

**ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION
PROPOSED EASEMENT FOR NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) FOR ELECTRIC
FACILITIES TO SERVE THE TRIBAL MEMBERS WITHIN THE PALA
INDIAN RESERVATION
(TRIBAL TRACT T-1019, PALA ALLOTMENT #583-86B)
eTS No. 5659102, SR No. 475660, Project No. 3-308834; Job Notification No.
3-346690**

**Pala Indian Reservation
Pala, CA
March 13, 2024**

Prepared by: Katie Basinski, Environmental Services, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E)

Introduction: SDG&E proposes to obtain an easement for a new Right-Of-Way (ROW) to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric facilities to serve tribal members within the Pala Indian Reservation, BIA Tribal Tract T-1019 and Pala Allotment #583-86B. The requested easement includes a new overhead ROW and a new underground ROW for existing electric facilities¹. The requested overhead easement would be 12 feet wide, approximately 0.31 mile long, and include 10 poles and other associated facilities. The requested underground easement would be 10 feet wide and approximately 0.03 mile long. Additionally, the requested ROW would expressly provide SDG&E the right to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, and remove communications equipment and overhead or underground appurtenances used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications. The term of the easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate it per 25 C.F.R. Part 169.

Location: Pala Mission Road, Pala, California, BIA Tribal Tract T-1019 and Pala Allotment #583-86B (see Attachment 1).

Affected Environment: The project area consists of the 12-foot and 10-foot wide easement areas, the location of which are shown on Attachment 3. The project area is primarily located along the disturbed shoulder of Highway 76 with Pole Number P245561 located approximately 70 feet south of the highway within a partially disturbed, grassy area (see photographs in Attachments 2a – 2e). Soils are classified as Fallbrook sandy loam with 9 to 30 percent slopes, riverwash, Tujunga sand with 0 to 5 percent

¹ The existing electric facilities were found to be without an existing ROW; therefore, a new easement for a ROW is being requested. Since the poles, overhead conductor, and underground line have already been installed, this analysis focuses on future operations and maintenance activities that may be required to own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric and communication facilities.

slopes, and Visalia gravelly sandy loam with 2 to 5 percent slopes (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2023), and the geologic unit includes Older alluvium, lake, playa, and terrace deposits (Qoa, California Geological Survey 2015). The project area is within the Peninsular ranges province from approximately 380 to 400 feet elevation, surrounded by chaparral hills. Pala Creek is located approximately 120 feet west of P245561 (Regional Water Quality Control Board 2023).

SDG&E acquired an Official Species List from the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USDOI-FWS) via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website (Attachment 5). Official species lists include any threatened, endangered, or candidate species managed by the USDOI-FWS with the potential to occur within a project area based on the known or expected range of each species. As discussed in Attachment 5, the species listed in the IPaC lack suitable habitat within the project area and all but the arroyo toad have no potential to occur. Alluvial scrub habitat 50 feet west of pole P245561 could provide suitable foraging habitat for arroyo toad. However, the area lacks suitable breeding habitat and there is a low potential for the arroyo toad to occur near the work area.

Project Objectives: SDG&E is requesting a new overhead and underground easement to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove existing electric facilities. The proposed ROW would also expressly provide SDG&E the right to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, and remove communication facilities and overhead appurtenances used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications.

Alternatives:

1. Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative) — Under the No Action Alternative, the BIA would not grant SDG&E's request for an easement for a new ROW that is required to install, operate, and maintain the electric facilities to serve tribal members. Without approval of the new easement for a new ROW by the BIA, SDG&E could not operate and maintain the existing electric facilities, which would leave tribal members without electric service. Instead, other new facilities and an easement would be required to provide electric service, potentially in areas that have not been previously disturbed.
2. Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) — The Preferred Alternative is to grant SDG&E the requested easement for a new ROW, which would allow SDG&E to install, own, operate, and maintain the existing electric facilities within the Pala Indian Reservation. The requested easement would include the following 10 existing poles: P245561, P214202, P110060, P110061, P110062, P110063, P110064, P112723J, P515853, and P713093 (Attachment 3). Additionally, SDG&E would install communications facilities on these poles. The communications facilities would be used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications. SDG&E communications facilities improve service reliability by, among other things, providing remote switching capabilities that

help restore service to customers faster and allow SDG&E to isolate faults and transfer customers to other circuits before the arrival of field crews. Certain communications facilities are also valuable tools for gathering information such as voltage, current, power factor, etc. to inform SDG&E system planning. The Preferred Alternative would allow SDG&E to own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric facilities and structures in perpetuity, unless terminated by the Tribe per 25 C.F.R. Part 169.

SDG&E would be responsible for construction activities associated with the addition of communications equipment to the poles. The communications equipment is relatively small and is attached via brackets or a similar device to the pole. The pole top work would be done by rubber-tired vehicles and bucket-truck lifts. The vehicles would access P245561 from Highway 76, driving approximately 70 feet along partially disturbed, dry grassy land. All other poles would be accessed from Highway 76. No work areas would be required and no excavation, grading, grubbing, or other ground disturbing activities are anticipated.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities are those related to the control and upkeep of existing SDG&E facilities, including but not limited to routine, preventive, scheduled, and unscheduled actions aimed at preventing equipment failure or decline with the goal of maintaining or increasing efficiency, reliability, and safety. O&M activities include inspecting, monitoring, and testing existing equipment; operating valves and switches; repairing and replacing existing facilities, structures, wires, and access roads; increasing the height above ground or the depth below ground of facilities; replacing overhead lines with buried underground lines; and vegetation management, including tree removal and pruning. The easement also includes the right of SDG&E to ingress and egress to, from, along, and within the easement by a practical route or routes in, upon, over, and across the Pala Indian Reservation. The easement would also require the easement area to be kept clear of structures, including but not limited to buildings, explosives, brush, combustibles and materials, and allows the construction and maintenance of roads as are necessary and appropriate.

SDG&E regularly inspects facilities, including those part of the Preferred Alternative, to determine O&M requirements. If O&M requirements are identified during inspections, SDG&E crews or contractors conduct the required maintenance activities. This typically includes utilizing a five-person crew consisting of an aerial lift and two to three four-wheel-drive crew trucks. Pole P245561 would be accessed as described above and the remaining nine poles would be accessed from Highway 76. The potential O&M activities include, but are not limited to, equipment repair and replacement, such as conductors (wires) and insulators, poles and crossarms, communications equipment, vegetation management, such as tree trimming or removing flammable materials, transmission road regrading and erosional repairs, and driving vehicles to and

from existing poles and facilities. Work areas would be located within the Highway 76 ROW.

