



City of Del Mar



June 5, 2017

San Diego Gas & Electric
Attn: Mary Turley
8330 Century Park Court CP11B
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: TL674 Del Mar Reconfigure and TL666 Removal

Dear Ms. Turley,

Thank you for the briefing that you provided to the City of Del Mar on the TL674 Del Mar Reconfiguration and the TL666 Removal project on March 7, 2017 and to the Del Mar San Dieguito Lagoon Committee on May 17, 2017. The City appreciates SDG&E including us early in the project to ensure that the City's concerns are addressed.

This particular project is of interest to the City of Del Mar. The current line, TL666, runs through the City boundaries and through the San Dieguito Lagoon, which is an environmentally sensitive habitat.

Our understanding is that by reconfiguring TL674, SDG&E will be able to remove the transmission lines from TL666 from service along the route. It will furthermore remove poles from the San Dieguito Lagoon and underground the distribution lines that are in the Lagoon to an adjacent location. This will in turn eliminate the need for ongoing operations and maintenance work in environmentally sensitive areas.

The City of Del Mar supports the Reconfiguration of TL 674 which will allow for the removal of overhead TL 666 transmission lines located within the City boundaries. The Del Mar San Dieguito Lagoon Committee has provided additional support and the following comments and recommendations:

"We are in full support of the project. For more than a decade, we have been actively engaged to have the utility poles across the lagoon removed and the transmission and distribution lines undergrounded."

"Although we support the project, we provide the comments below for your consideration."



"The major concern of our Committee is that the poles along San Dieguito Drive will only be 'topped' and not removed. The Committee does not want the transmission lines at the top of the poles removed and undergrounded, and then the poles topped, leaving the distribution lines and third party cable company lines on the remainder of the poles. The transmission, distribution, and third party lines should all be undergrounded and the entire pole cut and removed."

"The Del Mar San Dieguito Lagoon Committee supports the removal of all transmission and distribution poles along San Dieguito Drive, and undergrounding of all lines on the south side of San Dieguito Drive in order to: (1) take advantage of the undergrounding that is planned to reduce the overall costs of removing and undergrounding the lines in stages, (2) reduce the long term cost to rate payers of maintaining these poles, (3) facilitate the opening of new trail along San Dieguito Drive, (4) preserve the aesthetic and environmental goals of the adjacent River Path Del Mar Trail Extension and restoration, and (5) to protect the substantial investment SDG&E's ratepayers' have made in the San Dieguito Lagoon restoration and the River Path Del Mar Trail Extension. The San Dieguito Lagoon and Del Mar River Trail are part of a regional park/preserve that benefits everyone in San Diego County."

"The City of Del Mar has developed a concept plan to extend the River Path Del Mar from the Grand Avenue Pier Overlook east to Crest Canyon, joining these two trails. The plan calls for the proposed trail to run along the north side of San Dieguito Drive. Any undergrounding along the north side of the road could impact the proposed trail, and the undergrounding should be aligned to the south side of San Dieguito Drive. The concept plan also calls for San Dieguito Drive to be shifted to the south to accommodate the trail. The roadway will likely be shifted to where the poles are located. The removal of the poles along San Dieguito Drive will facilitate the proposed new trail extension, and the retention of the poles could impede the new trail. A portion of the funds for the new trail have already been raised, and active fund-raising is continuing. The proposed trail extension will provide greater access to the lagoon trail system and other public lagoon amenities, and provide improved and safer pedestrian access to this regional park."

"One year ago the River Path Del Mar Trail Extension from Jimmy Durante Blvd. to the Grand Avenue Pier Overlook was completed and opened to the public. The restored area is bordered on the south by San Dieguito Drive and is adjacent to the existing utility poles and lines. As part of the River Path Del Mar Trail Extension and restoration project, approximately 10 tall, mature and healthy trees that formed a barrier along the north side of San Dieguito Drive were removed unveiling the unsightly utility poles and lines, undermining the aesthetic integrity of the River Path Trail and restoration project"

"The project cost approximately \$500,000. There were many stakeholders in the project, including Southern California Edison and SDG&E. All stakeholders share the goal of preserving the aesthetic quality and environmental importance of the restored area, the trail system, and picnic tables and other amenities for the benefit of and use by the public. The presence of the utility poles runs counter to these goals."

We look forward to being updated by SDG&E on the project status as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Terry Sinnott
Mayor



Ellen Haviland
City Councilmember