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Agenda Item 9(c)
SMMC
10/24/11

transmittal

date September 16, 2011

____ attached ____ via regular mail

____ via messenger ____ via overnight mail

to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Paul Edelman
5750 Ramirez Canyon Rd.
Malibu, CA 90265

project Presidential Substation Project

items One (1) Compact Disc (CD) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and appendices

comments The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has released a Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Presidential Substation Project (Proposed Project), for public review and comment. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than October 31, 2011. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in your correspondence.

Additionally, the CPUC will hold a public comment meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2011, from 6:30 p.m.to 8:30 p.m., at the Palm Garden Hotel, 495 N. Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320.

Please contact Ms. Juralynne Mosley with any comments on the Draft EIR, questions or concerns:

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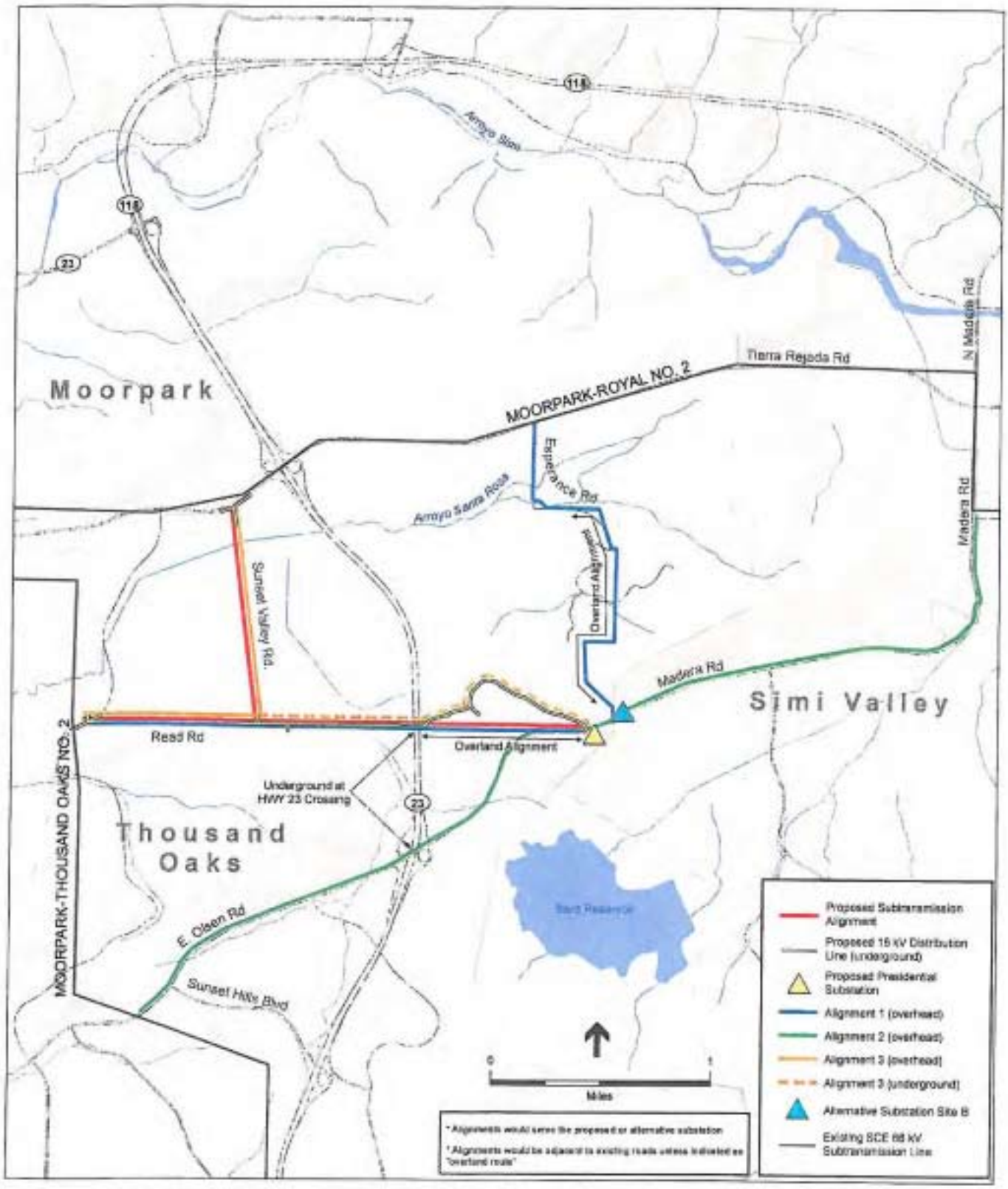
sent by Michael Manka

cc 207584.02



SOURCE: SCE, 2010

Presidential Substation Project . 207584.02

Figure ES-2

Alternative Subtransmission Alignments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 Introduction / Background

