox Communications and Time Warner Cable also provide cable, broadband, and phone services.

Sewer

The Metropolitan Wastewater System provides sewer services to the City of San Diego and the City of Del Mar, along with 14 other cities and districts over an approximately 450-square-mile area with a population of over 2.2 million. An average of 180 million gallons of wastewater is treated daily. Wastewater is conveyed through approximately 2,987 miles of collection pipelines and 83 pump stations to the North City Water Reclamation Plant, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant. Treated effluent is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through two ocean outfalls. Solids from the wastewater treatment plants are processed at the Metro Biosolids Center located at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Solid Waste

Non-recyclable solid waste disposal in the City of San Diego is accommodated by the Miramar Landfill, which is a city-operated landfill. The Miramar Landfill is the City of San Diego's only active landfill and is located north of State Route 52 at 5180 Convoy Street. The Miramar Landfill accommodates approximately 910,000 tons of waste per year and is expected to reach capacity by the year 2022. The landfill is owned and operated by the City of San Diego, which also provides solid waste curbside pick-up services within city limits. Currently, only two other landfills provide disposal capacity within the urbanized region—Allied Waste's Sycamore and Otay landfills.

The City of Del Mar holds an exclusive franchise with Coast Waste Management for waste hauling services. Non-recyclable solid waste is transported to the Miramar Landfill or another approved landfill in San Diego County. Before being deposited into a landfill, waste may be temporarily held in several transfer or processing stations located throughout San Diego County.

4.17.3 Impacts

Significance Criteria

Potential impacts to public utilities and service systems were determined in accordance with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. Impacts to public utilities and service systems will be considered significant if the Proposed Project:

- Exceeds wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- Requires or results in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities
- Requires or results in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities
- Results in the need for a new or expanded water supply
- Results in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Proposed Project's projected demand
- Results in inadequate access to a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs
- Causes a breach of national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste

In addition to the guidelines specified in Appendix G, the Proposed Project will have significant adverse impacts to public utilities and service systems if it results in the disruption of existing utility systems.

Question 4.17a – Wastewater Treatment Requirement Exceedances

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

Construction of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. Portable toilets will be provided for on-site use by construction workers and will be maintained by a licensed sanitation contractor. Portable toilets will be used in accordance with applicable sanitation regulations established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which generally requires one portable toilet for every 10 workers. The licensed contractor will dispose of the waste at an off-site location and in compliance with standards established by the RWQCB.

The Proposed Project will involve the construction of underground duct banks. Due to the proximity of the Proposed Project to the coast and to various inundated surfaces (i.e., lagoons), it is possible that groundwater will be encountered during trenching activities. In the event that groundwater is encountered, dewatering may be necessary. A submersible pump will be installed to pump the water to a desiltation tank (i.e., a Baker tank) and tested to ensure compliance with the RWQCB National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. If the water quality does not meet permit requirements, additional Baker tanks will be used, and/or additional treatment or filtering will be performed until the applicable requirements are met. Following testing and compliance with the applicable permit requirements, the water will be disposed of at the Miramar Water Treatment Plant or, if approved by the RWQCB, be discharged onsite up to 5,000 gallons per day. As a result, the Proposed Project will not exceed wastewater treatment requirements, and impacts will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

O&M activities for the Proposed Project will be continue to be conducted in the same manner as they have been prior to construction of the Proposed Project. As described in Chapter 3 – Project Description, the proposed underground duct banks within Via De La Valle will be installed parallel to existing facilities where O&M activities are currently being conducted. The removal of an approximately six-mile segment of TL666D will eliminate all future O&M activities associated with these facilities. The conversion of C510 and C738 will eliminate O&M requirements associated with approximately 4,530 feet of existing overhead distribution line. Although these conversions will introduce approximately 4,230 feet of new underground duct bank, SDG&E currently owns and operates existing underground distribution facilities in the vicinity of these Proposed Project components. Based on the removal of existing overhead facilities and the installation of Proposed Project components in areas already covered by existing O&M activities, post-construction O&M requirements in the Proposed Project construction area will be reduced. Long-term O&M of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. No sanitation facilities that require waste treatment will be constructed on site. Thus, no impact will result.

Question 4.17b – Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

Construction – No Impact

As described in Section 4.3 Air Quality, water will be applied to non-paved portions of the Proposed Project area as needed to control dust. Because this water will be dispersed on site and will either evaporate or be absorbed into the ground, no wastewater is anticipated. In addition, portable restrooms will be used and maintained during construction and removed after the completion of the Proposed Project. Construction of the Proposed Project will not require additional capacity to existing municipal water or wastewater treatment systems; therefore, the Proposed Project will have no impact on these systems.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described in response to Question 4.17a, O&M activities will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project due to the TL666D removal. The new underground facilities will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the existing, adjacent facilities. Long-term O&M of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. No sanitation facilities that require waste treatment will be constructed on site. Thus, no impact will result.

