

APPENDIX G

Index of Significant and Unmitigable Environmental Impacts

Supplement to Appendix E: CPUC CEQA Findings of Fact
Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project

A. Introduction

This appendix serves as an index for Section III.3 of Appendix E (CPUC CEQA Findings of Fact) of Decision 08-12-058 for the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project. All significant environmental impacts associated with the Final Environmentally Superior Southern Route that cannot be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level are listed herein. This Appendix G also references the section and page numbers in Appendix E where each impact is specifically discussed.

The list of significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts is based on the discussion of impacts in the detailed issue area analyses in Sections D and E of the EIR/EIS and the cumulative impacts discussed in Section G (Cumulative Scenario and Impacts) of the EIR/EIS. Appendix E of this Decision also includes the CPUC's findings, the rationale for each finding, and a reference to where each significant and unmitigable impact is discussed in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

B. Significant Environmental Impacts that Cannot Be Avoided or Reduced to a Less than Significant Level

There are 43 significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts and 57 Class I cumulative impacts that are associated with the Final Environmentally Superior Southern Route Alternative and are listed below by environmental issue area. The findings of all significant and unmitigable impacts are discussed in Section III.3 of Appendix E, pages E-126 to E-201.

B.1 Biological Resources

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Biological Resources are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.1, pages E-127 to E-148**:

- **Impact B-1:** Construction activities would result in temporary and permanent losses of native vegetation (Class I)
- **Impact B-5:** Construction activities would result in direct or indirect loss of listed or sensitive plants or a direct loss of habitat for listed or sensitive plants (Class I)
- **Impact B-7:** Construction activities would result in direct or indirect loss of listed or sensitive wildlife or a direct loss of habitat for listed or sensitive wildlife (Class I for construction impacts to sensitive species)
- **Impact B-7A:** Direct or indirect loss of flat-tailed horned lizard or direct loss of habitat (Class I)

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- **Impact B-7B:** Direct or indirect loss of Peninsular bighorn sheep or direct loss of habitat (Class I)
- **Impact B-7H:** Direct or indirect loss of golden eagle or direct loss of habitat (Class I for nests within 4,000 feet)
- **Impact B-7J:** Direct or indirect loss of quino checkerspot butterfly or direct loss of habitat (Class I)
- **Impact B-7O:** Direct or indirect loss of barefoot banded gecko or direct loss of habitat (Class I)
- **Impact B-10:** Presence of transmission lines may result in electrocution of, and/or collisions by, listed or sensitive bird species (Class I for collision for listed species)
- **Impact B-12:** Maintenance activities would result in disturbance to wildlife and could result in wildlife mortality (Class I for Peninsular bighorn sheep)
- **Cumulative Impact B-1:** Construction and maintenance activities would result in temporary and permanent losses of native vegetation (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact B-5:** Construction activities would result in direct or indirect loss of listed or sensitive plants or a direct loss of habitat for listed or sensitive plants (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact B-7 (B-7A through B-7E, B-7H, B-7K, B-7J, B-7M, and B-7O):** Direct or indirect loss of listed or sensitive wildlife or a direct loss of habitat for listed or sensitive wildlife (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact B-10:** Presence of transmission lines may result in electrocution of, and/or collisions by, listed or sensitive bird species (Class I for collision).
- **Cumulative Impact B-12:** Maintenance activities would result in disturbance to wildlife and could result in wildlife mortality (Class I for Peninsular bighorn sheep).

B.2 Visual Resources

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Visual Resources are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.2, pages E-148 to E-164:**

- **Impact V-58:** Inconsistency with BLM VRM Class III Management objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 46 at the Plaster City West OHV Staging Area (VRM) (Class I)
- **Impact V-60:** Inconsistency with BLM VRM Class II Management objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 48 south of Table Mountain ACEC on Old Highway 80 (Airport Mesa) (VRM) (Class I)
- **Impact V-66:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 53 on westbound Alpine Road (VS-VC) (Class I)
- **Impact V-68:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 55 on Moreno Boulevard (VS-VC) (Class I)
- **Impact V-73:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, structure prominence and view blockage associated with the Chocolate Canyon Option (VS-VC) (Class I)

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- **Impact V-74:** Inconsistency with BLM VRM Class II objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 60 on McCain Valley at the Intersection with Sacatone Overlook Road (Class I)
- **Impact V-75:** Inconsistency with BLM VRM Class II objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 61 on at Carrizo Overlook (Class I)
- **Impact V-76:** Inconsistency with BLM VRM Class II objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 62 on McCain Valley Road South of Cottonwood Campground (Class I)
- **Impact V-82:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 67 on northbound South Buckman Springs Road (Class I)
- **Impact V-83:** Inconsistency with USFS Scenic Integrity Objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 68 on Lyons Valley Road (SMS) (Class I)
- **Impact V-84:** Inconsistency with USFS Scenic Integrity Objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 69 on Japatul Road (SMS) (Class I)
- **Impact V-86:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 70 on Star Valley Road (Class I)
- **Impact V-89:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, structure prominence and view blockage when viewed from Key Viewpoint 79 on La Posta Truck Trail (Class I)
- **Impact V-90:** Inconsistency with USFS Scenic Integrity Objective due to introduction of structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining along the BCD South Option (Class I)
- **Impact V-90:** Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining when viewed from Key Viewpoint 90 on the PCT and South Boundary Road (Class I; specific to the PCT Option C/D)
- **Cumulative Impact V-1:** effects from short-term visibility of construction activities, equipment, and night lighting (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact V-2:** effects from long-term visibility of land scars in arid and semi-arid landscapes (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact V-56, V-57, V-59, V-61, and V-66 through V-68, V-73, V-82, V-86, V-89, and V-90 (PCT Option C/D):** effects from increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact V-58, V-60, and V-74 through V-76:** effects from inconsistency with Interim BLM VRM Class II and Interim BLM VRM Class III management objective (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact V-83, V-84, and V-90 (BCD South Option):** effects from inconsistency with USFS Scenic Integrity Objective (Class I)