Vegetation management plays a critical role in maintaining reliable and safe gas and electric service throughout the region. Vegetation is managed within and adjacent to all SDG&E facilities including but not limited to overhead electric lines, substations and regulators, access roads, drainage structures, areas around transformers, and buildings. Vegetation is controlled to facilitate the construction and use of roads, allow inspection and maintenance of infrastructure and facilities, expose hazards such as ruts to drivers, eliminate noxious weeds, prevent fires, and provide safe working areas.

SDG&E conducts ongoing vegetation removal and management around electric and gas infrastructure to comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Orders, California Public Resources Code Section 4292, and other applicable laws relating to fire prevention or control. These fire control measures can aid in the prevention of fire caused by arcing and can protect the facilities from failure due to a fire in a surrounding area.

All O&M activities on BIA-regulated lands are conducted in accordance with the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Amendment, which was approved by DOI-FWS and ensures compliance with section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The HCP Amendment authorizes the “incidental take of 41 species in San Diego County and portions of Orange and Riverside County.” The incidental take permit (ITP) is in effect and provides take authorization for all ESA-listed species on BIA and in SDG&E’s service territory.

The HCP Amendment ensures a continuation of SDG&E’s efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to numerous wildlife and plant species and their habitats, while allowing SDG&E to install, maintain, operate, and repair its existing system and undertake typical expansion of the electric grid. It includes dozens of required operational protocols, including species-specific and vernal pool protocols.

SDG&E would continue to operate and maintain existing facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner by complying with its ITP and following a number of other best management practices and other standard operating procedures that have been developed and implemented by SDG&E over the past 28 years to avoid and minimize environmental impacts, and to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations. A summary of these practices and procedures is included as Attachment 6.

Consequences of Selected Alternative:

1. **No Action:** If BIA does not grant SDG&E the easement for a new ROW, SDG&E would not be able to continue providing electric service to tribal members within the Pala Indian Reservation. The tribal members would need an

alternate energy source and/or route to provide electricity, either provided by SDG&E or obtained independently by the Tribe. New construction of these facilities would be required, as well as O&M activities for the new facilities and ROW.

2. **Preferred Alternative:** If BIA grants the easement to a new ROW, SDG&E would be able to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric service within the Pala Indian Reservation.

Potential Effects to Environment:

1. **Land Resources:** As part of existing O&M procedures, SDG&E routinely evaluates the soil and geologic conditions prior to working in an area and implements the necessary measures to address any concerns. For example, the Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual for Water Quality Construction (SDG&E 2011) includes measures that reduce soil loss and help ensure BMP usage is consistent with applicable rules and regulations. All of these procedures would be implemented as part of the Preferred Alternative. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects on land resources.
2. **Water Resources:** As noted above, there are no surface waters within the proposed easement area. Pala Creek is located approximately 120 feet west of P245561. As explained above, this pole would be accessed from Highway 76, which is north of the pole and therefore avoids Pala Creek. Installation of the communications equipment is limited to the poles and future O&M work would remain within the approved easement area. In addition, SDG&E utilizes BMPs in accordance with their BMP Manual for Water Quality Construction and would remain in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including the Clean Water Act. In the unlikely event that O&M activities would result in impacts to jurisdictional waters, SDG&E would acquire the appropriate permits, potentially including (but not necessarily limited to) Clean Water Act Section 401 and 404 permits, and follow the permit conditions, which would minimize impacts. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects on water resources.
3. **Biological Resources:** As stated in Attachment 5, the USDOJ-FWS IPaC report identified endangered, threatened, or candidate species on the Official Species List for the project area. While suitable habitat for the arroyo toad does exist within 50 feet of pole P245561, there are no potential effects to this species as a result of the Preferred Alternative if crews follow SDG&E's Operational Protocols. The other species identified in the IPaC report have no critical habitat and no potential to occur within the immediate project area. In addition, pursuant to SDG&E's HCP Amendment, SDG&E crews and contractors are required to follow all applicable Operational Protocols while working in natural areas (see Attachment 6 for additional details). Operational Protocols include general

- behaviors (i.e., BMPs) that all field personnel must follow when working in environmentally sensitive areas, training, and pre-activity surveys that can result in additional measures to further minimize impacts to listed species and vegetation communities. Therefore, a field survey is not necessary at this time and the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects on biological resources.
4. **Cultural Resources:** The project area has previous ground disturbance and has been modified. There are no known historic properties in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register within the vicinity of the project area. No further cultural resources evaluation is needed. In the event of a discovery (discovery means any previously unidentified or incorrectly identified cultural resources including, but not limited to, archaeological deposits, human remains, or locations reportedly associated with Native American religious/traditional beliefs or practices), all operations in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Regional Archaeologist will be notified. The Area of Potential Effects for the Preferred Alternative is limited to the ROW, as shown in Attachment 3. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects on cultural resources.
 5. **Sensitive Area Resources:** The Preferred Alternative would not result in visual or lighting alterations to the project area, as there are similar overhead facilities already in place in the project vicinity and the communications equipment would be installed on existing poles. In addition, there are no underground storage tanks (USTs) or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites located within the vicinity of the project area and SDG&E would comply with all local noise ordinances, as applicable. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects on other sensitive area resources (Attachment 8).
 6. **Air Resources:** The easement to the new ROW would allow for installation of communications equipment and standard O&M activities, which could result in minimal and temporary construction activities. However, this minimal amount of construction would not be anticipated to result in harmful or nuisance emissions to the air. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects related to air quality.

Recommendation:

The Preferred Alternative is recommended because if SDG&E obtains the easement for a new ROW, the electric facilities would be able to be installed, owned, operated, and maintained properly, thus ensuring reliable electrical service to the tribal members.