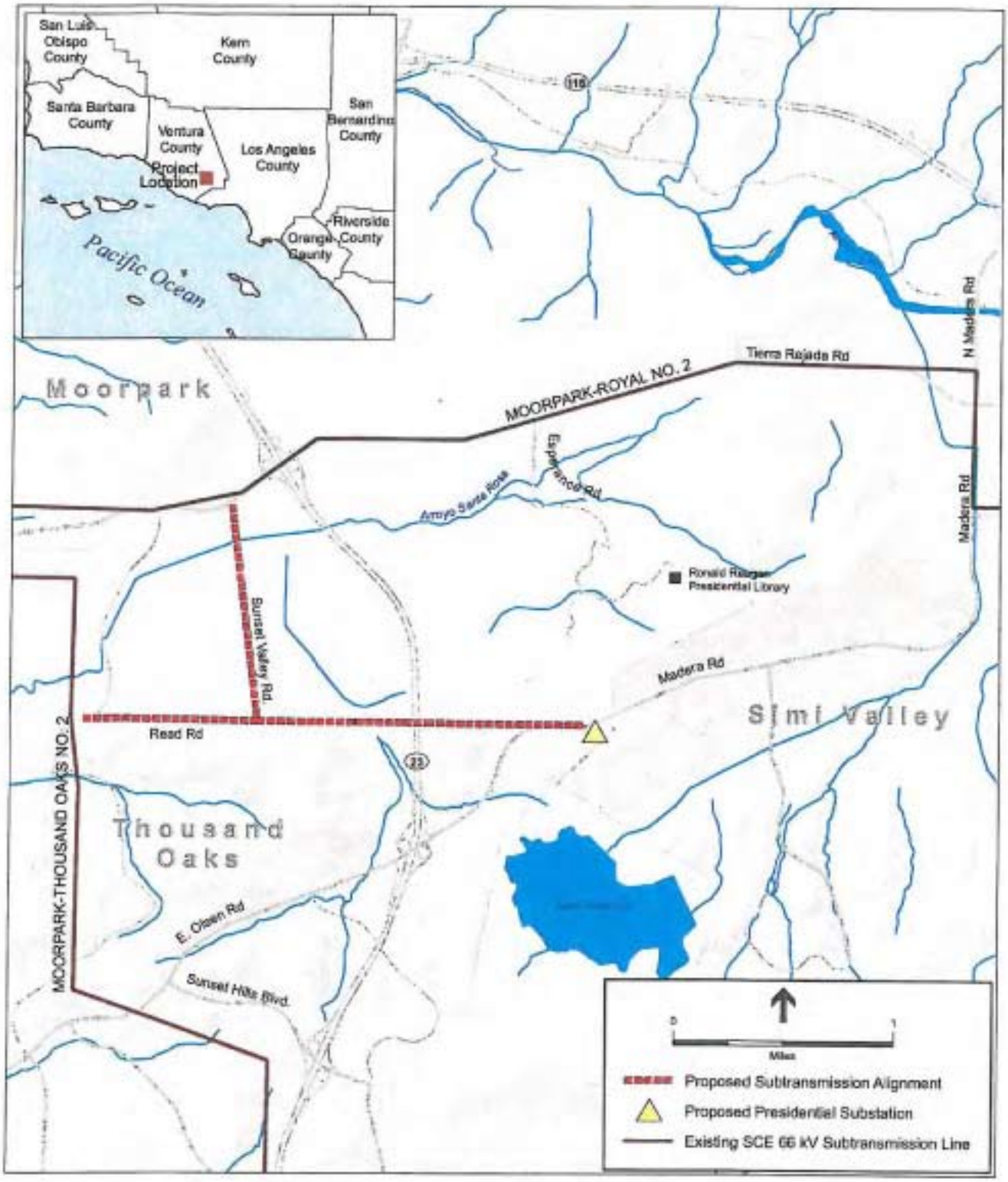
Southern California Edison (SCE), in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application for the Presidential Substation Project (Proposed Project) (A.08-12-023), filed on December 22, 2008, seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC), to construct, operate and maintain electrical facilities pursuant to CPUC General Order (GO) 131-D. The application includes the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) (SCE, 2008) prepared pursuant to Rule 2.4 of CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The purpose of the Presidential Substation Project (Proposed Project) is to meet the forecasted electrical demands in the cities of Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks, as well as adjacent areas of Ventura County (Electrical Needs Area [ENA]). The ENA is presently served by three of the 66/16 kilovolt (kV) distribution substations that are fed by the Moorpark 66 kV System. These three distribution substations (Thousand Oaks Substation, Potrero Substation, and Royal Substation) provide electrical service to approximately 60,000 metered customers and are presently at or near their operating capacity. The Proposed Project would construct a new 66/16 kilovolt (kV) distribution substation (proposed Presidential Substation) and associated 66 kV subtransmission lines (proposed subtransmission alignments), telecommunications connection, and related distribution components. Power to the proposed Presidential Substation would be supplied by connecting to two existing 66 kV subtransmission lines, Moorpark-Royal No.2 and Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2.