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B.3 Land Use

The finding of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impact to Land Use is discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.3, pages E-164 to E-165:**

- **Impact L-2:** Presence of a project component would divide an established community or disrupt land uses at or near the alignment (Class I for pending/future development)

B.4 Wilderness and Recreation

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Wilderness and Recreation are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.4, pages E-165 to E-168:**

- **Impact WR-2:** Presence of a transmission line or substation would permanently change the character of a recreation area, diminishing its recreational value (Class I)
- **Impact WR-3:** Presence of a transmission line would permanently preclude recreational activities (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact WR-2:** project activities would change the character of a recreation area, diminishing its recreational value (Class I)

B.5 Agriculture

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Agriculture are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.5, pages E-168 to E-172:**

- **Impact AG-2:** Operation would permanently convert DOC Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class I)
- **Impact AG-3:** Operation would permanently interfere with Active Agricultural Operations (Class I for disruption of farming and aerial spraying)
- **Impact AG-4:** Operation would permanently convert Williamson Act lands to non-agricultural use (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact AG-2:** Operation would permanently convert DOC Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact AG-3:** Operation would permanently interfere with Active Agricultural Operations (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact AG-4:** Operation would permanently convert Williamson Act lands to non-agricultural use (Class I).

B.6 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.6, pages E-172 to E-177:**

- **Impact C-1:** Construction of the Project would cause an adverse change to known historic properties (Class 1)

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- **Impact C-3:** Construction of the Project would cause an adverse change to unknown significant buried prehistoric and historical archaeological sites or buried Native American human remains (Class I)
- **Impact C-4:** Construction of the Project would cause an adverse change to Traditional Cultural Properties (Class I)
- **Impact C-5:** Operation and long-term presence of the Project would cause an adverse change to known historic properties (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact C-4:** construction activities could cause an adverse change to Traditional Cultural Properties (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact C-6:** long-term project activities could cause an adverse change to known historic architectural (built environment) resources (Class I)

B.7 Noise

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Noise are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.7, pages E-177 to E-182:**

- **Impact N-1:** Construction noise would substantially disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances (Class I)
- **Impact N-3:** Permanent noise levels would increase due to corona noise from operation of the transmission lines and noise from other project components (Class I)
- **Impact N-4:** Routine inspection and maintenance activities would increase ambient noise levels (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact N-1:** construction noise impacts could substantially disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact N-3:** corona noise impacts could substantially disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact N-4:** maintenance noise impacts could substantially disturb sensitive receptors and violate local rules, standards, and/or ordinances (Class I)

B.8 Transportation and Traffic

As described in **Appendix E, Section III.3.8 (page E-182)**, there are no Class I impacts to Transportation and Traffic.

B.9 Public Health and Safety

As described in **Appendix E, Section III.3.9 (page E-182)**, there are no Class I impacts to Public Health and Safety.

B.10 Air Quality

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Air Quality are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.10, pages E-182 to E-188:**

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- **Impact AQ-1:** Construction would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants (Class I)
- **Impact AQ-4:** Project activities would cause a net increase of greenhouse gas emissions (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact AQ-1:** Construction would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact AQ-3:** Power generated during transmission line operation would cause emissions from power plants (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact AQ-4:** Project activities would cause a net increase of greenhouse gas emissions (Class I)

B.11 Water Resources (Cumulative only)

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) cumulative impacts to Water Resources are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.11, pages E-188 to E-190:**

- **Cumulative Impact H-1:** Construction activity could degrade water quality due to erosion and sedimentation (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact H-7:** Accidental releases of contaminants from project facilities could degrade water quality (Class I)

B.12 Geology, Mineral Resources, and Soils

As described in **Appendix E, Section III.3.12 (page E-190)**, there are no Class I impacts to Geology, Mineral Resources, and Soils.

B.13 Socioeconomics, Services, and Utilities

As described in **Appendix E, Section III.3.13 (page E-190)**, there are no Class I impacts to Socioeconomics, Services, and Utilities.

B.14 Fire and Fuels Management

The findings of the following significant and unmitigable (Class I) impacts to Fire and Fuels Management are discussed in **Appendix E, Section III.3.14, pages E-190 to E-201:**

- **Impact F-1:** Construction and/or maintenance activities would significantly increase the probability of a wildfire (Class I)
- **Impact F-2:** Presence of the overhead transmission line would increase the probability of a wildfire (Class I)
- **Impact F-3:** Presence of the overhead transmission line would reduce the effectiveness of firefighting (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact F-1:** Construction and/or maintenance activities would significantly increase the probability of a wildfire (Class I)

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- **Cumulative Impact F-2:** Presence of the overhead transmission line would increase the probability of a wildfire (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact F-3:** Presence of the overhead transmission line would reduce the effectiveness of firefighting (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact F-4:** Project activities would introduce non-native plants, which would contribute to an increased ignition potential and rate of fire spread (Class I)
- **Cumulative Impact F-5:** The presence of the overhead transmission line would alter historic fire regimes (Class I).
- **Cumulative Impact F-6:** Project-caused wildfires would adversely affect natural resources (Class I).