References

- California Geological Survey (CGS). 2015. Geologic Map of California. Retrieved October 24, 2023 from <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/>
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Web Soil Survey. Retrieved October 24, 2023 from <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). 2023. San Diego Basin Plan Map. Retrieved October 24, 2023 from <https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1f58bd97fdcd45329a5e16e373ede24d>
- SDG&E. 2011. Best Management Practices Manual for Water Quality Construction. Revised July 2011.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: General Site Map
- Attachment 2: Project Site Photographs
- Attachment 3: Location Information for Project Site
- Attachment 4: Cultural/Historical Properties Determination
- Attachment 5: Biological Determination
- Attachment 6: Operational Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures
- Attachment 7: Environmental Overview Form
- Attachment 8: NEPAssist Report











Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 1: General Site Map

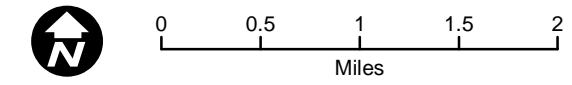
New ROW for Electric Facilities within the Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 1 General Site Map

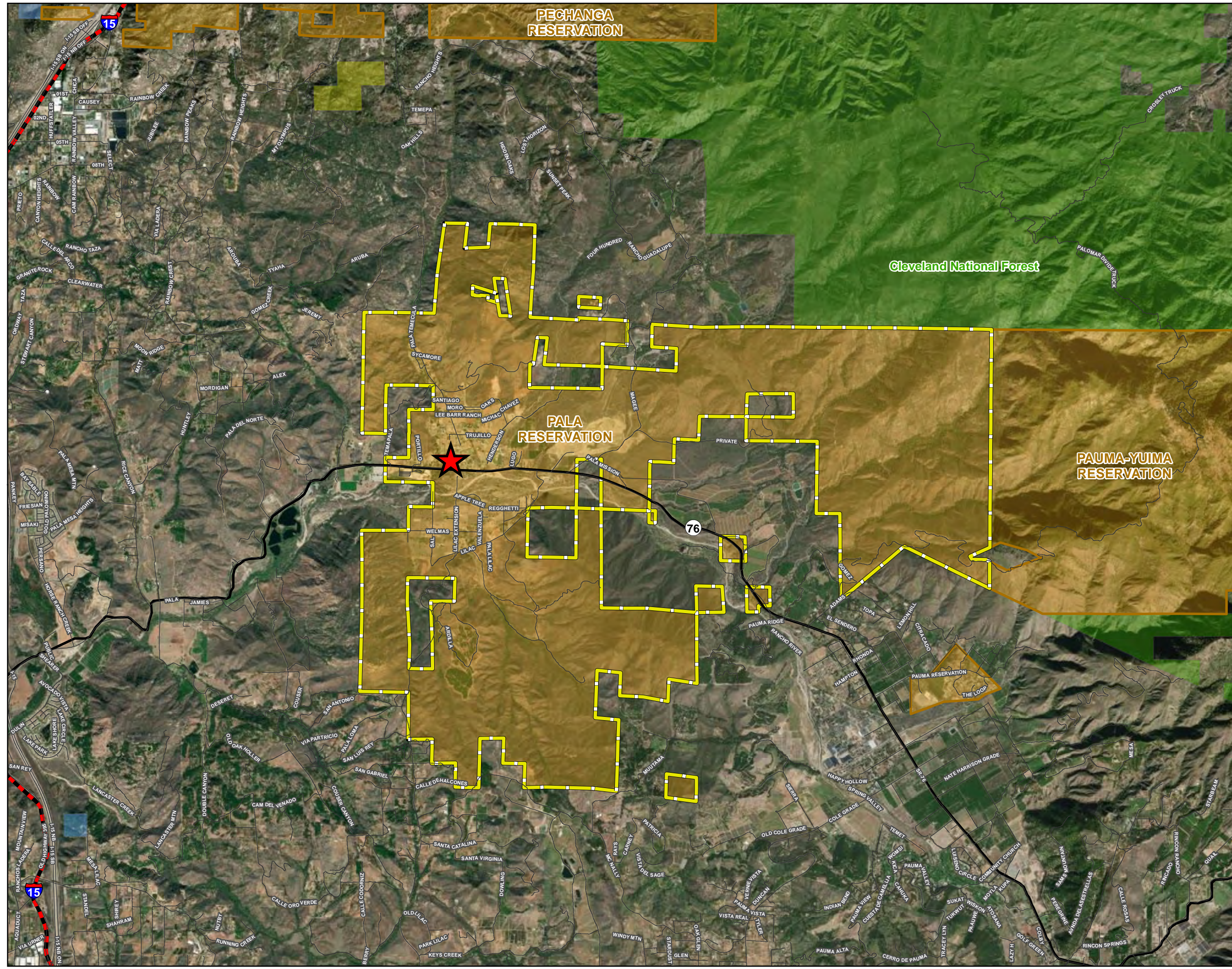
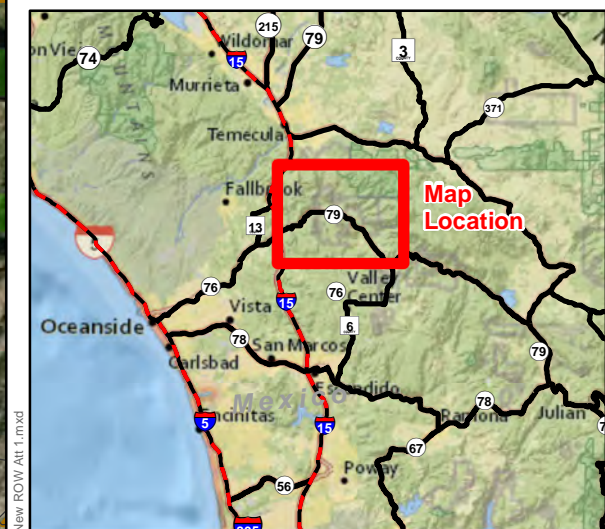
LEGEND

-  Project Location
 -  US Route, State and County Highway
 -  Local Road
 -  National Forest Boundary
 -  Reservation Boundary
 -  Pala Reservation Boundary
- Jurisdictional Land Ownership**
-  Bureau of Land Management Land
 -  U.S. Forest Service Land
 -  Bureau of Indian Affairs Land
 -  State Land

MAP IS NOT SURVEY GRADE



Data Sources: BLM, BIA, CalTrans, ESRI, SANDAG, SanGIS, SDG&E, USDA
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Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 2: Project Site Photographs



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking SW

**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2a
Project Site Photographs**

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View of the P214202 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking SE



View of the Project Area – Looking SW

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
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Attachment 2b