This Draft EIR has been prepared to consider the potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Project, and to identify and evaluate a range of alternatives. Based on this evaluation and the documentation which follows, this Draft EIR identifies System Alternative B as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

ES.1.1 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Thousand Oaks and unincorporated Ventura County, California. As depicted in **Figure ES-1** the proposed Presidential Substation would be located in the northeastern portion of the City of Thousand Oaks near the jurisdictional boundary of the City of Simi Valley. The proposed subtransmission alignment traverses directly west from the proposed Presidential Substation across open space, agricultural and residential areas along Read Road to connect with the Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 subtransmission line near the intersection of Read Road and Moorpark Road. The proposed subtransmission alignment connecting with the Moorpark-



SOURCE: SCE, 2011

Presidential Substation Project . 207584.02

Figure ES-1
Proposed Project Overview

Royal No. 2 subtransmission line would follow the same alignment due west from the proposed Presidential Substation until it turns roughly north adjacent to Sunset Valley Road. The proposed subtransmission alignment would then proceed north along the west side of Sunset Valley Road near residential and agricultural land uses and connect to the existing subtransmission line at the corner of Sunset Valley Road and Tierra Rejada Road.

The Proposed Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of the following components:

- Construction of a new 66/16 kV distribution substation (proposed Presidential Substation) on an approximately 4-acre site;
- Replacement of existing 16 kV distribution and subtransmission poles with new subtransmission poles and installation of 66 kV subtransmission conductor to supply the proposed Presidential Substation;
- Installation of underground 66 kV subtransmission facilities for the portion of the route crossing Highway 23 (Hwy 23);
- Construction or relocation of related 16 kV distribution components, including four new 16 kV distribution getaways at the proposed Presidential Substation, and relocation, transfer, or upgrade of existing 16 kV distribution facilities either to new subtransmission poles or to new underground 16 kV distribution facilities. Upgrades to new 16 kV distribution would involve installation of new conductors instead of re-hanging or burying the existing 16 kV conductor; and
- Construction of facilities to connect the proposed Presidential Substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

SCE's Proposed Project Objectives

The objectives of the Proposed Project are defined by SCE in its PEA (SCE, 2008). This EIR does not adopt or endorse the objectives that SCE has defined for its Proposed Project. SCE's defined objectives are presented below.

- Meet long term electrical demand requirements in the ENA beginning in 2011 and extending beyond 2014 in order to meet 10-year planning criterion;
- Improve electrical system operational flexibility and reliability by providing the ability to transfer load between 16 kV distribution circuits and distribution substations within the ENA;
- Meet project needs while minimizing environmental impacts; and
- Meet project needs in a cost-effective manner.

ES.2.1 Alternatives Fully Evaluated in this EIR

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 1

Description

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 1 would be capable of serving a new substation at either the proposed Presidential Substation site or the Alternative Substation Site B (with minor alignment modifications in the vicinity of the substation).

The first source line would consist of a single-circuit subtransmission line originating at the Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Read Road and Moorpark Road in unincorporated Ventura County. The alignment would extend east along the south side of Read Road within the City of Thousand Oaks along an existing 16 kV distribution circuit past the intersection of Read Road and Sunset Valley Road. The alignment would continue east along Read Road, crosses Hwy 23 (underground), and continue east to the substation site. Although the alignment would be constructed within existing ROW, some areas along Read Road could require additional overhang easement rights to accommodate the pole cross-arms. This alignment would be constructed in the same path as one of the Proposed Project source lines. However, the entire alignment would be constructed as a single-circuit subtransmission line. As a single-circuit, the line would be constructed using primarily LWS with limited use of TSPs. The pole types and locations between Moorpark Road and Sunset Valley Road would be the same as the Proposed Project. The existing 16 kV distribution line and a telecommunication line would be installed on the new LWS poles and the existing wooden 16 kV distribution poles currently in the alignment would be removed. The new telecommunication line would also be installed overhead on the LWS poles. Both the subtransmission and 16 kV distribution circuits would be constructed underground at the Hwy 23 crossing.