Question 4.17c – Stormwater Drainage Facilities

Construction – No Impact

As discussed in response to Question 4.17a, dewatering may be necessary if groundwater is encountered during Proposed Project trenching activities. In the event that dewatering is necessary, water will be disposed of at an approved SDG&E disposal site. Therefore, construction-related activities will not change or require the construction of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Thus, no impact will result.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described in response to Question 4.17a, O&M activities will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project due to the TL666D removal. The new underground facilities will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the existing, adjacent facilities. O&M activities for the Proposed Project will be conducted in the same manner as they were prior to construction of the Proposed Project. Following completion of the Proposed Project, no changes to storm water runoff will occur. The Proposed Project will not expand impervious surfaces that will increase storm water runoff. Because there will not be a significant increase in impervious areas or corresponding runoff, no impacts to storm water drainage facilities will result.

Question 4.17d – Water Supply Availability***Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact***

Minimal water will be required during construction activities to control dust on non-paved portions of the Proposed Project area. Water will be brought to the site in trucks that are specially equipped to allow for the dispersal of water. Approximately 706,830 gallons of water will be required for these activities. Water for the trucks will be obtained from municipal water sources. The City of San Diego has approximately 78 billion gallons of water available in its water supply during a normal year; therefore, a sufficient water supply is available to meet water demands for construction needs. Due to recent drought conditions in Southern California, the availability of potable water for use in dust control at the time of construction is unknown. Depending on the reemergence of drought conditions between now and the anticipated start of construction in 2019, new mandates may be in place that restrict or limit the use of potable water for construction uses. However, due to the minimal volume of water required for dust control during construction of the Proposed Project, it is unlikely that new entitlements will be required. Furthermore, the demand for water will be temporary and short term, lasting approximately 12 months. Therefore, impacts to water supply availability will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described in response to Question 4.17a, O&M activities will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project due to the TL666D removal. The new underground facilities will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the existing, adjacent facilities. The existing O&M activities associated with these facilities currently involve minimal water use. Following construction of the Proposed Project, this water use will be eliminated; therefore, the total water needs for O&M will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project. As a result, no impact will occur.

Question 4.17e – Wastewater Treatment Capacity – No Impact

As previously discussed in the responses to Questions 4.17a and 4.17b, construction and O&M of the Proposed Project will not generate wastewater. As a result, wastewater treatment requirements will not increase as a result of the Proposed Project, and there will be no impact.

Question 4.17f – Landfill Capacity

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

The Proposed Project will generate a limited amount of solid waste during construction (i.e., refuse, spoils, trash, poles, etc.). Construction activities will also include the removal and disposal of treated wood poles. Treated wood poles will be disposed of at the Miramar Landfill, which is the closest hazardous waste facility to the Proposed Project. All other waste will ultimately be transported to the Miramar Landfill, Sycamore Landfill, or Otay Landfill and disposed of properly and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding solid and hazardous waste disposal. The Miramar Landfill has sufficient capacity to accommodate the amount of waste anticipated to be generated during construction. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described in response to Question 4.17a, O&M activities will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project due to the TL666D removal. The new underground facilities will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the existing, adjacent facilities. O&M of the Proposed Project will generate a minimal amount of solid waste and will be disposed of at an approved landfill. As a result, no impact will occur.

Question 4.17g – Solid Waste Statutes and Regulations

Construction – No Impact

As previously discussed in the response to Question 4.17f, solid waste produced during construction will be disposed of at a nearby licensed landfill. Management and disposal of solid waste will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Thus, the Proposed Project will not violate any solid waste statutes or regulations, and there will be no impact.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

As described in response to Question 4.17a, O&M activities will be reduced as part of the Proposed Project due to the TL666D removal. The new underground facilities will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the existing, adjacent facilities. Handling and disposal of all waste products associated with O&M activities will continue to comply with all applicable statutes and regulations. Therefore, no impact will occur.

4.17.4 Applicant-Proposed Measures

Because no potentially significant impacts on utilities and service systems will result from the Proposed Project, no applicant-proposed measures are provided.

4.17.5 References

City of Del Mar. 2015. Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. Online.
<http://www.delmar.ca.us/CCR2015>. Site visited November 4, 2016.

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