Project Site Photographs

View of the P245561 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

Attachment 2c

Project Site Photographs

View of the P713093 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2d
Project Site Photographs**

View of the P515853 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2e
Project Site Photographs**

View of the P110060 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

Attachment 2f

Project Site Photographs

View of the P112723J Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2g
Project Site Photographs**

View of the P110061 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2h
Project Site Photographs**

View of the P110062 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

**New ROW for Electric
Facilities within the
Pala Indian Reservation**

**Attachment 2i
Project Site Photographs**

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View of the P110063 Project Area



View of the Project Area – Looking E



View of the Project Area – Looking W

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**New ROW for Electric
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**Attachment 2j
Project Site Photographs**

View of the P110064 Project Area

Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 3: Location Information for Project Site

New ROW for Electric Facilities within the Pala Indian Reservation

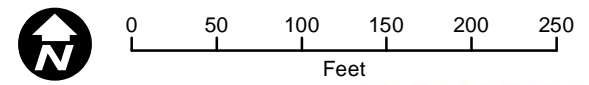
**Attachment 3
Location Information
for Project Site**

LEGEND

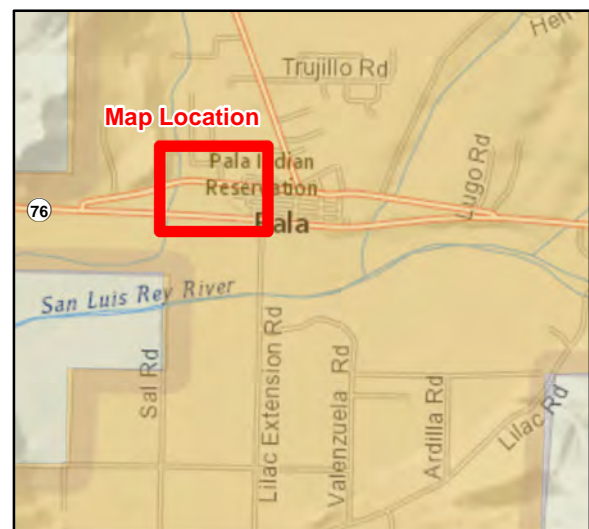
- Existing Pole Location
- Reference Pole
- Distribution Circuit (Existing Overhead)
- Distribution Circuit (Existing Underground)
- Proposed Right of Way/APE

** For unknown reasons, a right of way was not obtained at the time the poles were constructed. See explanation in the text for additional details.

MAP IS NOT SURVEY GRADE



Data Sources: BLM, BIA, CalTrans, ESRI, SANDAG, SanGIS, SDG&E, USDA.
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Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 4: Cultural/Historical Properties Determination



Kristin Tennesen
Senior Cultural Resources
Specialist
8315 Century Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123
Email: ktennese@sdge.com
cell: 619-538-6339

January 19, 2024

Katie Basinski
Senior Environmental Specialist
SDG&E Environmental Services
8315 Century Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Attachment 4: Cultural/Historical Properties Determination for the Proposed Easement for a Right-of-Way (ROW) for Electric Facilities to Serve the Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation (eTS 5659102)

Dear Ms. Basinski:

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. An agency satisfies these obligations by following the process outlined in 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

The granting of the right-of-way (ROW), as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Easement for a ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve the Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation (eTS 5659102), would allow SDG&E to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric facilities and structures, as needed. As detailed below, the ROW is in areas previously disturbed and covers existing overhead and underground electric infrastructure. There are no historic or cultural properties in the area of potential effects of the undertaking, therefore SDG&E recommends that a Section 106 finding of “no potential to cause effects” or “no historic properties affected” pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4) is appropriate.

I. Undertaking and Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The undertaking is an easement for a new ROW for existing electric facilities that serve the tribal members within the Pala Indian Reservation (eTS 5659102). The APE would be limited to the proposed ROW of the project. See EA Attachment 3 for a depiction of the APE.

II. Identification of Historic Properties

Section 106 requires consideration of those properties listed on the National Register, but also of those properties that are eligible for listing.

Based on a search of records from the South Coastal Information Center and inspection of aerial images, the area has been developed by residential, transportation, and electrical infrastructure. The ROW consists of existing overhead and underground electrical facilities. The ROW is adjacent to a paved road and existing residential buildings. There are no historical or cultural properties in the APE of the undertaking.

III. Assess Effects

SDG&E concludes that the approval of the ROW has no potential to cause effects and no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1) because the project area has been previously disturbed by the tribe and there are no known cultural or historic properties within the ROW.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Tennesen".

Kristin Tennesen, M.A., RPA
Senior Environmental Specialist
Cultural Resources
SDG&E Environmental Programs

Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 5: Biological Determination

**BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
PROPOSED EASEMENT FOR NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) FOR ELECTRIC
FACILITIES TO SERVE THE TRIBAL MEMBERS WITHIN THE PALA
INDIAN RESERVATION**

Special-Status Species:

An Official Species List was acquired from the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USDOI-FWS) via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website (2023) (attached). The results highlighted eight species whose range overlap with the boundary of the project. The list includes the following species: Stephen’s kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*, Threatened), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*, Threatened), least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*, Endangered), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*, Endangered), arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*, Endangered), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*, Candidate), San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*, Endangered), and thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*, Endangered). The table below reviews the potential to occur, including analysis of the habitat and environmental requirements, for each of the eight species.

HCP Amendment Covered Species:

Stephens’ kangaroo rat, coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell’s vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, San Diego ambrosia, and thread-leaved brodiaea have no potential to occur within the immediate project area or the surrounding habitat.

Species not Covered by the HCP amendment:

Monarch butterfly has no potential to occur within the immediate project area or the surrounding habitat.

Critical habitat:

No mapped critical habitat for any of the species identified in the IPaC report occur within the project boundary or in the surrounding area.