The second source line for would originate at the Moorpark-Royal No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Tierra Rejada Road and Esperance Road. The alignment initially would extend due south parallel to Esperance Road, and turn east approximately 0.5 mile south of Tierra Rejada Road and then southeast where the alignment leaves Esperance Road. For 1.8 miles, the alignment would cross generally overland requiring new ROW up to 25 feet wide. The alignment would terminate at the substation site entering the substation from directly north. A new telecommunication line and 16 kV distribution circuit would be installed on the new LWS poles.

In total, Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 1 would be approximately 4.5 miles long, and would cross land presently used for open space and rural residential purposes. Construction methods and duration would be similar to those described for the Proposed Project. Trenching for the installation of 16 kV distribution lines along Read Road and east of Hwy 23 would not be required under this Alternative.

Rationale for Full Analysis

This alternative would meet the basic project objectives for both the proposed Presidential Substation site and the Alternative Substation Site B. It would also meet all legal, regulatory and

technical feasibility criteria. This alternative would lessen the level of impacts on noise and air quality but would result in new significant unavoidable impacts on aesthetics.

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 2

Description

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 2 would be capable of serving either the proposed Presidential Substation, or Alternative Substation Site B (with minor alignment modifications in the vicinity of the substation).

The first source line would originate at the Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Olsen Road and Sunset Hills Boulevard in the City of Thousand Oaks, and follow Olsen Road, primarily on the north side to the substation.

The second source line would originate at the Moorpark-Royal No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Madera Road and Tierra Rejada Road in the City of Simi Valley, and follows Madera Road to the substation sites.

Due to the curvatures in Olsen and Madera Roads, the subtransmission structures along this alignment could require additional support mechanisms such as anchors and guy wires. Poles located in a curve or corner along the alignment would require some form of guying to provide additional support. The number and locations of poles which would require additional support, has not been identified at this time. If support mechanisms could not be accommodated within the road ROW, SCE would be required to obtain additional ROW. Based on preliminary engineering, single-circuit subtransmission poles would be placed every 180 to 200 feet. Poles would be a combination of LWS and TSPs depending upon the structural needs of the location.

Construction and pole assembly would occur on existing adjacent paved roads (Madera Road and Olsen Road). No new access roads would be required for this alignment. Activities within or immediately adjacent to the roadway, could require temporary lane closure. Traffic management would be conducted in a manner similar to the Proposed Project. While conductor pulling and preparation of pull and tension sites would be similar to the Proposed Project. This alternative would require approximately 12 pull and tension sites. Similar to the proposed subtransmission alignment the pull and tension sites would be approximately 150 feet by 30 feet.

In total, Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 2 would be approximately 5 miles long and would be adjacent to land presently used for residential, commercial, public space, and open space purposes.

Rationale for Full Analysis

This alternative would meet the basic project objectives for both the proposed Presidential Substation site and the Alternative Substation Site B. It would also meet all legal, regulatory and technical feasibility criteria. This alternative would lessen the level of impacts on noise but would result in new significant unavoidable impacts on aesthetics.

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 3

Description

Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 3 would construct two new 66 kV subtransmission source lines capable of serving either the proposed Presidential Substation site or Alternative Substation Site B (with minor alignment modifications in the vicinity of the substation). The origination points and general route would be the same as the Proposed Project. However, additional portions of Alternative Subtransmission Alignment 3 would be installed underground compared to the Proposed Project. In addition, some sections of the existing 16 kV distribution line would not need to be relocated and would instead remain in place on existing wooden poles.

The first source line would originate as a single-circuit overhead subtransmission line at the Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Read Road and Moorpark Road. The alignment extends east overhead along Read Road to the intersection of Sunset Valley Road, similar to the Proposed Project. The second source subtransmission circuit would originate as a single-circuit overhead subtransmission line at the Moorpark -Royal No. 2 66 kV subtransmission line near the intersection of Tierra Rejada Road and Sunset Valley Road. The alignment extends southeast overhead along Sunset Valley Road to the intersection with Read Road, similar to the Proposed Project. Pole structures and construction methods would be the same as for the Proposed Project for these portions of the alignment. At the intersection of Sunset Valley Road and Read Road, a TSP riser pole would be installed and from that point east, a double-circuit subtransmission line would be installed underground within Read Road, north of the centerline to the new substation.

