

Response to Comment Letter O2

San Diego Gas & Electric

- O2-1** The comment is an introduction to the attached comment letter regarding the Draft EIR for the Proposed Project. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- O2-2** The commenter thanks for the County for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR and states that San Diego Gas & Electric Company (“SDG&E”) believes the County has prepared a thorough document that analyzes the potential environmental impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The commenter further states that SDG&E asks that the County consider the following comments and suggestions. In response, this comment is an introductory statement to further comments below. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- O2-3** The commenter states that “all work within the SDG&E right-of-way (ROW), including easements and facilities will be subject to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) jurisdiction, and consequently would not be subject to County jurisdiction or the requirements of the Major Use Permit issued by the County.” The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- O2-4** This comment states that “as required by CEQA, the EIR shall address all potential impacts to environmental resources, both temporary and permanent, and shall be sufficient to secure all required mitigation related to the Project, including but not limited to the Project components either constructed or ultimately owned by SDG&E.” In response, impacts associated with all Project components, including components that will be transferred to SDG&E, are adequately analyzed in the Draft EIR. This includes the switchyard and tie-in to the existing SDG&E 138kV transmission line and their construction. The Final EIR has been updated to refer to Switchyard Facilities throughout.
- O2-5** The commenter states that the “landscaping, revegetation and/or habitat enhancement plans for the Project shall not inhibit SDG&E’s access to its facilities for purposes including, but not limited to, construction upgrades, repair, operation or maintenance.” In response, mitigation measure **M-AE-5** requires the installation of landscaping on the outside of the security fencing in specified areas, as shown in Figure 1-3 of the Draft EIR. No landscaping is proposed adjacent to the switchyard. Further, the Project will provide a 100-foot wide fuel modification zone around the

Volume II – Organization Responses to Comments

- switchyard. The comment does not raise concerns related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is required.
- O2-6** The commenter states that “all Project mitigation measures must be placed outside of SDG&E rights-of-way (including any future rights-of-way), access roads, and maintenance pads.” In response, the Proposed Project’s mitigation measures, including landscaping and biological open space easements, would not be placed within the switchyard or tie-in. Thus, the mitigation measures are not anticipated to affect SDG&E’s rights-of-way, access roads, and maintenance pads.
- O2-7** The commenter states that page 2.8-11 in the Mineral Resources sections of the Draft EIR includes text that lends itself to potentially conflicting readings. The commenter requests the following revision be made to the first paragraph on page 2.8-11: “Therefore, it is conservatively assumed that 188 acres of open space easement and the ~~3.2-acre switchyard~~ Switchyard Facilities, when considered together, could create a significant impact with respect to the permanent loss of minable, processable, and marketable mineral resources underlying those portions of the Project site, which in combination exceed the County’s minimum value threshold.” In response, the requested text revision has been made in the Final EIR.