TABLE OF SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	Status	HCP Amendment Covered Species	Criteria for Potential Presence/Absence
Stephens’ kangaroo rat	FT, ST	Yes	This species is a small burrowing mammal that resides in an arid environment with

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	Status	HCP Amendment Covered Species	Criteria for Potential Presence/Absence
<i>(Dipodomys stephensi)</i>			loose sandy soil generally free of dense vegetation. They are often found in grassland areas with less than 50% vegetative cover but can also occur in savannah, dune, or chaparral habitat if soft soil is present to burrow in. While potentially suitable habitat may occur in the non-native grassland habitat adjacent to the project, suitable habitat does not occur within the immediate project area and there is no potential for effects to this species as a result of the proposed project.
Coastal California Gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>)	FT, SSC	Yes	This species occurs in open coastal sage scrub habitat with California sagebrush as a dominant or co-dominant species, and may occur near sage scrub-grassland interfaces and, to a lesser extent, where sage scrub grades into chaparral. Suitable habitat does not occur within the immediate project area and there is no potential for effects to this species as a result of the proposed project.
Least Bell's Vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	FE, SE	Yes	This species selects riparian woodland and riparian scrub dominated by willow and/or mulefat (<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>) for breeding. Alluvial scrub habitat with elements of riparian woodland is located approximately 100 feet west of Pole P245561. This habitat may provide suitable nesting location for the least Bell's vireo. However, there is no suitable habitat within the immediate project area and the proposed construction activity is unlikely to impact any potential nesting individuals as the nearby intermittent Pala Creek is buffered by a stand of coast live oak trees which blocks line of sight and noise to the creek and nearby riparian habitat. Therefore there is no potential for effects to this species as a result of the proposed project.

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	Status	HCP Amendment Covered Species	Criteria for Potential Presence/Absence
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>)	FE, SE	Yes	This species prefers moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water such as thickets of willows, whether along streams in broad valleys, in canyon bottoms, around mountain-side seepages, or at the margins of ponds and lakes. The nearby Pala Creek (120ft west) does not provide suitable breeding habitat as the creek is intermittent and does not have permanent or semi-permanent running/standing water. Suitable habitat does not occur within the immediate project area and there is no potential for effects to this species as a result of the proposed project.
Arroyo Toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>)	FE, SSC	Yes	The arroyo toad inhabits washes, arroyos, sandy riverbanks, riparian areas with willows, sycamores, oaks, and cottonwoods. Arroyo toads have extremely specialized habitat needs, which include exposed sandy stream sides with stable terraces for burrowing with scattered vegetation for shelter, and areas of quiet water or pools free of predatory fishes with sandy or gravel bottoms without silt for breeding. The San Luis Rey River occurs 0.26 miles south of pole P245561 in addition the Pala Creek is 120 feet west of P245561. Alluvial scrub habitat 50 feet west of the pole could provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. However, the area lacks suitable breeding habitat. Therefore, there is a low potential for the arroyo toad to occur near the work area. If crews follow SDG&E's Operational Protocols, impacts to this species are expected to be negligible.
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Candidate species	No	The main habitat requirement for this species is the presence of milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> sp.). Monarch butterflies exclusively use milkweed as their host plant. Milkweed species are hardy and grow across a diverse

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	Status	HCP Amendment Covered Species	Criteria for Potential Presence/Absence
			array of habitats from grasslands, meadows, agricultural land, mountain foothills and sandy areas. Spring-blooming nectar plants (blooming approximately March 20 - June 1) fuel the monarch migration northward from Mexico and inland from the California coast. Abundant nectar sources are crucial to their survival across migration corridors. While there are flowering plants in the general surrounding area, the immediate project area is bare ground; therefore, there is no potential for effects to this species to occur as a result of the proposed project.
San Diego Ambrosia (<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>)	FE	Yes	This species is endemic to southern California, and generally occurs in sparse grassland, river margins, wetlands, pools and playas. There is potentially suitable habitat along the terraces of the Pala Creek which lies 120 feet west of pole P245561. However, the immediate project area is partially disturbed and there is no potential for impacts to this species as a result of project activities.
Thread-leaved brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>)	FE, SE	Yes	This species typically grows in herbaceous plant communities such as grassland communities, alkali playa, and in vernal pools. In some locations, thread-leaved brodiaea grows in open areas associated with coastal sage scrub. The immediate project area is partially disturbed and there is no potential for effects to this species as a result of the proposed project.
<p>FE – Federally endangered; FT – Federally threatened; SE – State endangered; ST – State threatened; SSC – species of special concern; PE – Proposed Endangered HCP Amendment Covered Species – SDG&E HCP Amendment covered species (Section 10 ESA Take Permit [PRT-809637])</p>			

Summary:

Implementation of the new easement to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric facilities, as well as implementation of the aforementioned activities for arroyo toad, will result in no effect to the following species of special concern: Stephens' kangaroo rat, costal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, monarch butterfly, San Diego ambrosia, and thread-leaved brodiaea.

Additionally, SDG&E crews are provided an annual HCP training that covers information on sensitive HCP-covered species and awareness on how to minimize impacts while conducting work activities. Work crews will follow the Operational Protocols stated in SDG&E's HCP Amendment (Section 5.1 Operational Protocols) to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to biological resources as a result of project-related activities.

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

San Diego County, California



Local office

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

☎ (760) 431-9440

📠 (760) 431-5901

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> (Incl. <i>D. cactus</i>) Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3495	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher <i>Poliopitila californica californica</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*

Endangered

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749>

Amphibians

NAME

STATUS

Arroyo (=arroyo Southwestern) Toad *Anaxyrus californicus*

Endangered

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3762>

Insects

NAME

STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

Candidate

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743>

Flowering Plants

NAME

STATUS

San Diego Ambrosia *Ambrosia pumila*

Endangered

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8287>

Thread-leaved Brodiaea *Brodiaea filifolia*

Threatened

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087>

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

There are no documented cases of eagles being present at this location. However, if you believe eagles may be using your site, please reach out to the local Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the [Eagle Act](#) should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Allen's Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus sasin</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9637</p>	Breeds Feb 1 to Jul 15
<p>Belding's Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8</p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 15
<p>Black-chinned Sparrow <i>Spizella atrogularis</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9447</p>	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 31
<p>Bullock's Oriole <i>Icterus bullockii</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
<p>California Thrasher <i>Toxostoma redivivum</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
<p>Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2084</p>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
<p>Lawrence's Goldfinch <i>Carduelis lawrencei</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464</p>	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
<p>Nuttall's Woodpecker <i>Picoides nuttalli</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410</p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
<p>Oak Titmouse <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15
<p>Wrentit <i>Chamaea fasciata</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (🟡)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the [Probability of Presence Summary](#). [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

[PFOA](#)

RIVERINE

[R4SBC](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Attachment 6: Operational Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures

1.1.1. Operational Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures

SDG&E currently operates and maintains existing facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner by following a number of best management practices and other standard operating procedures that have been developed and implemented by SDG&E over the past 28 years to avoid and minimize environmental impacts, and to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations. A summary of these is included below.