The double-circuit subtransmission line would continue east underneath Hwy 23 in the same manner as described for the Proposed Project. However, since the line would already be underground, TSP risers on the west and east sides of the bore would not be required.

Once the double-circuit subtransmission line reaches the east side of Hwy 23, the line would continue underground to the new substation. The alignment east of Hwy 23 would follow the same underground alignment identified for undergrounding the 16 kV distribution line in the Proposed Project. However, for this alternative, the 16 kV distribution line would remain overhead on existing poles, while the 66 kV would be installed underground.

Additionally, a telecommunication line would be installed on the existing wood 16 kV distribution poles. The construction of a Hilfiker retaining wall and widening of access roads identified for pole removal and installation would not be required under this alternative.

Relocation of the existing 16 kV distribution line between Sunset Valley Road and the substation would not be required.

Rationale for Full Analysis

This alternative would meet the basic project objectives for both the proposed Presidential Substation site and the Alternative Substation Site B. It would also meet all legal, regulatory and

technical feasibility criteria. This alternative would lessen the level of impacts on noise and air quality and would eliminate significant impacts on aesthetic resources.

Alternative Substation Site B

Description

Alternative Substation Site B would construct a new 66/16 kV substation on an approximate 2.3-acre parcel of land located on the north site of Madera Road in the City of Simi Valley. Similar to the Proposed Project, this substation location is capable of being served by the proposed subtransmission alignment or Alternative Subtransmission Alignments 1, 2 or 3, with minor modifications. Unlike the proposed subtransmission alignment, the Alternative Substation, would not require crossing Olsen Road to connect to the substation. Instead, the alignment would continue on the north side of Olsen Road until reaching the Alternative Substation Site B.

Rationale for Full Analysis

This alternative would meet the basic project objectives. It would also meet all legal, regulatory and technical feasibility criteria. This alternative would lessen the level of impacts on noise and air quality and would eliminate significant impacts on aesthetic resources related to substation construction.

System Alternative B

Description

This alternative would consist of upgrading the Royal, Thousand Oaks, and Potrero Substations by replacing the existing 16.8 MVA transformers (transformer base rating at 55 degree Celsius (C) rise without cooling or other overload provisions) with larger ones. The larger transformers would not be consistent with a standard SCE transformer sizing.

Installing larger transformers could require the replacement of some existing 16 kV distribution equipment located inside and outside of the substation footprint. Additional 16 kV distribution circuits may be required at some locations or existing 16 kV distribution getaway equipment could need to be upgraded.

The approximate size of the new transformers would be in the 25 to 30 MVA range (transformer base rating) depending on the space available at the substations to accommodate the equipment and other constraints such as short circuit duty.

Rationale for Full Analysis

This alternative would meet the basic project objectives. It would also meet all legal, regulatory and technical feasibility criteria. This alternative would eliminate significant impacts on noise, air quality and aesthetic resources.

No Project Alternative

Description

In addition to the alternative subtransmission alignments/substation described above, the EIR evaluates the No Project Alternative, in accordance with CEQA requirements. CEQA Guidelines [§15126.6(e)], state that the No Project Alternative must include (a) the assumption that conditions at the time of the Notice of Preparation (i.e., baseline environmental conditions) would not be changed since the Proposed Project would not be installed, and (b) the events or actions that would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved.

Under this alternative, the Proposed Project would not be implemented and the basic project objectives would not be met.

ES.3 Proposed Project Impact Assessment

ES.3.1 Impact Assessment Methodology

The analysis of environmental impacts is based upon the environmental setting applicable to each resource/issue and the manner in which the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project or alternatives would affect the environmental setting and related resource conditions. In accordance with CEQA requirements and guidelines, the impact assessment methodology also considers the following three topics: (1) the regulatory setting, and evaluates whether the Proposed Project or alternatives would be consistent with adopted federal, State and Local regulations and guidelines, (2) growth-inducing impacts, and (3) cumulative impacts. Regulatory compliance issues are discussed in each resource/issue area section. The EIR document is organized according to the following major issue area categories:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

In order to provide for a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of potential environmental consequences to the resource/issue areas, the environmental impact assessments for the Proposed Project and alternatives are based upon a classification system, with the following four associated definitions:

Class I: Significant impact; cannot be mitigated to a level that is not significant

Class II: Significant impact; can be mitigated to a level that is not significant

Class III: Adverse impact, less than significant