1.1.1.1. Biological Resources

SDG&E implements Operational Protocols when working in natural areas to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to species covered under existing Plans and Section 10 permits such as the 1995 NCCP and the 2023 HCP Amendment. The first eleven Operational Protocols (“General Behavior for All Field Personnel”) are standard best management practices that are required to be followed by all SDG&E crews and contractors working on an SDG&E project site. When identified by an SDG&E or contractor biologist, Species-specific Operational Protocols can be prescribed. Operational Protocols 1-11 are listed below and Species-specific protocols can be found in SDG&E’s 2023 HCP Amendment.

1. When environmentally sensitive areas/limits have been established, employees and contract workers shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to avoid impacts beyond the delineated limits.
2. Vehicles must be kept on access roads. A 15 miles-per-hour speed limit shall be observed on dirt access roads to allow species to disperse. Vehicles must be turned around in established or designated areas only.
3. No wildlife, including rattlesnakes, may be harmed, except to protect life and limb.
4. Firearms shall be prohibited on the ROW except for firearms used by security personnel.
5. Feeding of wildlife is not allowed.
6. SDG&E personnel are not allowed to bring pets on the ROW in order to minimize harassment or killing of wildlife and to prevent the introduction of destructive domestic animal diseases to native wildlife populations.
7. Parking or driving underneath oak trees is not allowed except in established traffic areas in order to protect root structures.

8. Plant or wildlife species may not be collected as pets or any other reason.
9. Littering is not allowed. SDG&E personnel shall not deposit or leave any food or waste on the ROW or adjacent property.
10. Wildfires shall be prevented or minimized by exercising care when driving and by not parking vehicles where catalytic converters can ignite dry vegetation. SDG&E vehicles shall carry all required fire tools such as water backpack pumps, shovels, and/or fire extinguishers while operating in the field in accordance with SDG&E's Wildland Fire Prevention Plan (SDG&E 2020b). Shields, protective mats, or other fire prevention methods shall be used during grinding and welding to prevent or minimize the potential for fire. Smoking may only occur in designated smoking areas or in a 10-foot clearing void of all grass or other vegetation as in accordance with SDG&E's Wildland Fire Prevention Plan (SDG&E 2020b) or as discussed in the most current internal fire prevention standard and practices.
11. Field crews shall refer environmental issues, including wildlife relocation, dead or sick wildlife; hazardous waste; the presence of highly invasive nonnative species that are not known to be established in California, especially perennial species rated as high or moderate threat by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC); or questions about avoiding environmental impacts, to the Biologist. Biologists or experts in wildlife handling may need to be brought in for assistance with wildlife relocations.

Field crews shall coordinate with the Biologist to implement preventative invasive weed control best management practices found in Prevention BMPs for Transportation and Utility Corridors – California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC. 2012) when requested by a land manager and/or where feasible and practicable to minimize the spread of invasive weed species. Best management practices may include vehicle washing, use of weed free substrates, educating staff and contractors on protocols like washing/brushing boots between sites, and removing weed biomass from sites during weed control activities.

1.1.1.2. Cultural Resources

Where a potentially significant intact resource is known and could be affected, SDG&E develops and implements measures to avoid or minimize impacts to the resource. Site protection measures that are routinely implemented for O&M activities include:

- Establishing work exclusion zones;
- Finding alternate work locations or access routes;
- Prohibiting vehicles, staging, or construction within resource boundaries;
- Hand digging pole holes, micrositing construction methods, or setting poles by helicopter to minimize overland travel;

- Assigning an archaeological and/or Native American construction monitor within or near known or suspected archaeological sites;
- Developing and/or facilitating cultural resources awareness training for crews; and
- Completing archaeological excavations when impacts cannot be avoided.

Generally, O&M on existing facilities takes place in areas that have been previously disturbed during the initial placement of infrastructure; thus, the potential for significant impacts to cultural resources from these activities are considered low. Nonetheless, SDG&E implements Standard Protection Measures that minimize ground disturbance and require work to stop if resources are discovered. These measures, described below, help protect cultural resources by reducing the potential for disturbance or damage.

- If cultural resources are discovered during the Project, stopping Project activities at the discovery location until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with an SDG&E Cultural Resource Specialist and the agency;
- Leaving artifacts where they are found;
- Containing ground disturbance to the extent of the project area;
- Keeping vehicles on existing roads as feasible;
- Keeping information about cultural discoveries and archaeological site data confidential to the extent allowed under applicable law;
- Not collecting or otherwise touching or disturbing these resources without prior coordination with the relevant agency/Tribe;
- Having SDG&E's Tribal Liaison coordinate with the Tribe to apprise them of the work and schedule.

1.1.1.3. Other Standard Operating Procedures

In addition to biological and cultural resources, SDG&E routinely implements standard procedures related to stormwater management, hazardous materials and waste, fire prevention, and other environmental resources. For example, the Best Management Practices Manual for Water Quality Construction (BMP Manual; SDG&E 2011) provides standardized BMPs to reduce or eliminate pollutants in runoff from SDG&E construction projects and construction activities for water quality protection.

Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 7: Environmental Overview Form

Environmental Overview (E)

The external Environmental Overview is used for programmatic or project-orientated actions (i.e. waste clean-up, road maintenance, well drilling, studies) that have ground disturbing or other destructive activities associated with the proposed federal action. Please contact the Regional NEPA Coordinator at jacilyn.snyder@bia.gov for more information.

* Required

1. Date *

3/13/2024



2. Requestor Name *

Please enter your name.

Katie Basinski

3. Requestor Email Address *

Please enter your email address.

kbasinski@sdge.com

4. Requestor Contact Information

Please enter your phone number without special characters (i.e. commas, hyphens, etc)

858-753-5601

5. Pacific Region Environmental Reviewer Email Address *

Please enter the BIA Environmental contact email address

John.Lin@bia.gov

6. Pacific Region Program Office Representative Email Address

Please enter the BIA Program Office representative email address you are working with on your project.

Jacilyn.Snyder@bia.gov

7. Tribal Nation *

Pala Band of Mission Indians

8. Project Identification Number

eTS No. 5659102, SR No. 475660, Project No. 3-308834, Job Notification No. 3-346690

9. Project Name *

Please use DECRMS recommended nomenclature.

PROPOSED EASEMENT FOR NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) FOR ELECTRIC FACILITIES TO SERVE THE TR

10. Property Address

Pala Mission Road, Pala Indian Reservation, Valley Center, California

11. County *

San Diego County

12. County Parcel Number

1101005300, 1102103000, 1101004100

13. BIA/Tribal Tract Number

T-1019 and Pala Allotment #583-86B

14. Property Section, Township and Range

Sec 27/T9S/R2W

15. Property Locational Data

Latitude/Longitude

33.366, -117.078

16. Purpose and Needs *

Please briefly describe project.

Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §§ 323-328 and 25 C.F.R. part 169, BIA must evaluate requests for rights-of-way (ROW), including renewals of or amendments thereto, over Indian Lands. Here, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) is requesting a new 12-foot-wide ROW and a new 10-foot-wide ROW to own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove existing electric facilities that are needed to continue providing electric service to the Pala Indian Reservation (the existing electric facilities were found to be without an existing ROW; therefore, a new easement for a ROW is requested). The proposed ROW would also expressly provide SDG&E the right to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, and remove communication facilities and overhead appurtenances used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications. P245561 would be accessed from Highway 76 and continuing approximately 70 feet along partially disturbed, dry grassy land. The remaining nine poles would be accessed directly from the highway shoulder. Work areas would remain within previously disturbed areas. The term of the easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate per 25 C.F.R. Part 169.

The 12-foot-wide requested ROW would be approximately 0.31 miles long and include 10 poles and other associated facilities within an overhead alignment. The 10-foot-wide requested ROW would be underground, 10 feet wide and approximately 0.03 miles long. Additionally, SDG&E would install communications facilities on the poles. The communications facilities would be used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications. SDG&E communications facilities improve service reliability by, among other things, providing remote switching capabilities that help restore service to customers faster and allow SDG&E to isolate faults and transfer customers to other circuits before the arrival of field crews. Certain communications facilities are also valuable tools for gathering information such as voltage, current, power factor, etc. to inform SDG&E system planning. The proposed project is needed to allow SDG&E to install, operate, and maintain reliable electric service to tribal members on the Pala Indian Reservation.

17. Scope of Work *

Please identify category of action(s) undertaken.

- Agricultural Lease and/or Permit
- Business Lease (existing infrastructure)
- Business Lease (new build)
- Contracting without ground disturbing activities.
- Contracting with ground disturbing activities.
- Fire
- Forestry
- Gift deed or other transfers
- Homesite lease without ground disturbing activities.
- Homesite lease with ground disturbing activities.
- Land Conveyance
- Operations and Maintenance of Facilities
- Natural Resources
- Rights-of-Way/Easements

- Road construction along existing alignment
- Road construction with minor alignment changes.
- Road construction with major alignment changes.
- New road construction
- Other

18. If Other is selected in Scope of Work (Question 12), please describe activity proposed to be completed.

N/A

19. Description of Ground Disturbance *

- Ground disturbance is not anticipated.
- All ground disturbance activities are restricted to previously disturbed areas.
- All ground disturbance activities occur within an Area of Potential Effect.

All ground disturbance activities are significant and/or is new construction.

20. Wetlands *

Is there a potential for Wetland resources to be present in the project area?

Yes

No

Lead BIA EPS Evaluation required

21. Streams and Rivers *

Are there streams, rivers and lakes within 200 feet of the proposed project area?

Yes

No

Lead BIA EPS Evaluation Required

22. Threatened or Endangered Species *

Is there a potential for Threatened or Endangered Species to be present in the project area.

Yes

- No
- BIA Biologist Evaluation required

23. Historic and Cultural Resources *

Is there a potential for Historic and Cultural Resources to be present in the project area?

- Yes
- No
- BIA Archaeologist Evaluation Required

24. Land Cover *

Briefly describe the land cover of the project area.

The poles are primarily located in the disturbed shoulder of Highway 76 with Pole Number P245561 .

25. Permits *

Are permits required for the activities associated with this project.

- Clean Water Act, Section 402
- Clean Water Action, Section 404

- Section 9/10 Rivers and Harbors Improvement Act
- Other Permits
- Not required
- Lead BIA EPS Evaluation Required

26. If Other is selected in Question 22 Permits, please describe the permit(s) required for the project.

For 28 years, SDG&E has operated and maintained existing facilities in compliance with its 1995 Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). In 2023, an amendment to the HCP was finalized. This HCP Amendment was approved by USFWS and is designed to support the continuation of Covered Activities in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Permit No. PRT-809637. The incidental take permit (ITP) issued to SDG&E authorized the incidental take of 41 species, some of which are found within BIA-managed lands. The HCP Amendment includes Operational Protocols that are primarily based upon impact avoidance and minimization and recognize that minor adjustments during planning and execution of activities can often yield major benefits to species and their habitat (HCP Amendment §5.1).

No additional permits are needed at this time. If future O&M activities are required, SDG&E would obtain any necessary permits to remain in compliance with applicable regulations. However, permits are unlikely to be necessary due to the highly disturbed nature of the proposed ROW.

27. Additional Project Details

If applicable

Operation and maintenance (O&M) activities are those related to the control and upkeep of existing SDG&E facilities, including but not limited to routine, preventive, scheduled, and unscheduled actions aimed at preventing equipment failure or decline with the goal of maintaining or increasing efficiency, reliability, and safety. O&M includes inspecting, monitoring, and testing existing equipment; operating valves and switches; repairing and replacing existing facilities, structures, wires, and access roads; increasing the height above ground or the depth below ground of facilities; replacing overhead lines with buried underground lines; and vegetation management, including tree removal and pruning. The ROW also includes the right of SDG&E to ingress and egress to, from, along, and within the ROW by a practical route or routes in, upon, over, and across the Pala Indian Reservation. The ROW would also require the ROW to be kept clear of structures, including but not limited to buildings, explosives, brush, combustibles, and materials, and allows the construction and maintenance of roads as are necessary and appropriate. SDG&E currently operates and maintains existing facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner by following a number of best management practices and other standard operating procedures that have been developed and implemented by SDG&E over the past 27 years to avoid and minimize environmental impacts, and to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

28. Tribal Environmental Lead Name

N/A

29. Tribal Environmental Lead Email Address and Telephone Number

N/A

30. Tribal Biologist Lead Name

N/A

31. Tribal Biologist Lead Email Address and Telephone Number

N/A

32. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Name


Shasta Gaughen

33. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Email and Telephone Number

760-891-3515; sgaughen@palatribe.com

34. Other Contacts

N/A

35. I certify that the responses provided in this questionnaire are accurate based on my knowledge of the proposed project and affected project area. 

I Certify my responses and statements.

I Decline



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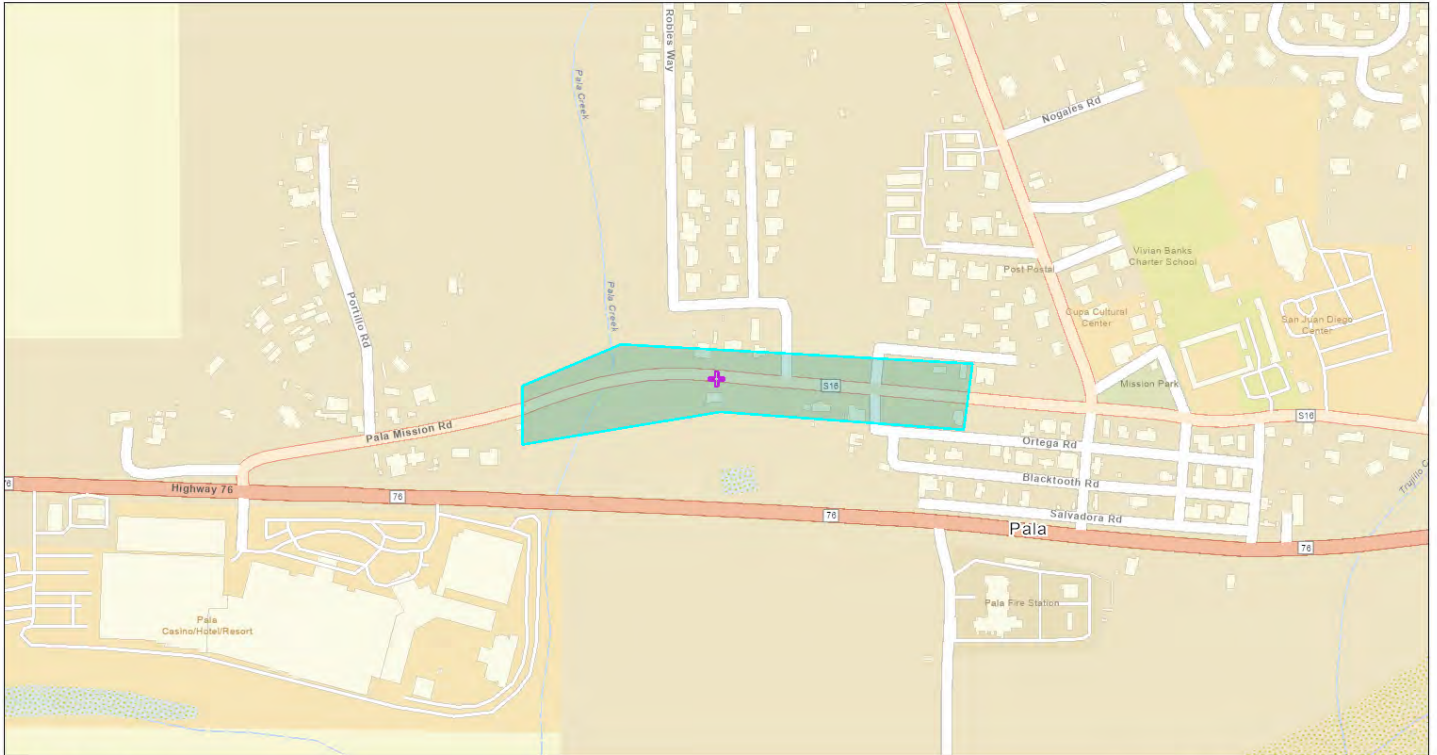
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Environmental Evaluation: Easement for a New ROW for Electric Facilities to Serve Tribal Members within the Pala Indian Reservation, California
Pala Indian Reservation

Attachment 8: NEPAassist Report

NEPAssist Report

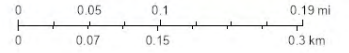
A3 Landscape



October 24, 2023

- Project 1
- + Search Result (point)

1:4,586



Esri Community Maps Contributors, SanGIS, California State Parks, Pala GIS Department, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,

Input Coordinates: 33.365473,-117.082121,33.365875,-117.080979,33.365689,-117.076911,33.365051,-117.077014,33.365223,-117.079829,33.364907,-117.082121,33.365473,-117.082121	
Project Area	0.01 sq mi
Within an Ozone 8-hr (1997 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	yes
Within an Ozone 8-hr (2008 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	yes
Within a Lead (2008 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a SO2 1-hr (2010 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a PM2.5 24hr (2006 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a PM2.5 Annual (1997 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a PM2.5 Annual (2012 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a PM10 (1987 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within a Federal Land?	no
Within an impaired stream?	no
Within an impaired waterbody?	no
Within a waterbody?	no
Within a stream?	yes
Within an NWI wetland?	Available Online
Within a Brownfields site?	no
Within a Superfund site?	no
Within a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) site?	no
Within a water discharger (NPDES)?	no
Within a hazardous waste (RCRA) facility?	no
Within an air emission facility?	no

Within a school?	no
Within an airport?	no
Within a hospital?	no
Within a designated sole source aquifer?	no
Within a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places?	no
Within a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) site?	no
Within a Land Cession Boundary?	yes
Within a tribal area (lower 48 states)?	yes
Within the service area of a mitigation or conservation bank?	yes
Within the service area of an In-Lieu-Fee Program?	no
Within a Public Property Boundary of the Formerly Used Defense Sites?	no
Within a Munitions Response Site?	no
Within an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)?	no
Within a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)?	no
Within an EFH Area Protected from Fishing (EFHA)?	no
Within a Bureau of Land Management Area of Critical Environmental Concern?	no
Within an ESA-designated Critical Habitat Area per U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?	no
Within an ESA-designated Critical Habitat river, stream or water feature per U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?	no

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